# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

**SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 483 (Part 2)**

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

**SESSION 2007–2008**

COMPRISING PERIOD
17 November 2008—26 November 2008

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# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 17 November 2008*

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### General Affairs and External Relations Council

**The Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint):** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, my hon. Friend the Minister of State for International Development, my noble Friend the Minister for International Defence and Security (Baroness Taylor) and I represented the UK.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

*Preparation of the European Council on 11 and 12 December 2008*

The presidency presented its draft agenda, covering the economic and financial situation, climate change, the common agricultural policy, the Lisbon treaty and external relations (ESDP and Eastern Partnership).

The Government broadly welcome the presidency's agenda. In response to a question from my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, the presidency explained that there would not be a substantive discussion of the common agricultural policy (CAP); the European Council would be invited to take note of the Agriculture Council's decisions on the CAP health check. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also noted that the EU's leadership in the global financial crisis now needed to be followed up by leadership on the "real economy". On that basis, it was important to note the need for appropriate regulation, and transparency, of economic issues; that the EU should continue to promote the millennium development goals and international development; and that there was no contradiction between a strong economy and strong action to combat climate change.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

*European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)—civilian crisis management capabilities*

The Council adopted conclusions and a declaration without discussion. The conclusions endorse the progress report on the implementation of the Civilian Headline Goal 2010—which aims to improve the quality and quantity of civilians deployed on ESDP missions—and approve guidelines for lessons learned and best practice in civilian missions. The declaration sets out future work streams under the Civilian Headline Goal 2010. The Government welcome these positive steps towards further improving the EU's ability to stabilise countries emerging from conflict.

*Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)*

The presidency (Kouchner) reported on his joint visit with my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 1 November; he underlined the seriousness of the situation on the ground and the need for urgent diplomatic and humanitarian action. The Council agreed conclusions that expressed concern at the intensified fighting in North Kivu; welcomed increased humanitarian aid from the Commission and member states to those affected and called upon all parties to allow access for aid; condemned human rights violations in eastern DRC; supported the UN mission in the DRC (MONUC) and stressed the importance of forthcoming discussions of its mandate and capabilities; emphasised the urgency of finding a political solution, as the only way to restore long-term stability to the region; and reaffirmed the EU's role in contributing to international diplomatic efforts to consolidate the ceasefire and ease tensions in the long term.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary welcomed African engagement and called for efforts to be directed towards redeploying or strengthening MONUC. The EU's role should be to support international efforts to implement political agreements.

*Burma*

Foreign Ministers approved without discussion conclusions deploring the lack of progress on a transition to democratic government in the past year; pointing out that the 2010 elections will lack credibility unless the Burmese regime unconditionally releases all political prisoners and enters into a political process based upon dialogue with opposition groups; and recalling that the EU is prepared to reconsider its existing measures if there is no progress on these issues.

*Iraq*

The presidency said that the EU should enlarge its presence and intensify political contacts. The Commission highlighted existing work and said that the EU-Iraq trade and co-operation agreement could be concluded in early 2009. The Government welcome the Council conclusions, which welcomed recent progress on security and national reconciliation; committed to further technical assistance to the neighbours process; extended the mandate of the ESDP rule of law mission, EUJUST LEX, including potentially to carry out activities within Iraq; and encouraged early finalisation of the draft EU-Iraq Energy MOU.

*Preparation of the 14 November EU-Russia summit*

Foreign Ministers discussed the text of a presidency declaration in relation to the negotiations with Russia on a successor to the partnership and co-operation agreement.

The declaration:

> makes clear that the Georgia conflict has affected the trust necessary for a partnership between the EU and Russia and calls upon Russia to implement its commitments and engage constructively in the Geneva talks, while reiterating EU support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia.
>
> states that the in-depth examination of EU-Russia relations will continue and, along with Russian behaviour, will inform both the negotiations and other aspects of the relationship.
>
> explains that the negotiations are the best way for the EU to promote its values and defend its interests, and that they do not legitimise the status quo in Georgia or Russian behaviour which runs counter to EU values and principles.

The Government support the wording of the presidency declaration. In addition, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary released a joint statement with the Swedish Foreign Minister prior to the Council. The statement

expressed deep concern about Russia's actions and failure to withdraw to pre-7 August conflict positions and expressed support for Georgia's territorial integrity. It makes clear that a resumption of negotiations will not be a return to business as usual, nor will the EU be turning the page on the conflict in Georgia. The EU would stick to the tough mandate that had been agreed for the negotiations. The full text of the statement can be found on the FCO website: http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=PressR&id=8975097

*AOB: Zimbabwe*

The presidency described the situation in Zimbabwe as "extremely discouraging", and said that the GAERC might need to return to the issue. The Government would support a discussion at the Council if no progress is made soon in talks on the power-sharing agreement.

JOINT SESSION OF EU FOREIGN AND DEFENCE MINISTERS

*ESDP—Conclusions and presidency initiatives*

The presidency gave a presentation on the capability initiatives that it had launched. Foreign and Defence Ministers adopted conclusions without discussion that gave an account of all current ESDP missions.

*Western Balkans*

On Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), High representative Solana and Commissioner Rehn briefed the Council on the future of the Office of the High Representative (OHR). The Council adopted conclusions reaffirming its full support for the HR/EUSR, Mr. Miroslav Lajcák; expressing deep concern at recent developments, particularly Bosnian leaders use of nationalist rhetoric and actions challenging state competences; and calling upon the Bosnian authorities to renew their efforts on reforms. The conclusions reiterate the EU's willingness to the transition from the OHR to a stronger European Union presence; but they also call on Bosnian authorities to intensify efforts to fulfil the five objectives and two conditions agreed by the Peace Implementation Council for closure of the OHR.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary underlined the UK's concern over the current situation in BiH and that OHR closure should only take place once the conditions had been met. In terms of a strengthened EU presence; we needed to think about arrangements which increased the incentives for Bosnian politicians to engage with Brussels, while discouraging them from reneging on the Dayton-Paris agreements.

Over lunch, the presidency briefed on the talks taking place with Serbia and Kosovo (the UN has been taking forward a dialogue with both states on transitional arrangements—"the six points"—as UNMIK draws down; the EU Secretariat has been engaging with both states on EULEX deployment).

*Afghanistan*

Ministers discussed the security situation in the presence of the NATO Secretary-General. They agreed that the EU was now at a point where it needed to consolidate and amplify its efforts in Afghanistan, to ensure that it remained credible and visible, and that police reform was key to ensuring security. Ministers also felt that the success of the forthcoming elections was vital. Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner said the Commission was prepared to monitor them.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary noted that EUPOL police mission needed to be the EU's first priority, given that the pace of reform within the police force had not matched that of the Afghan army.

DEFENCE MINISTERS

*Capabilities and the European Defence Agency (EDA)*

The EDA Chief Executive presented a report on the agency's activities. Ministers launched initiatives that they had discussed at their informal meeting in Deauville for co-operation by different groups of member states including on the upgrading of European helicopters and training of pilots to be deployed to the most challenging theatres; the creation of a European air transport fleet; satellite co-operation; officer training exchanges; interoperability of European aircraft carriers and support vessels; and maritime demining projects. They also addressed the issue of restructuring European security and defence industries.

*ESDP Operations*

Ministers approved the establishment of operation Atalanta, an EU-led military naval mission to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia, to be launched in December and commanded from the UK's multinational headquarters at Northwood.

They also took stock of two EU-led military operations: EUFOR Chad/Central African Republic, and Althea in BiH, including plans for the latter to transition to a military mentoring and training mission when the political and security situation allows.

DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS

*Afghanistan*

Ministers recognised the importance of an even more effective international development effort to, for example, develop the counter-narcotics effort, build the capacity of the Afghan Government, tackle corruption and improve the justice sector. In addition, the importance of forthcoming elections and further efforts to help strengthen the position of women were also discussed. My hon. Friend the Minister of State for International Development gave his support for increased efforts in these areas, and highlighted the need for the EU to engage with the new US Administration on its approach to development in Afghanistan.

*Food Security*

Ministers were updated on efforts to secure a €1 billion food facility and to establish a global partnership on agriculture and food. The presidency invited member states to attend the high-level meeting in Paris on 8 and 9 December on investment in agriculture.

*Doha—Financing for Development*

Ministers agreed conclusions on guidelines for EU participation in the international conference on financing for development in Doha on 29 November—2 December. At the UK's suggestion, the presidency circulated a statement which drew a link between the 7 November European Council on the financial crisis and the Doha conference, and stated that the latter would be the occasion for the EU to confirm its commitments to developing countries. The text said that developing countries should be fully associated with the financial reform process, and additionally highlighted the importance of innovative sources of finance.

*Regional Integration-Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)*

Commissioner Ashton set out her vision of the way forward on EPAs. She noted that there were WTO constraints but stressed that these issues could be revisited in the move from interim to regional agreements. Commissioner Michel emphasised the need to move ahead on regional aid for trade packages.

My hon. Friend the Minister of State for International Development noted that we still faced real challenges; the EU needed to deliver on the ground, and should continue to be flexible in negotiations with the Africa Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

## HEALTH

### Organ Donation Taskforce

**The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson):** On 20 September 2007, I announced that I had asked the organ donation taskforce to look at the complex issue of an opt-out or presumed consent system of organ donation.

The taskforce's terms of reference were:

"To examine the potential impact on organ donation of introducing an 'opt-out' or presumed consent system in the UK, having regard to the views of the public and stakeholders on the clinical, ethical, legal and societal issues, and publish its findings"

The taskforce is today publishing its report "The potential impact of an opt-out system in the UK". The report has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members in the Vote Office.

I am grateful to the chair of the taskforce, Mrs Elisabeth Buggins, and all the members for their careful and thorough examination of this subject and for producing such an authoritative piece of work. The taskforce has presented a cogent and well-balanced analysis of a substantial body of evidence drawn from a wide range of stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, organ recipients, donor families, representatives of faith and belief groups, and members of the public.

The taskforce has concluded that introducing an opt out system in the UK at the present time, whilst having the potential to deliver benefits, would present significant challenges on a number of fronts, and may not be necessary to deliver the improvement in donation rates we all want to see. The taskforce has therefore recommended not changing to an opt-out system at this time, but monitoring progress of implementing the recommendations of the taskforce's first report.

The taskforce has given a clear indication that donation rates can be optimised successfully without a change in the legal framework. I therefore accept its recommendation that we should aim to raise donation rates without the added complications associated with a change in legislation, only revisiting the question of a change to opt-out if the implementation of those recommendations does not deliver the projected increase in donations.

However, I want to see more progress more quickly, to ensure that UK patients have the best possible chance of getting the treatment they need. I have therefore set a further challenge as part of the implementation of the taskforce's second report. I would like to see 20 million people registered on the organ donor register by 2010 working towards 25 million on the register by 2013.

I also want to see our donor rates match those in many parts of Europe and rise to 1,400 donors per year by March 2013—nearly twice current levels. On average each donor can help three people in need, so this could mean an extra 1,800 people get the chance of the transplant they so desperately need.

To support this, in addition to the extra £11 million made available this year to implement the taskforce's first report we have made £4.5 million extra funding available over the two years 2008-10 for a major multimedia campaign from March 2009 to make people aware of the importance of organ donation, with further funding agreed for future years.

However, it is not all about money or setting Government targets. Achieving these ambitious aims will require not only the support of Government and the NHS, but also widespread public support. We as a society need to change the way we view organ donation. Professionals can play their part by ensuring that all potential donors are identified and donation is discussed at the right time with families. Most importantly, we all need to talk about donation with our family and friends, make our wishes known and register on the organ donor register. We may then all give someone the opportunity to benefit from a transplant after our death.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 18 November 2008*

## TREASURY

### Bank Recapitalisation Scheme

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling):** I set out in my statements to Parliament on 8 October, *Official Report*, columns 277-280 and 13 October, *Official Report*, column 539, the details of the Government's recapitalisation scheme. All UK incorporated banks—including UK subsidiaries of foreign institutions—with substantial business in the UK, and building societies, are eligible to apply for the scheme. To date, RBS Group plc and—subject to their merger proceeding—Lloyds TSB plc and HBOS Group plc have announced the terms on which they are participating. Those terms are set out in detail in the placing and open offer agreements and in the preference share subscription agreements I have today arranged for final, signed versions of the agreements to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

I now set out the detail of dealing with future applications to the scheme from those banks which are currently raising capital—either by an agreement with HM Treasury or otherwise—and which, for whatever reason, may seek to negotiate a substantively new proposal or new agreement with HM Treasury about the terms of any recapitalisation. Detailed terms of participation would remain a matter for discussion with the board of the institution concerned, taking proper account of prevailing market conditions, but HM Treasury would expect to apply the following general principles:

The objective of the recapitalisation scheme is to ensure that each eligible institution has sufficient capital to sustain confidence in the institution. Institutions should therefore have a sufficient buffer of capital above the minimum requirement both to absorb losses that might ensue from a downturn and to continue lending on normal commercial criteria. In assessing any proposals in relation to eligible institutions, HM Treasury will continue to focus on three key objectives:

maintaining financial stability;

safeguarding the interests of taxpayers; and

protecting depositors and consumers.

In providing capital to any eligible institution, HM Treasury, on the advice of the Bank of England and Financial Services Authority, would need to be satisfied that these three objectives were met.

There is no automatic right of access to the recapitalisation scheme. At minimum HM Treasury would expect the following high-level conditions to be met before capital could be offered to any eligible institution:

the institution must have a plan to meet an appropriate level of capitalisation, as determined by the FSA. (Information about the FSA approach is set out in its statement of 14 November 2008). It is a matter for the institutions concerned to disclose to the market their capital requirement;

the institution must have a sustainable business model and delivery plan;

the institution's funding profile, sources and mix must be clear, broad-based and sustainable; and the senior management team must be credible, with demonstrable ability to deliver the business plan.

If the Government are to provide capital, the issue will carry terms and conditions that appropriately reflect the financial commitment made by the taxpayer, including in relation to dividend policy, remuneration, lending policy and wider public policy issues.

To the extent that HM Treasury is asked to subscribe for, or underwrite, an offering for ordinary equity shares, the price would be at a discount to either the market price prevailing at the time of the transaction or, if applicable, the placing price agreed on 13 October, whichever is lower. The percentage discount would not be less than the percentage discounts applied in transactions already announced.

To the extent that HM Treasury is asked to subscribe for preference shares or other tier 1 instruments, the appropriate coupon will be based on prevailing market conditions, with due regard given to the rate at which eligible institutions have announced the issue of such instruments most recently.

With respect to fees, HM Treasury would charge an appropriate level of fees for any underwriting commitments, again paying due regard to the fees paid in recent transactions involving eligible institutions.

Any transaction would, of course, be subject to the necessary regulatory and legal clearances, and would need to comply with the European Commission's decision of 13 October 2008 authorising the recapitalisation scheme under EU state aid rules.

Any securities acquired by HM Treasury under the recapitalisation scheme will be managed on a commercial basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI). Details about UKFI are set out in my letter to the Chairman of the Treasury Select Committee of 3 November, which is available in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Children's Trusts

**The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls):** In the "Children's Plan", which I presented to Parliament in December 2007, the Government set out their ambition to make this country the best place in the world for young people to grow up. As part of this we committed to strengthening the links between schools, health and other children's services in every area through children's trusts, so that together they can tackle all the barriers to the learning, health and happiness of every child.

Today I am publishing statutory guidance which:

clarifies what a children's trust is, what it does and how it relates to other local partnerships;

discusses in more detail the vision and priorities in the children's plan as they relate to children's trusts and the five every child matters outcomes;

identifies the challenges that now need to be addressed; and

offers guidance on how the priorities in the children's plan should be taken forward across the whole children's trust.

The guidance also confirms the Government's intention to legislate to:

extend the number of relevant partners under a duty to co-operate to include schools—including academies—sixth form and FE colleges, and Job Centre Plus;

make the children's trust board a statutory body; and

give the board responsibility for producing the children and young people's plan, which will then be 'owned' by the full children's trust partnership.

The children's plan set out a vision in which local authorities, schools, the health service and other local providers work together and support each other, both in setting the direction and in driving delivery. The proposals announced today, taken together, give us a framework that will help make this vision a reality.

## CAMHS Review

**The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls):** The Secretary of State for Health and I today welcome the publication of the final report of the independent review of child and adolescent mental health services. We would like to thank the CAMHS external review group for their report and recommendations. In particular, we would like to thank Jo Davidson, the chair and group director of children and young people's services at Gloucestershire county council and Dr. Bob Jezzard, the vice-chair.

This has been a challenging review. Children's mental health is an area where there are strong views and perspectives. The external review group should, therefore, take great credit for having produced such a coherent and evidence-based report, which sets out a clear vision for how we can all take responsibility for promoting children's mental health and psychological well-being, alongside clear recommendations for how we can best achieve the step change in the quality and consistency of services at all levels.

We asked the chair and vice-chair to investigate:

the progress that has been made, since the launch of standard 9 of the children's national service framework and the publication of "Every Child Matters" in 2004, in delivering services to meet the educational, health and social care needs of children and young people at risk of and experiencing mental health problems, including those with complex, severe and persistent needs; and

the practical solutions that can be used by those developing policy and delivering, managing and commissioning services to address current challenges and deliver better outcomes for children and young people with mental health problems, and how these solutions can be monitored.

We welcome the fact that the review carried out its task in such a comprehensive manner, undertaking an intensive programme of investigation, including a national call for evidence and extensive consultation with children, young people and their families throughout the process. The fact that the review's recommendations respond to the concerns of users of these vital services gives its report added weight and importance.

We agree with the review's analysis that whilst considerable improvements have been made to the support and services delivered in this area, there is still a great deal of change that needs to take place at all levels of the system to support the delivery of integrated, child and family-focused mental health and psychological well-being services that are organised around children and young people's needs.

The review's report identifies the important changes that are required if we are to see real improvements in children's mental health and psychological well-being. The review sets out a clear and ambitious vision of what this change would look like for children, young people and their families accessing universal, targeted and specialist services, highlighting the importance of:

everyone having a good understanding of what mental health and psychological well-being is, how they can promote resilience in children and young people and where children, young people and their families can go if they need more information and help;

children's mental health and psychological well-being services being viewed and working as a single service that is organised around children, young people and their families' needs, with staff working within these services having a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities as well as those of others;

staff within universal services being trained and supported to provide effective mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention work and where necessary having the knowledge and skills that are needed to refer children and young people swiftly through to specialist services; and

staff within specialist services to have an appropriate range of skills and competences so that they can deliver support that is easy to access, readily available and based on the best evidence of what works.

The review makes 20 challenging recommendations to Government across all aspects of children's mental health and psychological well-being services. The Secretary of State for Health and I are delighted to be able to demonstrate our commitment to the immediate implementation of a number of these recommendations. In particular:

we will set up a National Advisory Council for children's mental health and psychological well- being. In line with the review's recommendations, the council will act as a champion for children's mental health and psychological well-being issues, advise Government on implementing the recommendations that have been set out in the review's report, and hold Government to account on our successful delivery. We are delighted that Dame Jo Williams, former chief executive of Mencap has agreed to chair the review and Dr Lesley Hewson, consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist and director of CAMHS, Bradford District Care Trust, to act as vice-chair; and

we will improve support for practitioners delivering services for children and young people and drive culture change and consistency at national, regional and local levels, we will develop a National Support Programme. This will build on the work of the national CAMHS support service and field forces working in this area. The National Support Programme will co-ordinate these organisations to give everyone working in this area the support they need to achieve the aims of the CAMHS review.

We are committed to: taking forward key recommendations within the report on improving access for children, young people and their families to mental health support through universal services; improving the access, quality and impact of mental health services for vulnerable children and young people; and ensuring that parents and carers have access to high quality advice and support when they are concerned about their children's mental health.

For example, legislation to strengthen Children's Trusts is already in train. Revised statutory guidance will highlight that Children's Trusts should consider the mental health and psychological well-being needs of children and young people in their area as part of their wider joint strategic needs assessment and respond to this through effective joint-working between primary care trusts, local authorities and other strategic partners.

Today we want to further demonstrate our commitment by announcing:

the roll-out of phase two of the targeted mental health support pathfinder programme (TaMHS) to an additional 55 local authority areas. This will enable a further 100 to 150 secondary schools and their feeder primary schools to deliver additional support in school to promote all children's psychological well-being and additional help in and through the school for those children and their families at risk of problems. It will also provide additional funding for schools to forge closer working links with specialist CAMHS. Children will benefit from schools' increased ability to identify risks to mental health at an early stage and ensure that they receive prompt access to the help and support that they need;

additional funding for local authorities already delivering the targeted mental health in schools pathfinder, so that they can build on their work in pupil referral units and special schools in order to meet the needs of this very vulnerable group of children and young people; and

additional funding for organisations who are delivering vital telephone helpline support for parents who are concerned about their children's mental health.

We are pleased to accept most of the review's recommendations in principle, with a view to implementing these as soon as is practical. Overall, we share the review's conclusions on the need to promote greater consistency in access, quality and impact of children's mental health services. In order to deliver these improvements, we identify four priority areas to be addressed by the National Support Programme and National Advisory Council. These are:

awareness of and access to services through the provision of local information in every area that clearly sets out the support that children, young people and their families can expect to receive in their local area;

the diffuse leadership and responsibility for children's mental health and psychological well-being that currently exists at a national, regional and local level, for example through the strengthening of Children's Trusts;

waiting times, where we are aware of the significant negative impact that having to wait a long time to receive treatment can have on children and young people's recovery, so look to the national support programme to drive further improvements in this area; and

transitions to adult services, where we agree with the review that urgent work is required to identify, understand and overcome the barriers to smooth transitions between mental health services for young people and services for adults.

We will give further consideration to the remaining six recommendations from the review in conjunction with the National Advisory Council in order to develop an appropriate response and effective solutions that reflect local and national priorities.

The Secretary of State for Health and I have set out our initial response to each of the review's 20 recommendations in a summary document that has been made available on the DH and DCSF websites and in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Rough Sleeping Strategy

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright):** The Government are today publishing a new rough sleeping strategy "No one left out – communities ending rough sleeping". Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Ten years ago, the Government set out an ambitious plan to cut rough sleeping by two thirds. Thanks to the determination of our partners in local authorities, the voluntary sector and other agencies dealing with the homeless, we achieved that goal several years ago. There have been significant and sustained reductions in the number of people who sleep rough on the streets.

Our success in tackling rough sleeping so far is something in which we lead the world and of which this country can be proud, but we are not complacent. Ten years on from our first strategy, we are determined to make further progress. Our vision is to end rough sleeping once and for all. And we know that many of our partners share this determination and we will work across Government to make progress.

This new strategy signals our intent to work with our partners to end rough sleeping once and for all by 2012. To make this happen we want to make sure that in every part of the country people get the help they need, so no one has to sleep rough. Services will act promptly to prevent rough sleeping from occurring in the first place, or to bring people in from the streets as quickly as possible. People who have slept rough will be supported to improve their health, consider employment options and rebuild their lives.

After a decade of progress we have learnt from our experiences, and are more confident and determined than ever that we can make progress towards this goal, building on the commitment, innovation and energy of our partners across Government, in local authorities, the third sector and communities. The strategy sets out a fifteen point action plan for the next four years. The tougher economic climate may bring new pressures and challenges, but I am confident that the strategy prepares us well for the future. The Government is investing £200 million to prevent homelessness and tackle rough sleeping.

This new strategy will help us make the final push, ending rough sleeping once and for all.

### Local Government

**The Minister for Local Government (John Healey):** On 8 May 2008 we introduced through the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1085) the reformed conduct regime for local authority members, in which responsibility for standards of conduct and dealing with allegations of misconduct by members is largely devolved to each council's independently chaired standards committee. In this regime the Standards Board for England has the role of a strategic regulator, and only the most serious cases of misconduct by members are to be investigated by the Standards Board and determined by case tribunals of the Adjudication Panel for England, established under the Local Government Act 2000.

Following extensive consultation, including with the Local Government Association, local authorities, practitioners, and the Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council, I have today laid before the House the Case Tribunals (England) Regulations 2008, which complement the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 and make provision about the sanctions available to a case tribunal of the Adjudication Panel.

In particular, these regulations ensure that from 12 December 2008 case tribunals will have the power to censure a member, require them to apologise, attend training, or enter into a process of conciliation. These sanctions are currently available only to councils' standards committees. Making these sanctions available to case tribunals will allow them to deal proportionately with, for example, a case which, although referred to the tribunal on the grounds that it is very serious, the tribunal concludes is a less serious matter.

The regulations also make provision about certain administrative procedures to be followed in relation to cases before the Adjudication Panel and its case tribunals.

These regulations will help ensure that the reformed conduct regime is fair, transparent and efficient.

We intend to complete the reformed conduct regime in January 2009 by making, following consultation, further regulations which will allow councils to establish joint standards committees, and to enable the Standards Board to suspend, in certain circumstances where the board considers this to be in the public interest, a council's standards committee's powers to deal with misconduct allegations.

## DEFENCE

### In-patient Mental Health Care

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones):** I wish to inform the House of the outcome of a competitive exercise for the provision of in-patient mental health care for our serving armed forces personnel.

The Ministry of Defence recognises mental illnesses as potentially serious and disabling conditions, but most can be successfully treated. Our mental health services are configured to provide community-based mental health care in line with the guidelines and standards set by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the National Service Frameworks.

We do this primarily by supporting our GPs with specialist out-patient assessment and treatment at our military regional departments of community mental health centres sited in military bases. Care is provided by either military mental health care professionals or civilians employed by the MOD. This means that serving personnel usually remain with their units and receive out-patient care in a military environment.

In-patient care may be required in a small number of cases. Where this is necessary, it is provided regionally in specialised psychiatric units under a contractual arrangement. Since 2003 this contract has been with the Priory Group. The contract with the Priory Group has worked very well and was extended for two years. In line with our usual commercial practice a competitive tendering exercise has now been conducted in order to place a new contract. I am now in a position to announce the outcome of that competition.

The evaluation process produced a clear winner—we have awarded the contract to the South Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Trust who offered a powerful grouping of NHS providers to deliver a nationwide service.

The South Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Trust proposal offers a bespoke admission and treatment service based upon the needs of the MOD and of the individual patient. They offer a single point of contact for admissions and access to a series of dedicated beds across the United Kingdom. South Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Trust describe their services as culturally sensitive and have proposed an in-patient care pathway that provides assessment and treatment in environments that would allow service patients to be accommodated in a separate area and be able to separate themselves from the civilian NHS population if they wished this and it was clinically appropriate. The South Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Trust's philosophy and approach to in-patient care is consistent with that of the MOD and with generally accepted best practice; rapid assessment, stabilisation and return to care within the community as soon as possible.

The South Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Trust will provide locally based care through a network consisting of a group of five Foundation Trusts, one trust in the process of foundation trust application, and one NHS Scotland trust. These are: Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, NHS Grampian, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, Somerset Partnership NHS Trust, and Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust. All of the trusts selected are rated good or excellent for their quality of care in the Healthcare Commission's recent Annual Health Check. The South Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Trust will act as the "network lead" and as such, will guarantee the quality and governance of the services provided. The foundation trust status of the winning bidder offers MOD access to services that are subject to unprecedented levels of corporate governance and are monitored by an independent regulator.

The MOD will work with the South Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Trust to implement a transition to the new contract that will cause minimal disruption to current and future patients. The Priory Group has agreed to extend the existing contract until the end of February 2009 to allow for a transition period.

When combined with care provided on operations by our deployed military mental health professionals, in military primary care and in military community mental health centres, I am confident that this contract represents a continuation of the combination of the best of external and internal providers to deliver mental health care to national standards of excellence.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Energy Supply Companies

**The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband):** As I undertook to do in my statement to the House on 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 935-937, yesterday I again met the main energy supply companies to discuss my concerns about a number of issues in the retail energy markets.

I reiterated my concerns about findings in the Ofgem report on the energy supply market, about the charges facing electricity-only customers and customers paying

excessively high charges for their particular payment method. I made clear the importance the Government attaches to progress on these and other issues.

As part of the due process I referred to in my October statement, the companies have until 1 December to provide a formal response to the Ofgem findings. Ofgem will then come forward with its conclusions, including any proposed changes to licence conditions.

However, as promised in my statement, I stand ready to consult on legislation should there not be a speedy and satisfactory resolution to these issues.

At the meeting, I also highlighted the public's concern about the current high level of retail prices. I impressed upon the companies the need for retail energy prices to reflect changes in wholesale prices as soon as possible. The Government and the industry are agreed on the need to bring down retail gas and electricity prices.

The meeting also recognised the need for very significant levels of investment in our energy infrastructure in the coming years.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Winter Supplementary Estimate

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs DEL will be increased by £753,000 from £3,745,525,000 to £3,746,278,000 and the Administration budget will be increased by £463,000 from £356,000,000 to £356,463,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000s

| | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource | -10,781 | -5,456 | 4,075,484 | -1,155,277 | 2,920,207 |
| of which: | | | | | |
| Administration Budget | 463 | - | 356,463 | - | 356,463 |
| Near-cash in RDEL | -37 | -16,000 | 3,870,228 | -1,257,821 | 2,612,407 |
| Capital | 790 | 16,000 | 665,682 | 351,189 | 1,016,871 |
| Depreciation* | 3,799 | -3,599 | -88,201 | -102,599 | -190,800 |
| Total | -6,192 | 6,945 | 4,652,965 | -906,687 | 3,746,278 |

* Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

*The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from* (i) a transfer of £360,000 administration spend from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for the Office of Climate Change running costs; (ii) a transfer of £358,000 administration spend from the Cabinet for the legal services provided by the Parliamentary Counsel's Office; (iii) a transfer of £915,000 to HM Treasury for sustainable procurement (£215,000 administration spend and £700,000 programme); (iv) a transfer of £40,000 programme spend to the Cabinet Office for the Government Security Zone; (v) a transfer of £16,000,000 of the departmental unallocated provision from resource to capital.

*The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from* (i) a transfer of £16,000,000 of the departmental unallocated provision to capital from resource; (ii) a transfer of £1,000,000 from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for the energy efficiency package; (iii) a transfer of £210,000 to the Department for Work and Pensions for the Machinery of Government transfer of the Pesticides Safety Directorate.

*The change in the administration budget element of the DEL* not explained above is due to a transfer of £40,000 from administration to programme in respect of the Government Security Zone transfer to the Cabinet Office.

*The change in the depreciation budget* is due to £200,000 transferring to the Department for Work and Pensions for the Machinery of Government transfer of the Pesticides Safety Directorate.

(1) The Machinery of Government (MoG) changes of 3 October 2008 announced the creation of the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), formed from the Energy Group located in BERR and the Climate Change Group located in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Both BERR and DEFRA will transfer their budgets for Energy and Climate Change respectively to the new Department, based on the settlements agreed in the comprehensive spending review 2007 (CSR07), for the financial years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. In view of the timing of the change, the formal transfer of budgets to the new Department is planned for the spring supplementary estimate. The winter supplementary estimate therefore reflects figures prior to the MoG changes.

### Agriculture and Fisheries Council

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** The Minister for the Natural and Marine Environment, Wildlife and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies), and I will represent the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels. Richard Lochhead, Elin Jones and Conor Murphy will also attend.

There will be the usual approval of the list of 'A' points, followed by fisheries items. The Council is due to agree proposals and discuss the following:

Bilateral fisheries agreement with Norway;

Allocation of cod fishing quotas to Poland in the Baltic Sea from 2008 to 2011;

Codification and modernisation of the control system applicable to the common fisheries policy;

Recovery of cod stocks;

Strategy for the sustainable development of European Aquaculture;

Commission report on the progress of the simplification process.

On agriculture, the Council will be seeking political agreements on the CAP health check and school fruit scheme, and discussing a proposal authorising the placing on the market of genetically modified soya bean products.

The following issues will be raised under any other business:

WTO—DDA negotiations

Analysis of the current situation concerning the pesticides package.

## HEALTH

### "High Quality Care for All"

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw):** "High Quality Care for All", the final report of the NHS next stage review, set out the vision of an NHS in which quality is the organising principle for everything the service does. The chief executive of the NHS, David Nicholson CBE, the NHS medical director Sir Bruce Keogh, and the chief nursing officer Dame Christine Beasley are today writing to every NHS organisation in England, asking them to start to take concrete steps to make this happen. The document they are sending to the NHS, "Measuring for Quality Improvement: the approach", sets out clearly what local teams, NHS organisations—both providers and commissioners—and strategic health authorities will be asked to do to promote better measurement of quality to enable them to improve their services. It also describes the range of activities that the Department will undertake to support the NHS at local level.

The launch of "Measuring for Quality Improvement" marks both a key step towards realising the vision of "High Quality Care for All", and the start of an important journey of improvement which will ultimately involve the entire NHS in England. A copy has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland

**The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward):** Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 makes provision for the constitution of the four Boundary Commissions, including the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland. Under paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 each Commission must consist of a Chairman, Deputy Chairman and two other members appointed by the Secretary of State. Following the expiry of his previous term of appointment, I have reappointed Richard Mackenzie CB as a member of the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland for a further term of appointment to expire on 31 October 2012.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Rent Officers Order

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Kitty Usher):** Following the judgment of the Law Lords in the case of Heffernan—R (on the application of Heffernan) v the Rent Service—on Wednesday 30 July 2008, the Government will lay amendments to the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit Functions) Order 1997 and the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit Functions) (Scotland) Order 1997 in order to clarify the rules that enable rent officers to define the local rental market areas which help determine entitlement to housing benefit.

The way in which the geographical areas, or localities, for assessing housing benefit are determined has a direct impact on the amount of benefit individual customers receive. If applied, the judgment would result in a dramatic increase in the number of localities nationally, as each would be based on a limited number of neighbourhoods. These new locality boundaries would not necessarily be the same as those that existed before the rent services carried out their most recent reviews of boundaries and could result in a large number of low-income tenants finding that housing benefit would no longer cover their rent. Without amendment to the Rent Officers Order, this would now happen automatically.

This is not our policy intent which is why amendments will be laid at the earliest opportunity.

The routine locality reviews that were undertaken by the rent services in 2006-07 under the Rent Officers Order resulted in fewer localities across the country as a whole. These reviews were undertaken in consultation with local authorities, who have access to a discretionary fund to compensate individual tenants in hardship cases. The vast majority of the new boundaries were agreed by local authorities. The amendments of the Rent Officers Order will enable the rent services to review the boundaries in those localities where local consensus was not achieved. In any year, the rent services are committed to reviewing 25 per cent. of all locality boundaries.

### Elbourne Review

**The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Ms Rosie Winterton):** On 22 May 2008 the Minister for Pensions Reform announced that, John Elbourne had been asked to "examine the current arrangements for the engagement of older people and the ability of those arrangements to inform policy and actions of Government at all levels". Specifically, this was to include examining better Government for older people.

John Elbourne will publish his report at 3 o'clock this afternoon on the Department for Work and Pensions website. This can be found at www.dwp.gov.uk/resourcecentre and a copy will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The purpose of the review has been to examine whether there are any structural and/or organisational changes that can aid progress and enhance opportunities for older people to make themselves heard.

The report makes a range of recommendations for improving older people's engagement with Government, which are: establishing a national advisory forum for older people; enhancing the role that regional Government offices play in supporting and developing engagement with older people; setting up regional forums to support local authorities; and building on the support for older people's forums around the UK.

The Government invite comments on these recommendations and will respond to this report by 30 January 2009. Any comments should be sent to: Andrew Jennings, Department for Work and Pensions, Older People and Ageing Society Division, 3rd Floor The Adelphi, 1-11 John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6HT (email: andrew.jennings@dwp.gsi.gov.uk), to be received by 9 January 2009.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 19 November 2008*

## TREASURY

### Double Taxation Convention (Libya)

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms):** A new Double Taxation Convention with Libya was signed on 17 November 2008. After signature, the text of the convention was deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text of the convention will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

### Economic and Financial Affairs Council

**The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson):** I will attend the Budget ECOFIN to be held on 21 November in Brussels. Items on the agenda are as follows:

*Preliminary Draft Amending Budgets Nos. 10 and 11 for 2008*

Finance Ministers will be invited to adopt Preliminary Draft Amending Budgets 10 and 11. These would amend the 2008 budget to reflect latest implementation capacity and mobilise the EU Solidarity Fund for Cyprus following the recent drought there.

*Letters of Amendment Nos. 2 and 3 to the Preliminary Draft Budget for 2009*

Finance Ministers will be invited to discuss the Commission's amending letters 2 and 3 to the Preliminary Draft Budget for 2009. Amending letter 2 reflects latest information on agricultural prices and other developments influencing future implementation capacity, and also proposes financing for a food facility for developing countries from the agriculture expenditure budget heading. Amending letter 3 concerns a budgetary transfer to cover the costs of a new reflection group as called for by the October European Council.

*Draft Budget for 2009*

The Council will look to agree its second reading position on the draft budget in preparation for the subsequent conciliation with the European Parliament. Council will then conclude its second reading and finalise figures for compulsory expenditure (mainly agriculture). The UK will seek a budget that respects the principles of budget discipline and sound financial management and reflects realistic forecasts for agriculture and structural funds spending.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Tipping/National Minimum Wage (Consultation)

**The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden):** Today I am launching our consultation on proposals to amend national minimum wage regulations that will end the practice of tips being used in payment of the national minimum wage.

Since the National Minimum Wage Act came into force in 1999, it has created a level playing field for employers in the payment of wages and an essential safety net for vulnerable and low-paid workers. Through this we have seen a better rewarded and more committed work force who have been a force in driving up standards.

Under the 1999 Act, the use of tips may count towards payment of the national minimum wage in certain circumstances. Some 10 years on, I believe that the time is now right to review this position to ensure equity for all workers and create a level playing field in wages amongst employers.

In July 2008 we announced that we would be amending national minimum wage regulations to prevent the use of tips towards payment of the national minimum wage. Alongside this, we also set out our plans to make tipping practices fairer and more transparent, as we believe that it is important that there is clear information for consumers about what happens to their tips.

Our consultation seeks views on the precise nature of regulatory change and also how to improve information and raise awareness for consumers.

I have arranged for copies of the consultation document and other related papers to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Education, Youth and Culture Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Barbara Follett):** The Education, Youth and Culture Council will be held on 20-21 November in Brussels. Alun Ffred Jones, Minister for Heritage for Wales, will be representing the UK on the morning of 20 November when culture and audiovisual issues will be taken. Education issues will be taken on 21 November.

The first item on the agenda is the Council conclusions on the European heritage label. The purpose of this initiative is to highlight sites and monuments that have played a key role in European history and to raise their profile as tourist attractions. UK concerns about the added value of a European heritage label have largely been addressed in discussions at official level. The draft conclusions are now broadly acceptable and the scheme is to be voluntary, which will allow the UK to decide on the extent of any future participation. The Council is expected to adopt the conclusions and the Government intend to endorse this course of action.

The presidency will seek adoption of the conclusions on architecture as part of culture's contribution to sustainable development. The conclusions recognise the important integrating role of architecture, which

involves cultural creation and technology, in implementing sustainable development. They suggest various means by which the European Commission and member states can promote architecture's role in sustainable development.

The conclusions have been considered and welcomed by the European Forum for Architecture Policies. The aims of the conclusions are in line with the UK's approach to architecture, sustainable design, and built environment education. The Government intend to support the adoption of these conclusions.

The Council will then be invited to adopt conclusions on the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue in external relations. These conclusions encourage member states to strengthen the role of culture in broader programmes; to enter into discussion with third countries about legal frameworks on cultural policies; to promote cultural diversity and the economic benefits of cultural activities; and to strengthen the role of culture in sustainable development. They also encourage the exchange of best practice on cultural issues; the mobility of artists, especially young people; the protection of copyright matters; and the protection and preservation of cultural heritage and goods. The UK believes these conclusions adequately address cultural property issues. The Government intend to support the adoption of these conclusions.

There will be an exchange of views on section 4 of the draft resolution on multilingualism. This section of the resolution suggests ways in which translation issues might be better addressed, with a focus on delivering cultural goals. These include: improvements in conditions for translation of texts and publishing issues; reinforcing the role of cinema and audiovisual works in promoting language diversity; improving accessibility of performing arts to a wider audience; and improving training in translation skills. The UK supports the focus on culture in translation issues, and also the focus on young people as proposed in section 4 of the draft resolution. The UK welcomes the proposed debate on the issue. The Government will intervene on this item to express their support for multilingualism. The full text of the resolution is expected to be adopted during the education section of the Council.

The presidency will seek the adoption of Council conclusions on the creation of a European digital library, known as Europeana. There will also be a launch event that day at the Royal Library of Belgium. Europeana is an online common multilingual access point to European digital cultural material including books, newspapers, photographs, films, archival documents and archaeological heritage. The conclusions have been discussed and agreed at official level. The Government intend to support their adoption and there will be no need to intervene.

The presidency will also seek the adoption of the Council conclusions on the development of legal offers of online cultural and creative content and the prevention and combating of piracy in the digital environment. The Commission published a communication in January of this year which examined the current status of online creative content in Europe and how the European Union can add value to this. In July the French presidency submitted draft Council conclusions which attempted to incorporate member states' and stakeholders' views on the Commission's findings, and to focus the discussions on the legal offer of online content. The conclusions have been discussed and finalised at official level and the Council is now expected to adopt them at this meeting. The Government intend to support the adoption of these conclusions.

Broadcasting is not a specific agenda item for this meeting of the Council. I understand however that Sweden may raise an information point under any other business on the Commission's communication on state aid rules and public service broadcasting. State aid issues are within the formal competence of the Commission and the European Court, and the Government's view is that they are not a matter on which Council conclusions are appropriate. The Government however remain a firm supporter of the principle of public service broadcasting. Bearing in mind the importance of public service broadcasting across the EU we think it is right for member states and the Commission to develop a clear framework to ensure that it is properly funded in future whilst respecting the competition rules, and we look forward to taking a prominent and positive role in that debate.

Further items under any other business are a presentation from the presidency and Commission on the progress report on the implementation of the Council recommendation on priority actions to increase co-operation in the field of archives in Europe compiled by the European archives group. The presidency will provide information on the proposed multi-annual safer internet programme. There will also be an information point from Germany on the digitisation of cinema. The Government do not foresee any need to intervene on these items.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Prostitution

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith):** Today I am publishing the findings of the Government's review into tackling demand for prostitution. The review explored both the legislative and non-legislative options available drawing on the experiences of other countries such as Sweden and Holland. Copies have been placed in the House Library.

The review makes several recommendations that shift the focus for reducing prostitution on to the sex buyer, the person responsible for creating the demand for prostitution markets, which in turn creates demand for the trade of women to be trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Specific legislative recommendations include: creating a new strict liability criminal offence of paying for sex with someone who is controlled for another person's gain; removing the need to prove that a person has acted persistently in order to be prosecuted for kerb crawling and; powers to close premises associated with sexual exploitation. Non-legislative recommendations include a marketing campaign to raise awareness amongst sex buyers about trafficking for sexual exploitation and a national anti-kerb crawling campaign, to support the police in their efforts to reduce street-based prostitution.

I accept the report's recommendations and will take forward action to implement them as soon as possible.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Policing and Justice Powers

**The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward):** On 18 November, the First Minister and Deputy First Minister announced their respective parties, the DUP and Sinn Fein, had reached an historic agreement on the process which would facilitate the devolution of policing and justice powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The parties also agreed the Northern Ireland Executive, which has not met since June, will begin meeting again on Thursday 20 November and will continue on a weekly basis until business is up to date, whereupon the Executive will revert to fortnightly meetings.

This breakthrough represents a new chapter for Northern Ireland, marking the beginning of an agreed process that will end in the transfer of policing and justice powers from this House to locally elected politicians in the power-sharing Assembly at Stormont.

It sets out the initial structure of a new Department of Justice and the arrangements for the election of a new Justice Minister.

It also provides for responsibility for the appointment and removal of judicial office holders to rest with the Judicial Appointments Commission.

All of these arrangements will be time-limited and the parties have agreed that they will come to an end before May 2012, at which point permanent arrangements will need to be made.

As well as agreeing the steps to transfer these crucial powers, the events of this week mark the maturing of democracy in Northern Ireland. Negotiations that led to the Belfast and St. Andrews Agreements were driven by the British and Irish Governments. Yesterday's agreement was the product of negotiations between the political parties of Northern Ireland; its essential strength will rest in being an agreement made by Belfast and in Belfast for all the people of Northern Ireland.

The British Government remain ready to help the parties continue moving the process forward and will now finish preparations for legislation and the orders for the transfer of powers when the Assembly expresses its wish to effect the transition.

## TRANSPORT

### Potters Bar and Grayrigg Derailments

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon):** As foreshadowed by my statement of 23 October, the Department for Transport has today written to parties affected by the Potters Bar and Grayrigg derailments to seek their views on the most appropriate way forward, following the adjournment of the Potters Bar inquest in 2007. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library of the House. Letters have been sent to organisations and individuals—or their representatives—who were affected by either accident and with whom the Department for Transport has previously had contact. I am also interested in the views of others directly involved in either accident, and a copy of the letter has been published on my Department's website so that they may have an opportunity to respond.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 20 November 2008*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council

**The Minister for Trade, Investment and Consumer Affairs (Mr. Gareth Thomas):** Today my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting made the following statement:

I am pleased to confirm the agenda items for which BERR has responsibility at the forthcoming Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Telecoms Council) in Brussels on 27 November 2008.

The first substantive item on the agenda is the review of the EU regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services, which is on the agenda for a political agreement. The French presidency is working hard to achieve agreement on the three elements of this package: amending the directives on a common regulatory framework, authorisation and access—often referred to as the Better Regulation directive; amending the directives on universal service, users rights and e-privacy—often referred to as the citizens' directive; and the regulation on the new European Electronic Communications Market Authority.

Although at present we still expect a political agreement to be reached on the whole package, there remains some doubt whether concerns by some member states on individual issues, such as on functional separation, may lead to the better regulation package to be rejected. There is more confidence on the citizens' rights package and on the authority, where there have been significant improvements over the last few months better reflecting UK objectives. The proposed authority no longer has a role in spectrum management or in security and is a smaller, more efficient and independent body intended to be a disseminator of best practice to the 27 national regulatory authorities (NRAs). However, the Commission continues to propose the creation of an agency, giving rise to concerns that it would not be properly independent, and would risk becoming bureaucratic and inefficient. This is unacceptable to the UK, and I shall confirm this point.

The French presidency compromise text proposes the formalisation of the European Regulators' Group (ERG) in Community law and supported by a separate secretariat. This is much more concordant with UK objectives for the creation of a small and efficient source of independent regulatory expertise which would not be subject to external influence. I will consequently be strongly supporting the presidency compromise text at the Council, and urging other member states to do the same.

The citizens' directive has also improved; it no longer risks extending privacy obligations on to private networks, includes greater powers for NRAs to protect citizens and consumers and contains more robust protection for disabled users.

The Better Regulation directive is where the French presidency is focusing its last minute efforts, and the UK is also been working extremely hard to realise our own objectives. However, given the potential this package has to deliver real economic benefits to every European citizen and enterprise, and the time pressures we are under to reach an agreement before the current term of the European Parliament expires, there is a real need to balance our outstanding concerns against the need to give the presidency—now the French, shortly to be the Czech Republic—the necessary mandate to negotiate of behalf of all member states with the European Parliament and the European Commission.

In my interventions on the regulatory framework I intend, while congratulating the presidency on its hard work and achievement in bringing forward these near agreed texts, to express concern that on several substantive issues the approach being taken is neither conducive to enhanced competition across the European Union nor better regulation. I will particularly highlight, though this will depend on the exact detail in the final texts, our disappointment that there is not more robust language on the political independence of regulators, the liberalisation of spectrum or on functional separation as an access remedy.

This package is subject to co-decision, so the final text voted upon at the Council will have to be negotiated and compromised with the European Parliament, who share many of the UK's objectives. The Commission, who will also have a key role in these co-decision negotiations, also share many of the UK objectives.

I will endeavour to keep you informed at these key stages, but subject to developments over the coming days I am likely to reserve the UK position on these elements of the package, pending a better outcome in the forthcoming discussions with the European Parliament and the European Commission.

Following this, there will be discussion on the general approach of proposals for amending the regulations on roaming on public telephone networks.

I fully support the aims and objectives of the proposal, with its rationale of consumer benefit and protection. I consider that the proposed price caps for voice calls and SMS messages strike the right balance between the consumer's interest in low prices, and the operators' legitimate aspirations for the profit margins which are the foundation for sustainable and innovative services. It should be noted that these caps are concordant with those considered appropriate by both the European Regulators' Group and our own telecoms regulator, OFCOM.

I also concur with the need to avoid 'bill shock' for those downloading data on their mobiles when abroad, albeit tempered by the need to ensure that transparency, meaning the customer being aware of what they might be billed, can be provided without disproportionate cost or complexity. The UK has consequently submitted alternative text introducing a flat-rate charge which we consider will reduce the need for costly and possibly ineffective systems changes. I will be speaking in support of this approach and the rationale for it.

I also agree with the Commission that the rapid evolution of the data market, coupled with the existence of alternative sources of supply—such as wi-fi hotspots—means that it would be inappropriate to consider retail price controls for data at this stage. I will be speaking in support of the Commission on this point at Council, should others move to include retail price controls for data.

At the House of Lords' Scrutiny Committee hearing of 17 November 2008, I explained some of the history of the roaming regulation and that the national regulatory authorities had requested that the Commission act to address a cross-border issue that could not be tackled effectively by individual member states. I also explained why it was better to set a maximum price cap rather than an average one, as the latter would reduce the possibility of competitive pricing between suppliers. There are also practical difficulties associated with introducing an average cap as price controls effectively take money out of the market that could be used for investment and could lead to higher prices. We also discussed the possible 'waterbed' effect of roaming caps; and although the evidence is largely anecdotal at the moment, we have seen some increases in pre pay domestic rates, but elsewhere competition has limited price increases. We will, of course, continue to monitor this situation.

This will be followed by a presentation from the Commission and discussion on second periodic review of the scope of universal services in communications networks. I am pleased that this is on the agenda as I recently deposited an explanatory memorandum about this communication. As Members will be aware, I have welcomed the initialisation of this debate on broadband as a universal service given the importance of broadband in the Digital Britain work the Department is engaged on. I am confident the debate will identify the best way forward for the European Union on this important issue, not least on such aspects of funding

options, whether there should be a minimum capacity for all citizens and how member states should avoid anticompetitive situations.

During the Council debate I intend to intervene briefly to welcome the Commission communication and to outline some of the thinking taking place in the UK around the importance of broadband as an economic and social driver.

The final item of substance is adoption of the Council conclusions on future networks and the internet. The UK objective for this agenda item is to ensure that the Commission proposals provide a suitable basis for ensuring that the future internet remains open and hence innovative and friendly. It is also necessary to set a marker ensuring that the six forthcoming proposals highlighted in the conclusions of the communication remain technology and service neutral.

I believe that it is important to engage all the relevant stakeholders in the broadband, next generation network debate and to examine all the relevant areas including private investment, economic and social value, regulation and the public sector. Currently I am of the view that roll-out of NGNs in the UK should be private sector led and that public sector should limit its interventions to addressing clear market failures.

On the 'internet of things' I believe that the seamless connection of devices and sensors to everyday items through fixed and wireless networks will have a profound impact on society in the future, particularly in the way that they interact with individuals, businesses and governmental organisations. I agree with the European Commission that security and privacy issues are of prime importance and that it is imperative that these features are designed into systems and infrastructures, and thus EU research and development funding should be directed into this area.

I do not plan to intervene in any debate there might be on this item unless there are any attempts to unpick the conclusions.

## TREASURY

### European Union Emissions Trading Scheme

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle):** Yesterday morning the Government successfully held the UK's first auction of carbon allowances as part of phase II of the EU's emissions trading scheme (ETS). The auction was also the first of its kind to take place in Europe, demonstrating the UK's continuing leadership in the battle against dangerous climate change. Four million allowances were offered for sale and sold at a total value of £54 million excluding VAT, or £13.60 per allowance. The auction was over four times oversubscribed demonstrating that the auction was competitive and that it attracted a significant amount of market interest.

The ETS puts a cap on emissions from around 12,000 installations throughout the EU—including in the energy and heavy industrial sectors, which are collectively responsible for close to half of the EU's emissions of carbon dioxide. Any of these installations that exceed its emissions cap will need to purchase the appropriate number of allowances.

Through auctions and the creation of a secondary market for allowances, the ETS is sending clear price signals. The carbon price will encourage Governments, businesses and individuals to factor the costs of emissions into their spending and investment decisions. A price for carbon creates an incentive to find products and processes that produce less carbon to achieve the same outcomes, which in turn encourages investment in the research and development of low carbon technologies.

Next month's international climate change negotiations in Poznan present an opportunity for Governments around the world to consider innovative approaches like the ETS as means to counter the dangers of climate change. Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland have already joined the ETS and work on other "cap and trade" schemes is under way in the USA, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. The ETS is well positioned to form the basis of a global carbon market in the future.

During 2009 the Government plan to auction a further 25 million allowances. Dates for future auctions will be announced in due course.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Learner Support Schemes

**The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight):** Ensuring learners are able to access education and training post-16 is a key priority for this Government. I would like to update the House on the current situation in regard to the delivery of Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs).

There have been processing and other related problems since Liberata won the contract to deliver helpline, assessment and payment functions for EMA and other learner support schemes in July 2007. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has been closely monitoring the situation and has been regularly providing me with updates, which I have shared with the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee.

As of Tuesday 18 November, 794,655 applications—237,826 more than 8 October, the date of my previous letter—have been processed. This has resulted in 485,396 young people—201,516 more than at that time—receiving notifications that they are entitled to EMAs, which means they can begin claiming the allowance. There are currently 12,016 applications in the process of being finalised—down from 111,000 on 8 October.

Despite this progress, the LSC's view has been that in order to preserve the best interests of learners, a change in contractor was necessary. The LSC has been in talks with Liberata about the future of the contract for over four weeks and yesterday informed me that they intend to discontinue the Liberata contract. I have been clear from the outset that these delays have been totally unacceptable and I therefore fully back the LSC's decision to change contractor to Capita.

The transfer of the EMA helpline, processing and payment service from Liberata to Capita will take effect from Friday 28 November. With effect from that date, Capita will bring in a new senior management team to oversee the staff and operations in Coventry, Manchester and Darlington. The transfer will place us in a stronger position to fix the helpline and processing problems, enabling us to improve the future service for young people, colleges and learning providers.

The migration of the learner support service programme contract from Liberata will have resulted in Liberata losing future revenues of over £60 million over the remaining term of the contract. In addition, in addressing the issues caused by the failure of their proposed IT system, Liberata rightly took the decision to employ significant numbers of additional temporary staff to deal with the backlog in applications. In doing so they

have incurred extraordinary additional costs and it has been judged inappropriate to impose further additional penalties.

In order to ensure a smooth and orderly transition to a new service, the LSC has secured the transfer of the interim payment service to the new service provider and the transfer of physical IT assets and applications software at a cost of £4 million. The cost of this is significantly lower than the extraordinary additional costs which Liberata has incurred.

These arrangements are within parameters approved by the Permanent Secretary in his principal accounting officer role, and by HM Treasury. The Permanent Secretary, in his principal accounting officer role, has reassured me that this agreement represents value for money for the tax payer and protects the interests of learners.

The payments being made to young people will continue and during the transfer period, outstanding applications will continue to be processed. As I have made clear before, all delayed payments will be backdated in full.

Throughout this period of unacceptable delays, our main priority has been to ensure learners get their payments. I am confident that the new arrangements the LSC have put in place are the best way to improve EMA delivery.

I am placing in the Library of the House copies of correspondence from me to the Chairman of the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee, to me from Mark Haysom, Chief Executive of the LSC, as well as the relevant statements from Liberata, the LSC and the Department.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell):** I have placed in the Library of the House the second annual report to Home Office and HM Treasury Ministers on the Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) regime to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. The reporting system is a key element in the United Kingdom's defences against money laundering and terrorist financing.

The report has been prepared by multi-agency Committee, under the chairmanship of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), which includes the financial services sector, police, other law enforcement agencies, and the Financial Services Authority. As the report notes, awareness of the value of financial intelligence in fighting crime and countering terrorism continues to rise across the international community.

The Government welcome the steady progress that SOCA and the other participants have made to ensure that the reporting system is operating so as to help deter, detect and disrupt those involved in these crimes and in holding them to account. It is important to build on this progress by further improvements, including in the use made of the reports by law enforcement agencies.

The overall goal is a SARs system that addresses the threats to the UK from crime and terrorism, contributes to the reduction of harm and the recovery of the proceeds of crime while minimising the costs of compliance to industry and others.

### Minorirty Ethnic Recruitment, Retention and Progression (Police Service)

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith):** On 6 October, I asked the Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety to undertake an assessment of minority ethnic recruitment, retention and progression nationally across the police service. This assessment gave us the opportunity to consider the recent cases as well as look to the future of minority ethnic recruitment, retention and progression when current race employment targets for the police service, set in 1999, come to an end in 2009.

The assessment is now complete and I am grateful to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Association of Police Authorities (APA), police staff associations, the national police diversity staff support associations, the Post-Lawrence Project Group—including Doreen Lawrence—and others who contributed to this work.

The assessment confirms that the police service has come a long way and made good progress since the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry report (1999) by Sir William Macpherson and the Secret Policeman Programme (2003). Over the years we have seen positive changes in relation to race equality which have also benefited other minority groups. These positive changes have been due to the commitment of many police officers and police staff and prominent community members such as Doreen Lawrence and other independent chairs of the Post-Lawrence Project Groups. It is important to emphasise that we are not starting from "point zero" on equality. A lot has been achieved but we should not be complacent and recognise that we still have a lot to do.

Copies of the assessment paper will be placed in the Library of the House today.

### Justice and Home Affairs Council

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier):** The Justice and Home Affairs Council is due to be held on 27 and 28 November 2008 in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Lord Bach, and the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Kenny MacAskill, intend to attend on behalf of the United Kingdom. As the provisional agenda stands, the following items will be discussed:

The Council will concentrate on interior and justice issues. The first day of the Council will focus on interior items, starting with the Mixed Committee also attended by Norway, Iceland and Switzerland. During the Mixed Committee Switzerland's accession to Schengen will be discussed. The UK supports Swiss accession into the Schengen area. There will also be a presentation by the presidency on the second generation Schengen information system (SIS II) in order to update member states on progress.

At the Council meeting Gilles de Kerchove, the counter-terrorism co-ordinator, will present his six-monthly report and discussion paper. The UK welcomes the report and de Kerchove's work, in particular his objectives on radicalisation and recruitment, communications, an EU strategy on data sharing, action on and funding for Pakistan, and efforts to work with Turkey on the PKK.

The Council will be asked to approve Council conclusions on a cybercrime strategy. These conclusions propose that the EU should work collectively to tackle cybercrime, and set out a number of actions that might be useful in achieving this. The proposals envisage that the EU member states should strengthen partnerships between Government and private sectors, and between law enforcement agencies within the EU.

The Council will be asked to approve the presidency's report on progress with the EU PNR framework decision and provide a clear mandate for negotiations to continue under the Czech presidency. The UK will support this mandate and believes future negotiations should build on the successful work of the French presidency.

The presidency will ask the Council to endorse draft conclusions aimed at strengthening law enforcement action against drugs trafficking in West Africa. We fully support this initiative and will aim to ensure UK objectives are reflected in the Council conclusions.

On civil protection, the presidency will report on the work on European civil protection to be undertaken during the Czech and Swedish presidencies. Draft Council conclusions on European disaster management training will be discussed, which include proposals for arrangements to link training centres in a network. The UK welcomes such a proposal, which could help to enhance co-operation and the exchange of good practice across all aspects of disaster management. Draft Council conclusions on the strengthening of civil protection capabilities through a system of mutual assistance will also be discussed. These call for voluntary measures to improve co-operation in disaster response, which could enable more rapid and effective mutual assistance to be made available through the civil protection mechanism. The UK also welcomes this.

The presidency will report on the discussions held at the annual Western Balkans ministerial forum in Zagreb on 6 and 7 November. This forum aims to promote dialogue and regional co-operation in justice and home affairs matters, particularly combating organised crime and organised immigration crime. The UK sent two officials as observers.

Regarding migration, the presidency will brief on the outcomes of the second Euro-African conference on migration and development to be held in Paris on 25 November. The draft Council conclusions on the comprehensive approach to migration will be discussed. The UK is pleased that the global approach to migration, initiated by the UK presidency in 2005, remains the basis for the EU's work on migration with third countries. The UK believes that these conclusions also help ensure that we collectively understand and have put in place measures to tackle the challenges to delivery of improved partnerships with source and transit countries.

The Council will be asked to endorse the final conclusions of the Vichy ministerial conference on integration held on 3 and 4 November. The UK can agree with the document as it stands.

The presidency will update the Council on negotiations on a Council directive that provides for a single application procedure for third-country nationals seeking to reside and work in a member state and for a common set of rights. The UK is not opting in to the proposed directive.

The presidency is looking to agree the proposal for amending Council directive 2003/109/EC which currently allows third-country nationals the right to long-term residence in a member state after five years of legal and continuous residence and permits them to have the same rights and duties as nationals. The Commission proposal would extend the scope of the directive to refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, known as humanitarian protection in the UK. The UK has chosen not to opt in to the proposed extension of the directive because, as with the original directive, the UK believes it is not in line with its frontiers protocol and would want to determine the status of third-country nationals via the immigration rules.

The Council will discuss the proposal to amend the regulation on common consular instructions on visas which relates to the issuing of Schengen visas into a single code on visas. It aims to fill gaps in existing legislation and remove redundant provisions. The UK does not issue Schengen visas and therefore is not opted-in to this proposal.

However, we welcome the efforts of Schengen member states to ensure that the Schengen external EU borders are as secure as possible.

The proposal to amend Council Regulation No. 2252/2004 establishing common standards for security features and biometrics in passports and travel documents will also be discussed. Member states wish to exclude children under the age of six years and persons who are physically unable to give fingerprints for travel documents. The amendment also hopes to establish the principle of "one person one passport" as a measure to prevent child trafficking. The UK is not opted-in but intends to keep abreast with any amendments. The UK does not support the exemption of persons under the age of six but would prefer the bar to be set at 11—this would fit with our plans for synchronising the issuing of e-passports and ID cards. Children's passports would have a five-year validity and all passport holders aged 16 and over will have their fingerprints recorded. The UK introduced the "one person one passport" principle in 1998.

The European Commission will present the initial findings of the fact-finding mission to Syria and Jordan to investigate the Iraqi refugee situation.

The Council will discuss issues relating to the application of the directive on free movement. The UK will call for a common approach to addressing false marriages, illegal immigration and expulsion of those who abuse free movement rights. This will build on the discussion on the European Court of Justice Metock judgment held at the JHA Council of 25 September, and will feed into preparation of the Commission's review of the implementation of the directive on free movement, due to be published by the end of the year.

The presidency will seek a general approach to the proposed decision amending the existing arrangements for the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters. This proposal has been considerably modified in line with UK objectives and we can now support it.

They will also ask the Council to agree to conclusions concerning the common frame of reference in contract law. The Government are broadly in favour of the Council conclusions.

The Council will be asked to agree a plan of action covering co-operation in the field of e-justice. We can support this initiative.

Agreement will also be sought for the setting up of a network for legislative co-operation among the Ministries of Justice of the member states. This modest, non-legislative measure is designed to facilitate contacts among Ministries of Justice and promote exchange of information about initiatives in the different member states. The Government can support it.

The presidency will seek a general approach towards the proposed framework decision setting up a European supervision order, allowing, in effect, for the mutual recognition of bail conditions. This will allow for a person who is resident in one member state, but the subject of criminal proceedings in another, to have their bail conditions monitored in their member state of residence. No such system exists at present, with the effect some individuals are released pre-trial without supervision. The Government have been concerned to ensure that the proposal struck the right balance between public protection and the liberty of the individual, and provided the executing state with sufficient options to act in the public interest in the event of breach of bail conditions or the commission of further offences. The Government welcome the improvements to the text that have been achieved in the course of negotiations and, subject to any further changes to the text before the Council, expects to be in a position to agree to the proposal.

The Council will be asked to agree the draft conclusions on child alerts, which invite member states to introduce and develop national mechanisms for alerting the general public in the event of a presumed abduction of a child whose safety is seriously compromised. The UK is happy to agree the draft conclusions.

There is a substantial list of "A" points—issues on which agreement in principle has been reached already but are before the Council for formal adoption without discussion. These will include:

a draft decision authorising the Commission to negotiate with Georgia a readmission agreement between the European Community and Georgia;

Council decisions on Eurojust and the European Judicial Network in criminal matters;

the framework decision on data protection, and

the framework decision on the transfer of prisoners.

### Identity Cards

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier):** The House will wish to know that the Government are publishing tomorrow, Friday 21 November 2008, a consultation paper on draft secondary legislation to be proposed under the Identity Cards Act 2006, including a draft code of practice on civil penalties. Copies of the document, "Identity Cards Act Secondary Legislation—a consultation", will be placed in the Vote Office and the Libraries of both Houses tomorrow.

## JUSTICE

### EDS (Lost Data)

**The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw):** This statement is to update the House on the loss of sensitive data on a hard drive by Electronic Data Systems (EDS), which became known to Ministers on 6 September 2008. I have now received the results of the internal investigation into this matter, which was undertaken by a National Offender Management Service (NOMS) director with no prior involvement in the incident.

The investigation has confirmed that initial reports over-stated the volume of data involved. The hard drive contained 256 items of sensitive personal information that could potentially, if in the public domain, cause damage to that individual, namely: bank details; address details; and National Insurance numbers coupled with dates of birth. There remains no indication that this information has entered the public domain.

The investigation found that the data had been downloaded to the hard drive so it could be transferred to another site as part of a disaster recovery exercise carried out in July 2007. While no problems arose regarding the implementation of the exercise itself, the disk was not wiped before it was to be removed from the site and thereafter EDS failed to take adequate measures to track or record the location of the hard drive when it was transferred to another site. Although strictly the hard drive was not at that time being removed for other uses, it ought to have been treated as such and EDS' company policy at that time requiring a disk to be purged prior to release for any other purpose, ought to have been followed.

This did not comply with data protection principles, and also meant that the investigation could not identify precisely when or where the hard drive went missing. The possibility of theft has resulted in this matter being referred to the West Mercia Police. EDS is taking appropriate action, which will include disciplinary action if necessary, concerning the staff involved.

The inadequacy of EDS' tracking systems meant that the data was not missed until 2 July 2008. On 3 July, EDS notified NOMS verbally of the data loss, the possible scope of which was made apparent in a written interim report to the NOMS IT security team on 4 July. There is no evidence of any other communication between EDS and NOMS on this issue until 6 September when the matter was raised by the press, although EDS were preparing a final report to submit to NOMS.

The NOMS IT security team did not take sufficient action following receipt of the interim report, with the result that senior officials and ministers were not aware of the loss until 6 September, when comprehensive and appropriate action was taken to identify and contact any staff involved and to investigate further the circumstances of the loss. NOMS is taking appropriate action, including disciplinary action, concerning the staff involved.

In the context of the Hannigan review and subsequent Cabinet Office guidelines, NOMS and EDS were both actively improving data protection processes before this matter arose. Since 6 September, EDS and NOMS have agreed an additional set of measures to be undertaken, at EDS' cost, to both reimburse NOMS for its additional expenses arising from the incident and to further develop the security of NOMS' information assets. These include an exercise to identify all uncontrolled copies of NOMS' sensitive data and have such copies destroyed in a secure manner, as well as reviewing and strengthening the policies and process controls which govern the transfer of NOMS data. In addition, the number of transfers using removable media will be reduced, and encryption will be introduced on removable media. A further detailed

review will also be undertaken to identify and prioritise any additional security measures to be enhanced. Finally, EDS has committed to the design, development and delivery of appropriate classroom and computer-based training packages for both EDS and NOMS staff. An annual, independent audit of EDS' compliance with security standards will be introduced with a requirement for EDS to rectify any areas of non-compliance.

## CABINET OFFICE

### Omand Review

**The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Liam Byrne):** On 11 June my predecessor told the House, *Official Report*, column 485 of two lost Joint Intelligence Committee assessments and announced that the Cabinet Secretary had asked Sir David Omand to carry out a full investigation of the circumstances of the case. He undertook to keep the House informed of Sir David's conclusions.

Sir David Omand's review was carried out in the summer. His report could not be finalised pending the outcome of the internal disciplinary process and the police investigations. With the conviction of the individual responsible under s.8(1) of the Official Secrets Act on 28 October, those processes are now complete. I am grateful to Sir David for the care he has taken in carrying out the review.

Sir David was also asked to look at the procedures in place for the handling and protection of intelligence material, and for staff training, induction and security awareness.

Sir David concluded that the documents were mislaid because of the direct actions of the officer and that even if all the current security procedures had been followed to the letter the inadvertent removal of the documents, though less likely to have occurred, could still have happened. He judged that the loss was not a preventable accident given the mistakes made by the individual. He has also observed that no security system that is both affordable and allows for the efficient conduct of business will provide proof against all forms of human error, and that the key determinant of good security has always been and remains staff with high morale and sense of purpose. Sir David said he had no reservations in that regard about the staff of the Joint Intelligence Organisation, who are highly security aware.

Sir David has recommended a number of additional and affordable measures covering security education, practical procedures and emergency arrangements that would reduce some of the more likely human failings. He has also made suggestions about strengthening governance of the future development of security policy. An example of the sort of measures recommended that can be made public without damaging security is the introduction of spot checks. All the recommendations have been accepted: many have already been implemented but some depend on changes to accommodation in hand and will be implemented when those changes have been made.

The Intelligence and Security Committee have been fully briefed on Sir David's investigation and recommendations and the action that the Government are taking.

As my predecessor said in his statement on 11 June:

"It is a matter of utmost concern to the Government that this breach of security has happened. We will take all steps to ensure that all individuals who work within the Joint Intelligence Committee staff observe the procedures that are necessary for security. We will continue to do everything necessary to safeguard sensitive intelligence material so that we safeguard the British national interest."

## TRANSPORT

### Road safety

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick):** The Department has today published a consultation paper on improving compliance with road safety laws. It puts forward proposals across a range of road safety topics, and follows up a number of key commitments from the 2007 review of our road safety strategy "Tomorrow's roads: safer for everyone". We will take a more wide ranging approach to road safety when we consult on our post-2010 strategy next year.

Whilst we are progressing towards our target of reducing the number of road casualties by 2010, there are still too many people being needlessly killed or seriously injured on the roads. We are focusing our efforts on bringing this number down still further, and compliance is key to achieving this.

On speeding, we propose a higher six-point fixed penalty for extreme speeders, but not to graduate fixed penalty fines.

On drink driving, we invite general views on reducing the drink drive limit and describe what we are doing to obtain better evidence on this issue. We also propose wider use of targeted road blocks to catch and deter drink-drivers, and to address procedural loopholes which currently hinder drink drive enforcement.

On drug driving, current evidential requirements make it very difficult for the police to enforce. We want to explore creating a new offence of driving with an illicit substance in the body for drugs that are known to be impairing.

On careless driving, there is a burden involved in taking cases to court, which is unnecessary in the majority of cases, where drivers plead guilty, and which impedes enforcement in cases where no collision has occurred. We propose to make careless driving a fixed penalty offence.

On seatbelts, we set out our plans for improving wearing rates, in particular through the new THINK! Campaign launched on 3 November.

Finally, on remedial training and testing we propose wide-ranging reform to achieve more consistent standards, better-targeted measures and to ensure that training and assessment go hand in hand.

Some of the issues are complex. We want to be sure that new initiatives are soundly based on solid evidence, and that we can take account of all the implications. This is an important consultation and we hope this document will encourage as many people and organisations as possible to respond with their suggestions and comments.

The consultation closes on 27 February 2009.

Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are also available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 24 November 2008*

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Public Forest Estate

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** The Forestry Commission manages over 250,000 hectares of land in England and provides a unique national asset delivering many benefits. These include protecting and enhancing the natural environment, providing economic opportunities and helping to improve the quality of people's lives. Since 1997 the Forestry Commission has been able to buy and sell land in order to increase the public benefits on the public forest estate.

Last year we published our strategy for England's trees, woods and forests and the time is right to consider how the public forest estate might respond to the strategy. I have therefore asked the Forestry Commission to carry out a study of the future long-term sustainable role of the public forest estate in England and to make recommendations.

The Commission's England National Committee will act as the governing body for the study, establishing a working group from relevant key stakeholders, including DEFRA.

The terms of reference for the study are:

To consider the future long-term sustainable role for the public forest estate making recommendations about any necessary changes to improve its ability to deliver relevant priorities in the strategy for England's trees woods and forests and contribute to other Government objectives.

The study will be grounded in our sustainable development strategy, "Securing the Future", and there will be a full public consultation.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Tasers

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith):** Each day police officers put themselves in danger to protect the public, so I am committed to providing the police with the tools they tell me they need to fight crime and keep the public and themselves safe. I am also proud that we have one of the few police services around the world that do not regularly carry firearms and I want to keep it that way.

Therefore I am today giving my agreement to allow chief officers of all forces in England and Wales, from 1 December 2008, to extend Taser use to specially trained units in accordance with Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) policy and guidance. The guidance sets out that Taser can only be used where officers would be facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves and/or the subject(s).

I am also making funding available to forces to support the purchase of up to 10,000 Tasers. This will allow chief officers to take a decision on Taser deployment according to operational need, without being encumbered by financial restrictions.

Tasers are making a real difference on our streets, not only keeping the public safe but also protecting our police officers. Taser has been available to all authorised firearms officers since September 2004 as a less lethal alternative for use in situations where a firearms authority has been granted in accordance with criteria laid down in the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) "Manual of Guidance on Police Use of Firearms".

Since 20 July 2007 authorised firearms officers in England and Wales have also been able to use Taser in a wider set of circumstances. These officers are now able to deploy Taser in operations or incidents where the use of firearms is not authorised, but where they are facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves or the subject.

In July 2007 I also gave my approval for a 12-month trial of the deployment of Taser by specially trained units, who are not firearms officers, in circumstances where officers were facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves or the subject. The trial commenced on 1 September 2007 in 10 forces: Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Gwent, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police Service, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, North Wales and West Yorkshire.

Independent medical advice was sought from the Defence Scientific Advisory Council (DSAC) Sub-Committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons (DOMILL) on the use of Taser in these extended circumstances. DOMILL has now provided a fifth statement on the medical implications of the use of Taser.

The DOMILL statement assesses the risk of death or serious injury from use of the M26 and X26 Tasers within ACPO guidance and policy as very low.

Having considered the latest DOMILL statement and reports on the trial from ACPO and the Home Office Scientific Development Branch which provide final figures on Taser use in the trial, I have given my agreement for further roll-out.

All Taser deployments will also continue to be monitored for assessment by DOMILL. We will continue to publish Taser usage figures on a regular basis.

I have placed a copy of the latest DOMILL statement, and the Home Office Scientific Development Branch trial evaluation in the Library of the House.

## JUSTICE

### Data Protection (Information Commissioner)

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills):** I am today publishing the Government's response to the Data Sharing Review and the response to the Ministry of Justice's consultation on the Information Commissioner's inspection powers and funding under the Data Protection Act 1998.

The protection of personal data will always be a high priority and we know that good regulation is essential to support a robust data protection framework. We believe that, although the current regulatory framework does not require sweeping changes, more can, and must be done to ensure that the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has the powers and resources necessary to carry out its duties under the Data Protection Act. The tools available to the ICO must be flexible enough to meet a range of circumstances and encourage good practice, allowing it to take firm and assertive action when necessary.

The use of information underpins Government's ability to deliver benefits for the citizen through targeted and improved public services, opportunities for the most disadvantaged, protection from crime and terrorism and economic well-being. However we can only do this successfully when we are able to increase public confidence in the sharing and handling of personal data by both the public and private sectors. The proposals as outlined in the two documents being published today will contribute toward that process.

We will increase the powers, penalties and funding available to the ICO by specifically proposing to:

develop the ICO's inspection powers in respect of public authorities so as to enable the ICO to inspect without necessarily requiring prior consent;

allow the ICO to impose a deadline and location for the provision of information necessary to assess compliance;

allow the ICO to require any person on the premises, where a warrant is being executed, to provide any information required to determine whether the data controller has complied with, or is complying with, the data protection principles;

mandate the ICO to publish guidance on when organisations should notify the ICO of breaches of the data protection principles; and

alter the ICO funding structure from a flat rate notification fee to a tiered-fee structure based on size of organisation, providing additional funds for the ICO in a more equitable funding structure.

In addition, to reinforce the framework within which we can safely share data and deliver benefits for the public, we propose to:

place a statutory duty on the ICO to publish a data sharing code of practice in order to provide practical guidance on how to share personal data in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act and to promote good practice in the sharing of personal data; and

confer a power upon the Secretary of State to permit or require the sharing of personal information between particular specified persons, where a robust case for doing so exists.

To further strengthen the powers available to the ICO, we are working on bringing fully into force section 55A of the Data Protection Act, introduced in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 but not yet commenced. This will allow the ICO to impose monetary penalties on data controllers in the case of serious contraventions of the Data Protection Act.

The additional powers for the ICO will ensure the regulatory framework is robust, proportionate and encourage good practice. These measures will increase public confidence in the handling and sharing of data by the public and private sectors.

Copies of both the Government's response to the Data Sharing Review and the response to the Ministry of Justice's consultation on the Information Commissioner's inspection powers and funding under the Data Protection Act 1998 will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Equality 2025: the UK Advisory Network on Disability Equality

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw):** Equality 2025: the United Kingdom Advisory Network on Disability Equality was established in December 2006, from a recommendation in the Prime Minister's strategy unit report "Improving the life chances of disabled people" which suggested that the Government should set up a new mechanism to involve disabled people in the heart of policy-making. It is working with Government to help it achieve the aim of equality for disabled people by 2025.

Equality 2025 was set up with no formal chair, as the group was keen to offer this opportunity to all members on rotation. However, in December 2007 members agreed they would like a formal chair. An acting chair has been in place since then, while the recruitment exercise has taken place.

The recruitment exercise was carried out in accordance with the standards set by the Office for the Commissioner of Public Appointments. The quality of applicants for the post was exceptionally high. I am pleased to announce that the successful candidate and new chair of Equality 2025 from 1 December 2008 is Rowen Jade.

Rowen Jade has been a member of Equality 2025 since it was established, and has been acting chair since December 2007. I am confident she will lead the group forward during an interesting and challenging time.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 25 November 2008*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Departmental Expenditure Limits (2008-09)

**The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden):** Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's DEL will be reduced by £11,157,000 from £3,379,070,000 to £3,367,913,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £358,000 from £332,173,000 to £332,531,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is as set out in the following table:

| | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-Voted* | *Voted* | *Non-Voted* | *Total* |
| Resource (£000) | 34,426 | -28,583 | -497,986 | 2,654,880 | 2,156,894 |
| of which: | | | | | |
| Administration[1] budget | 358 | | 332,531 | | 332,531 |
| Near cash in Resource DEL[2] | 19,398 | -13,555 | -645,630 | 2,693,147 | 2,047,517 |
| Capital (£000) | -91,601 | 74,601 | -763,999 | 1,975,018 | 1,211,019 |
| *Less* Depreciation[3] (£000) | -11,327 | 11,327 | -48,780 | -24,684 | -73,464 |
| Total (£000) | -68,502 | 57,345 | -1,310,765 | 4,605,214 | 3,294,449 |

[1]The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near-Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts, but which are treated as capital DEL in Budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

*The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:*

*RfR1*

i) Increase of £825,000 in respect of an award from the financial inclusion fund for face-to-face debt advice.

ii) Transfer of £40,000 from the non-voted departmental unallocated provision to the Cabinet Office for the security monitoring and co-ordination centre.

iii) Transfer of £4,000,000 from the Ministry of Defence in respect of global threat reduction.

iv) Virement of £17,088,000 from non-voted to voted expenditure in respect of the regional development agencies reflecting reduced contributions from other Government Departments.

v) Virement of £2,504,000 from voted to non-voted expenditure in respect of a reallocation from the London development agency to the regional development agencies.

vi) Virement of £1,000,000 from voted expenditure on business link marketing to non-voted expenditure in respect of the regional development agencies.

vii) Virement of £16,000,000 from non-voted capital expenditure in respect of the regional development agencies to the non-voted resource departmental unallocated provision.

viii) Transfer of £16,000,000 from the non-voted resource departmental unallocated provision to the Department for Work and Pensions in respect of cold weather payments.

ix) Virement of £115,000 from non-voted to voted expenditure in respect of a reduction in the gross expenditure and receipts of Postwatch as a result of the transfer of the Royal Mail quality of service review to Postcomm.

x) Virement of £14,300,000 from the non-voted resource departmental unallocated provision to voted insolvency service non-cash.

xi) Virement of £728,000 from the non-voted resource departmental unallocated provision to voted non-cash provisions in respect of Icelandic trawlermen compensation.

xii) Virement of £516,000 from the non-voted resource departmental unallocated provision to voted near-cash in respect of British shipbuilders' liabilities.

*Also within the change to resource DEL, the changes to the Administration budget are (RfR1):*

i) Transfer of £1,463,000 from the Cabinet Office in respect of the Parliamentary Counsel Office.

ii) Transfer of £360,000 to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in respect of the Office of Climate Change.

iii) Transfer of £45,000 to the Office of Government Commerce (Cabinet Office) for the centre of expertise for sustainable development.

iv) Reclassification of £700,000 from voted administration to non-voted programme expenditure in respect of the regional development agencies' business links.

*The change in the Capital element of the DEL arises from:*

*RfR1*

i) Virement of £39,501,000 from voted to non-voted expenditure in respect of a reallocation from the London development agency to the regional development agencies.

ii) Virement of £16,000,000 from non-voted capital expenditure in respect of the regional development agencies to the non-voted resource departmental unallocated provision.

iii) Transfer from non-voted regional development agencies expenditure of £1,000,000 to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in respect of increased warm front activity.

iv) Virement of £27,000,000 from voted environmental transformation fund expenditure to the non-voted departmental unallocated provision.

v) Virement of £27,400,000 from voted enterprise capital fund expenditure to the non-voted departmental unallocated provision.

vi) Virement of £2,300,000 from non-voted expenditure to voted in respect of increased recoveries of non-voted launch investment receipts and increased voted expenditure by the advisory, conciliation and arbitration service.

Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the postal services commission DEL will be increased by £1,000 from £151,000 to £152,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £1,000 from £1,000 to £2,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is as set out in the following table:

| £'000 | Change | New DEL Voted | New DEL Non-voted | New DEL Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Resource DEL | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| *Of which:*[1] | | | | |
| *Administration budget* | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| *Near-cash in RDEL* | 1 | -538 | 0 | -538 |
| Capital DEL[2] | 0 | 150 | 0 | 150 |
| Depreciation | 0 | -530 | 0 | -530 |
| Total | 1 | -378 | 0 | -378 |

[1]The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from a token increase in administration costs. The token increase is necessary to bring to Parliament's attention an increase in administration expenditure relating to the Royal Mail quality of service review (£114,000) offset by increased appropriations in aid (£114,000) from Royal Mail.

Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Office of Gas and Electricity Market's DEL will be increased by £1,000 from £1,651,000 to £1,652,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £1,000 from £701,000 to £702,000:

| £'000 | Change | New DEL Voted | New DEL Non-voted | New DEL Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Resource DEL | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Of which:[1] | | | | |
| Administration budget | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Near-cash in RDEL | 1 | -538 | 0 | -538 |
| Capital DEL[2] | 0 | 950 | 0 | 950 |
| Depreciation | 0 | -1000 | 0 | -1000 |
| Total | 1 | 652 | 0 | 652 |

[1]The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from a token increase in administration costs. The token increase is necessary to bring to Parliament's attention an increase in administration costs of £1,499,000 offset by an increase in appropriations in aid of £1,499,000. The increase in administration costs is as a result of additional unplanned expenditure on a Competition Act investigation, the offshore transmission tender process and the energy supply markets probe.

## Regional Development Agency (Board Appointments)

**The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden):** I am pleased to announce that I have decided to appoint 23 RDA board members, whom between them will serve seven of our Regional Development Agencies. Their names are listed below.

| RDA | Board Member Appointees |
|---|---|
| Advantage West Midlands | Cllr Mike Whitby |
| East of England Development Agency | Mr Nitin Dahad<br>Cllr Shona Johnstone<br>Cllr Madeline Russell |
| East Midlands Development Agency | Ms Elizabeth Donnelly<br>Mr James Harker |
| North-West Regional Development Agency | Mrs Anne Selby<br>Ms Brenda Smith extended for one year.<br>Lord Peter Smith<br>Dr John Stageman |
| South-East England Development Agency | Ms Zenna Atkins<br>Cllr Jeremy Birch<br>Mr Leslie Dawson<br>Cllr Keith Mitchell |
| South-West of England Regional Development Agency | Mr Ian Ducat<br>Mr Peter Madden<br>Professor Steve Smith<br>Ms Judith Reynolds and Sir Henry Studholme -reappointed after applying through open competition |
| Yorkshire Forward | Mr Bill Adams<br>Mr Ajaz Ahmend<br>Mr John Vincent<br>Mrs Julie Kenny - reappointed after applying through open competition |

The RDAs are playing a crucial role in supporting the national and regional economies in this critical and exceptional economic climate. All the appointees will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to their RDA adding a vast amount of value.

I have agreed to the appointments starting on the 14 December 2008 for a period of three years, expiring in December 2011.

I have placed further details of these appointments, including biographies, in the Libraries of both Houses. I can confirm that the appointments were made in accordance with the code of practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

# TREASURY

## HM Revenue and Customs (Departmental Expenditure Limits)

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the HM Revenue and Customs total DEL will be increased by £91,338,000 from £4,448,459,000 to £4,539,797,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

| | Change | | New DEL | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Voted | Non-Voted | Voted | Non-Voted | Total |
| Resource DEL | 107,580 | -43,662 | 4,082,544 | 347,739 | 4,430,283 |
| Of Which: | | | | | |
| Administration Budget[1] | 107,580 | -43,662 | 4,329,802 | — | 4,329,802 |

£'000

| | Change | | New DEL | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted*[2] | *Non-Voted* | *Voted* | *Non-Voted* | *Total* |
| Near-cash in RDEL[1] | 107,500 | -43,662 | 3,742,662 | 381,887 | 4,124,549 |
| Capital[2] | 27,500 | — | 284,866 | 3,648 | 288,514 |
| Less Depreciation[3] | — | — | -179,000 | — | -179,000 |
| Total DEL | 135,000 | -43,662 | 4,188,410 | 351,387 | 4,539,797 |

[1]The total of 'Administration Budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

modernisation fund drawdown of £62,500,000 administration near cash costs to modernise and transform HMRC;

near-cash administration costs draw down of non-voted DUP of £43,662,000 taken up as voted provision to facilitate improvements to key operational activities;

£1,520,000 administration near cash costs transferred from Cabinet Office in respect of Parliamentary Counsel Office;

£77,000 administration near cash costs to the Home Office in respect of transfer of five information officers;

£45,000 administration near cash costs transferred to HM Treasury in relation to the contribution towards the Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement;

£40,000 near cash programme costs transferred to Cabinet Office for Government Secure Zone;

£21,000 administration near cash costs in relation to one post being transferred to HM Treasury; and

£1,000 increase in respect of VOA administration.

The change in the administration budget arises from the changes detailed in the resource element above excluding the £40,000 programme transfer to the Cabinet Office.

The change in the capital element of DEL arises from:

£27,500,000 capital draw down of modernisation fund.

## National Savings and Investments (Departmental Expenditure Limit)

**The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, National Savings and Investments DEL will be increased by £152,000 to £166,299,000 and the capital element of DEL will be increased by £950,000. Within DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are set out in the following table:

| | Change | | New Del | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-Voted* | |
| Resource Del: | 5,146 | -4,994 | 166,299 | - | 166,299 |
| *Of which:*[2] | | | | - | |
| *Administration budget:* | 5,146 | -4,994 | 166,299 | - | 166,299 |
| *Near cash in RDEL:* | 5,146 | -4,994 | 161,692 | - | 161,692 |
| Capital | 950 | - | 1,438 | - | 1,438 |
| Depreciation[1] | - | - | -3,090 | - | -3,090 |
| Total | 6,096 | -4,994 | 164,647 | - | 164,647 |

[1]Depreciation which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the capital element of the DEL arises from modernisation fund being drawn down of £950,000 to support running costs on capital expenditure on their estate.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

A drawdown of £152,000 from the modernisation fund to support additional running costs associated with capital spending.

The change in the administration budget arises from the modernisation fund draw down.

## Value Added Tax

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms):** The Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday announced as part of the pre-Budget report a temporary reduction in the standard rate of VAT to 15 per cent. from 1 December 2008 to 1 January 2010 when the rate will return to 17 ½ per cent.

This Government have taken these steps to provide further support for growth and incomes during the economic downturn. The Government's discretionary fiscal action will deliver support of around 1 per cent. of GDP to the economy in total in 2009-10.

However, it is also important that the Government protect the public finances from artificial avoidance seeking to exploit the change in VAT rates where there is no current economic activity. Therefore, Finance Bill 2009 will contain anti-forestalling legislation to ensure that the VAT rate changes announced are fully effective. The Government will expose the draft legislation for comment as soon as possible.

Anti-forestalling legislation will apply from today to ensure that, in the circumstances set out below, supplies with a basic time of supply after a VAT rate increase takes effect will be subject to the rate of VAT in force at that time. The provisions are designed to prevent artificial forestalling while being straightforward for business to understand and operate and not affecting genuine commercial transactions. This legislation is not intended to catch the normal commercial activity of providing goods and services.

The anti-forestalling legislation will apply in the circumstances set out below where the supplier receives a prepayment for the goods or services or issues a VAT invoice in advance of the rate increase. It will also apply where, in advance of the rate increase, the supplier grants the customer an option or a right to obtain goods or services at a discount or free of charge after the rate increase takes effect.

The circumstances are that the customer cannot recover VAT in full on the supply and that:

the supplier and customer are connected parties; or

the supplier receives a prepayment, or grants the customer an option or a right, and the prepayment, or the acquisition of the option or right, is wholly or partly funded (directly or indirectly) by the supplier; or

a VAT invoice is issued by the supplier showing an amount any part of which is due more than six months after the date of the invoice.

The basic time of supply is normally when goods are delivered or made available, or when services are performed. For continuous supplies of goods or services, with consideration payable periodically or from time to time, the basic time of supply will be the end of the period to which a payment or invoice relates (that is, a billing period).

Although the anti-forestalling legislation will apply from today, any extra VAT arising from its operation will not become due until after Royal Assent of Finance Bill 2009. Until then, suppliers should continue to account for VAT as normal, applying the VAT rate at the time of the prepayment, VAT invoice issue or grant of the right or option.

The operation of the legislation will be kept under review to ensure that the provisions work as intended. Any additional or alternative anti-forestalling provisions included in Finance Bill 2009 will only take effect at the earliest from the date that they are announced.

## Departmental Expenditure Limit (2008-09)

**The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle):** Subject to parliamentary approval of the winter supplementary estimate, HM Treasury's DEL will be increased by £1,318,000 from £220,233,000 to £221,551,000 and the Administration Budget will be increased by £1,223,000 from £168,202,000 to £169,425,000 with no change to the capital DEL. The impact on resources and the administration budget is set out in the following table:

| | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource | 7,748,000 | -6,430,000 | 194,646,000 | 26,905,000 | 221,551,000 |
| *of which:* | | | | | |
| *Administration budget*[1] | *7,653,000* | *-6,430,000* | *165,112,000* | *4,313,000* | *169,425,000* |
| *Near cash in RDEL*[1] | *5,811,000* | *-6,430,000* | *182,924,000* | *37,805,000* | *220,629,000* |
| Capital[2] | - | - | 4,800,000 | 2,221,000 | 7,021,000 |
| Less Depreciation[3] | - | - | -9,190,000 | - | -9,190,000 |
| Total | 7,748,000 | -6,430,000 | 190,256,000 | 29,126,000 | 219,382,000 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The net increase in resource DEL of £1,318,000 is the net effect of the following:

*For Request for Resources 1*

A Machinery of Government transfer to the Cabinet Office of £273,000 near cash administration costs following the transfer of responsibility for the Statistical Reform team;

A transfer to the Statistics Board of £100,000 near cash programme costs as a contribution towards the costs of a project to improve the quality of migration statistics;

A contribution to the Cabinet Office of £80,000 near cash programme costs in respect of the Government Secure Zone costs;

A transfer from the Cabinet Office of £250,000 near cash administration costs towards consultancy costs incurred by the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit; and

A transfer from HM Revenue & Customs of £21,000 towards the costs of a post in the Budget, Tax and Welfare team.

*For RfR 3*

Transfers to the Office of Government Commerce towards the costs of the Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement as follows:

Some £45,000 near cash administration costs from each of the following Departments—Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, Communities and Local Government, Cabinet Office, Children, Schools and Families, Transport, International Development, Work and Pensions, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, HM Revenue & Customs, Home Office, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice and £215,000 from Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

near cash programme costs of £45,000 from the Statistics Board and £700,000 from Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

There is a reduction in non-voted DEL due to the draw down of Departmental Unallocated Provision of £6,430,000 to offset increased voted spending.

The net increase in the administration costs budget is £1,223,000 comprising the administration costs changes mentioned in the preceding paragraphs plus a reclassification of programme costs to administration costs of £470,000.

## ECOFIN

**The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson):** On 21 November 2008, I represented the UK at the Budget Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN).

Finance Ministers agreed to adopt Preliminary Draft Amending Budgets 10—as amended by the Commission during the course of negotiations—and 11 to the 2008 EC Budget. These amend the 2008 Budget respectively to reflect latest implementation capacity, thus reducing the level of funding required from member states in 2008, and to mobilise the EU solidarity fund for Cyprus following the recent drought there.

Finance Ministers agreed to adopt Amending Letters 2—as amended by the Commission to include budgetary aspects relating to the proposed food facility for developing countries—and 3 to the Preliminary Draft Budget for 2009. These reflected the latest information on agricultural market prices and other developments, and a budgetary transfer to cover the costs of a new reflection group as called for by the October European Council.

During a conciliation meeting between Council and the European Parliament agreement was reached on the 2009 EC Budget and on the financing for the proposed food facility. The agreement establishes total payment levels of €116.1 billion—0.89 per cent. of EU GNI. The European Parliament is scheduled to vote on its own second reading on 18 December, after which the 2009 EC Budget will be formally adopted.

Five joint statements relating to the Budget were also agreed at Budget ECOFIN. These concerned the financing of the food facility and the implementation of cohesion policy and EU agencies. The Government are supportive of these statements, which affirm the co-ordination and visibility of Community development assistance, and call for sound financial management and budget discipline in the areas they concern.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2008-09)

**The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Children, Schools and Families departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be decreased by £16,761,000 from £52,739,088,00 to £52,722,327,000; the Administration cost budget will be decreased by £2,364,000 from £189,900,000 to £187,536,000. The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED) which has a separate estimate and DEL, will be increased by £485,000 from £180,731,000 to £181,216,000 the administration cost budget will be increased by £485,000 from £28,236,000 to £28,721,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

| *DCFS* | *Resources* | | | | *Capital*[3] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Of which:* | | | | *Of which:* | |
| | *Change* £000 | *New DEL* £000 | *Voted* £000 | *Non-voted* £000 | *Change* £000 | *New DEL* £000 | *Voted* £000 | *Non- voted* £000 |
| RfR1 | -16,811 | 45,419,824 | 44,202,195 | 1,217,629 | -2,000 | 5,712,566 | 4,593,981 | 1,118,585 |
| RfR2 | 2,050 | 1,294,912 | 1,265,396 | 29,516 | 0 | 295,025 | 295,025 | 0 |
| DCSF Total | -14,761 | 46,714,736 | 45,467,591 | 1,247,145 | -2,000 | 6,007,591 | 4,889,006 | 1,118,585 |
| OFSTED | 485 | 180,235 | 180,235 | 0 | 0 | 981 | 981 | 0 |
| Sub Total | -14,276 | 46,894,971 | 45,647,826 | 1,247,145 | -2,000 | 6,008,572 | 4,889,987 | 1,118,585 |
| *Of which Admin Budget*[2] | -1,879 | *216,257* | 216,257 | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| *Near-cash in RDEL* | *-14,276* | *46,931,221* | *45,647,289* | *1,283,932* | *0* | *0* | *0* | *0* |
| Depreciation[1] | 101 | -12,057 | -8,599 | -3,458 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | -14,175 | 46,882,914 | 45,639,227 | 1,243,687 | -2,000 | 6,008,572 | 4,889,987 | 1,118,585 |

[1]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, in the table above, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.
[2] The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.
[3]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

Within the Administration Cost budget changes, the impact is set out in the following table:

| *DfES* | *Original* £000 | *Change* £000 | *Revised* £000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| DfES (RfR1) | 189,900 | -2,364 | 187,536 |
| OFSTED | 28,236 | 485 | 28,721 |
| Total | 218,136 | -1,879 | 216,257 |

*Resource DEL*

The decrease in the resource element of the DEL of £14,761,000 arises from a decrease in the voted element of the resource DEL of £172,838,000 and an increase of £158,077,000 in the non-voted element of resource DEL mainly in the department's non-departmental public bodies.

*Voted Resource DEL*

The £172,838,000 decrease in the voted element of the resource DEL arises from:

*RFR1*

A movement of £450,000 from RfR2 in respect of special education needs programmes.

A movement of £55,601,000 from non-voted unallocated provision for current grants to support schools and teachers.

A movement of £10,369,000 from non-voted unallocated provision for current grants to support youth programmes.

A transfer from the Cabinet Office £411,000 administration for the Parliamentary Council Office.

A transfer to the Cabinet Office of £40,000 for ISMCC.

A transfer to HM Treasury of £45,000 administration for the Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement.

A transfer to Department for Work and Pensions of £4,000,000 administration for the lease settlement for Caxton House.

A transfer to the Home Office of £432,000 for antisocial behaviour and crime prevention.

A transfer to the Ministry of Justice of £1,000,000 for Implementation of the Children and Adoption Act.

A transfer to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills of £3,655,000 for vocational reform.

A transfer to the Home Office of £6,000,000 for settlements relating to the Hillingdon judgement 2003.

A movement of £197,031,000 to non-voted resource DEL to support the department's non-departmental public bodies

*RFR2*

A movement of £450,000 to RfR1 in respect of Special Education Needs Programmes.

A movement of £2,500,000 from non-voted unallocated provision for Sure Start.

A movement of £29,516,000 to non-voted resource DEL in respect of the Children's Workforce Development Council.

*Non-voted resource DE*

The £158,077,000 increase in non-voted resource DEL arises from:

A movement of £226,547,000 from voted resource DEL to support the department's non-departmental public bodies.

A movement of £55,601,000 from non-voted unallocated provision for current grants to support schools and teachers.

A movement of £10,369,000 from non-voted unallocated provision to voted for current grants to support youth programmes.

A movement of £2,500,000 from non-voted unallocated provision to voted for Sure Start.

*Capital DEL*

The decrease in the capital element of the DEL of £2,000,000 arises from a £57,801,000 increase in the voted element of capital DEL and a decrease of £59,801,000 in the non-voted element of capital DEL.

*Voted Capital DEL*

The £57,801,000 increase in the voted element of the capital DEL arises from:

*RFRI*

A movement of £30,000,000 from non-voted unallocated provision to support schools and teachers.

A movement of £28,019,000 from non-voted unallocated provision for capital grants to support children and families.

A movement of £218,000 to non-voted resource DEL to support the department's non-departmental public bodies.

*Non-voted Capital DEL*

The £59,801,000 decrease in the non-voted element of capital DEL arises from:

*RFRI*

A transfer to Department for Work and Pensions of £2,000,000 for the Government Connect Programme.

A movement of £30,000,000 from non-voted unallocated provision to voted to support schools and teachers.

A movement of £28,019,000 from non-voted unallocated provision to voted for Capital grants to support children and families.

A movement of £218,000 from voted resource DEL to support the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

*Administration Cost Budget*

Reclassification of £1,270,000 from programme expenditure to administration for respect administration costs.

A transfer from the Cabinet Office £411,000 administration for the Parliamentary Counsel Office.

A transfer to HM Treasury of £45,000 administration for the Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement.

A transfer to Department for Work and Pensions of £4,000,000 administration for the lease settlement for Caxton House.

*Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills*

*Voted Resource DEL*

Following the machinery of Government changes a transfer of £485,000 from the Ministry of Justice for the inspection of the Children and Families Court Advisery and Support Service.

A movement of £8,051,000 from non-voted unallocated provision for implementation of the Childcare Act 2006 and the requirements of the better regulation executive.

*Non-voted resource DEL*

A movement of £8,051,000 to voted provision for implementation of the Childcare Act 2006 and the requirements of the better regulation executive.

*Administration Cost Budget*

Following the machinery of government changes a transfer of £485,000 from the Ministry of Justice for the inspection of the Children and Families Court Advisory and Support Service.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Local Government

**The Minister for Local Government (John Healey):** My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs and I are today publishing the Government's response to the consultation paper: "Prosperous Places: Taking Forward the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration".

The consultation paper proposed action on a number of conclusions set out in the review of sub-national economic development and regeneration that I announced to the House on 17 July 2007.

The Government's response today confirms plans for more effective economic decision making and planning in England's regions and localities. We believe that these reforms will put in place a legal and policy framework which will assist regions, sub-regions and local areas in responding to current economic difficulties, preparing for the upturn and strengthening jobs and business growth in all areas in the longer-term.

The Government response is now available in the Libraries of both Houses and can also be accessed online at: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/govresponseprosperousplaces

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2008-09)

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Communities and Local Government's Departmental Expenditure Limits for 2008-09 will change as follows:

(1) The Department for Communities and Local Government's Main Programmes DEL will be increased by £248,654,000 from £11,250,662,000 to £11,499,316,000 and the administration budget will also be increased by £9,428,000 from £280,261,000 to £289,689,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

(£'000)

| | *Change* | | *NEW DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource | -19,727 | 68,566 | 4,026,629 | 348,870 | 4,375,499 |
| *of which:* | | | | | |
| *Administration budget*[1] | 9,428 | | 289,689 | 0 | 289,689 |
| *Near cash in RDE* | -4,011 | 52,850 | 3,992,148 | 229,938 | 4,222,086 |
| Capital[2] | -355,641 | 555,641 | 2,481,474 | 4,693,526 | 7,175,000 |
| Less Depreciation[3] | 665 | -850 | -37,277 | -13,906 | -51,183 |
| Total | -374,703 | 623,357 | 6,470,826 | 5,028,490 | 11,499,316 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

*The change in the resource element of the DEL* arises from:

(i) take up of End Year Flexibility of £8,644,000 for Central Administration costs to cover early exit, audit and restructuring costs;

(ii) a draw down of £30,627,000 from HM Treasury for the Restoration Fund for flood recovery. This is part of the European funding paid to the UK Exchequer

following the flooding in 2007 and has been made available to this Department to distribute to English local authorities;

(iii) a draw down of £9,800,000 from HM Treasury to non voted Homes and Communities Agency to ensure budget neutrality over the Comprehensive Spending Review years in the transition to the new Agency.

(iv) a net transfer of £996,000 from Request for Resources 1 (Main DEL) to Request for Resources 2 (Local Government DEL) comprising ;

*To Local Government DEL from Main DEL*

a) £1,000,000 to Best Value Inspection (Local Government DEL) from Fire and Rescue Services Improvement programme (Main DEL) to support Audit Commission Comprehensive Performance Assessment inspection work on Fire and Rescue Authorities;

b) £125,000 to Local Government on Line (Local Government DEL) from E-Planning (Main DEL) to cover the costs of the National Process Improvement Project as part of the Transformational Planning Project.

*From Local Government DEL to Main DEL*

c) £129,000 within Research from Local Government DEL to Main DEL as a contribution to a new strategic research budget.

(v) a net transfer of £764,000 from other government departments, comprising:

*To other Government Departments*

*Programme Expenditure*

(a) £500,000 to the Office for National Statistics from Safer and Stronger Communities and New Ventures Fund as a contribution to improving Migration Statistics work;

*Administration Costs (Central Department)*

(b) £45,000 to HM Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce for sustainable procurement;

*Administration Costs (Government Offices)*

(c) £36,000 to the Department for Transport for traffic signage in respect of the Road and Vehicle Safety Standards programme.

*From Other government Departments*

*Administration Costs (Central Department)*

(d) £620,000 from the Cabinet Office for the work of Parliamentary Counsel;

*Administration Costs (Government Offices)*

(e) £725,000 from the Cabinet Office for work by the Government Offices for the Office of the Third Sector.

(vi) a net increase in receipts of £31,392,000 offsetting increases in provision of £21,830,000 for work undertaken by Government Offices for sponsor Departments which has to be invoiced, £410,000 for Homelessness and Housing Reform, £11,010,000 for the Planning Inspectorate; £1,000,000 for Communities Empowerment, £1,097,000 for the Fire and Rescue Services Improvement programme (comprising £386,000 in respect of interest payments from the Fire Service College, £270,000 to cover receipts from agent selling Green Goddesses and £441,000 for medical appeals), £2,800,000 for the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre and £1,000,000 for non voted English Partnerships from claw back of Derelict Land Grant and a decrease in provision of £7,755,000 for Central Administration to reflect changes in income following the surrender of the lease for Ashdown House.

(vii) a net transfer of £58,766,000 from voted to non voted provision comprising:

*From voted to non-voted provision*

(a) £4,625,000 to non-voted West Northants Urban Development Corporation comprising £4,460,000 from Growth Areas New Growth Points to meet costs identified in their Corporate Plan and £165,000 from Planning Inspectorate to cover depreciation charges on work undertaken within the Growth Areas remit;

(b) £33,088,000 to non-voted Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) comprising £20,537,000 from various voted programmes to reflect the financial implications of the establishment of the HCA on 1 December, and the wind up of the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships; and £12,551,000 (non-cash) from Central Administration to non voted English Partnerships to cover the increased cost of capital charges resulting from a revaluation of assets associated with the establishment of the Homes and Communities Agency;

(c) £7,700,000 from voted provision for the Homes and Communities Agency comprising £3,700,000 to non voted Housing Corporation and £4,000,000 to non voted English Partnerships for reimbursement of transition costs;

(d) £3,000,000 from Implementing Planning Reform comprising £2,500,000 to non-voted English Partnerships to fund their hosted ATLAS programme and £500,000 to non-voted Housing Corporation to fund extra work undertaken with regard to set up of the Homes and Communities Agency;

(e) £4,353,000 from Fire and Rescue Services Improvement programme to non-voted FireBuy to cover their cash flow and the Integrated Clothing Project litigation costs;

(f) £800,000 within Growth Areas from voted to non-voted to cover the Department's contribution towards the running costs of the Milton Keynes Partnerships project;

(g) £15,000,000 within Thames Gateway from Direct Funding to non-voted programmes comprising

£6,215,000 for London Urban Development Corporation (UDC) and £6,285,000 for Thurrock Urban Development Corporation for delivering Thames Gateway projects; and

£1,300,000 for London UDC and £1,200,000 for South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA) for resource non cash costs incurred as a result of recent decisions on the allocation of budgets under the programme.

(h) £1,500,000 from Community Empowerment to non voted Community Development Foundation in line with funding decisions taken in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007;

(i) £9,000,000 from Implementing European Energy Performance of Building Directives (EPBD) programme to non voted Departmental Unallocated Provision (DUP). This transfer reduces voted EPBD DEL cover to reflect the movement of activity from EPBD to Housing Revenue Account Subsidy (HRAS) in Annually

Managed Expenditure It replenishes DUP from which a transfer to HRAS was made after the Main Estimate went to press.

*From non-voted to voted provision*

(j) £20,300,000 from non-voted New Burdens on Local Authorities programme comprising:

a. £12,650,000 to Area Based Grants including £7,650,000 for the costs estimated in an Impact Assessment associated with local planning authorities implementing new national planning policy on climate change; and £5,000,000 for compliance with the Habitats Directive following a court case in the European Court of Justice in 2005;

b. £1,350,000 to Regional Assemblies to fund estimated costs to regional planning bodies associated with implementing the Climate Change Planning Policy Statement;

c. £6,300,000 to voted provision for the Homes and Communities Agency to cover a pension deficit in respect of Housing Corporation staff.

*The change in the administration budget arises from*:

a take up of End of Year Flexibility of £8,644,000 (see above section (i)) to cover the work of the central Department ; a net transfer from other Government Departments of £1,264,000 (see above section (v)) and a transfer of £480,000 to programme expenditure for the Crown Premises Inspection Group.

*The change in the capital element of the DEL* arises from:

(viii) an increase of £200,000,000 to give effect to the package of housing measures announced on 2 September 2008. This brings forward from 2010-11 budgets £100,000,000 spend for social rented housing, £50,000,000 for Mortgage Rescue and £50,000,000 from Regional Development Agency budgets to support HomeBuy Direct.

(ix) an increase in receipts of £1,469,000 offsetting increases in provision of £821,000 for Fire and Rescue Services Improvement programme comprising £790,000 for the disposal of the Green Goddesses and £31,000 for Fire Service College capital loan repayments and £648,000 for Growth Areas due to project slippage.

(x) Within the capital element of the DEL there is a net transfer of £355,641,000 from voted to non-voted provision comprising ;

*From voted to non-voted provision*

(a) £16,759,000 from Growth Areas New Growth Points to non-voted West Northants Urban Development Corporation to cover their programme capital budget as agreed in their Corporate Plan;

(b) £73,700,000 within Thames Gateway from Direct funding to non-voted programmes for delivering Thames Gateway projects. This comprises £3,700,000 for South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA); £30,000,000 for Thurrock Urban Development Corporation and £40,000,000 for London Urban Development Corporation.

(c) £266,682,000 from various voted programmes to non voted Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to reflect the financial implications of the establishment of the HCA on 1 December, and the wind up of the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships;

*From non- voted to voted provision*

(d) £1,500,000 to Disabled Facilities Grants from non voted Housing Corporation to help local authorities meet their statutory responsibilities for providing grants for adaptation works.

(2) *The Department for Communities and Local Government ( Local Government ) DEL* will be increased by £81,165,000 from £24,792,523,000 to £24,873,688,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

(£'000)

| | *Change* | | *NEW DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* |
| Resource | 1,263 | -267 | 24,603,310 | 103,109 | 24,706,419 |
| *of which:* | | | | | |
| *Administration budget*[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *Near cash in RDE* | 1,263 | -1,153 | 24,603,310 | 102,223 | 24,705,533 |
| Capital[2] | 81,000 | 0 | 167,082 | 1,018 | 168,100 |
| Depreciation[3] | 0 | -831 | 0 | -831 | -831 |
| Total | 82,263 | -1,098 | 24,770,392 | 103,296 | 24,873,688 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

*The change in the resource element of the DEL* arises from:

(i) a net transfer of £996,000 from Request for Resources 1 (Main DEL) to Request for Resources 2 (Local Government DEL) comprising:

*From Main DEL to Local Government DEL*

d) £1,000,000 from Fire and Rescue Services Improvement programme (Main DEL) to Best Value Inspection (Local Government DEL) to support Audit Commission Comprehensive Performance Assessment inspection work on Fire and Rescue Authorities;

e) £125,000 from E-Planning (Main DEL) to Local Government on Line (Local Government DEL) to cover the costs of the National Process Improvement Project as part of the Transformational Planning Project

*To Main DEL from Local Government DEL*

f) £129,000 within Research to Main DEL from Local Government DEL as a contribution to a new strategic research budget.

(ii) a transfer of £267,000 from non-voted Valuation Tribunals to voted Bellwin programme for repayment of Valuation Tribunals DEL overspend in 2005-06;

(iii) an increase in non-voted receipts of £5,000 offsetting increases on expenditure for Valuation Tribunals for Information Technology relating to the sale of printers.

*The change in the capital element of the DEL* arises from:

(iv) a take up of End Year Flexibility of £82,000,000 for Local Government Public Services Agreement to cover planned spending over the amount provided in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

(v) A transfer of £1,000,000 from the Local Government on-line programme to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to facilitate more efficient electronic

transfer of data between DWP, Communities and Local Government, the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) and local authorities.

(vi) an increase in receipts of £32,000,000 offsetting an increase in expenditure on Local Government Public Services Agreement.

### UK Location Strategy

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Sadiq Khan):** I am delighted to announce today the publication of "Place Matters: The Location Strategy for the United Kingdom", which has been prepared for me by the UK Geographic Information Panel. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

The UK location strategy is a thoughtful, authoritative and important document and its recommendations are closely aligned to the delivery of Government policy in many areas. Ministerial colleagues share with me in recognising the reality identified by the strategy that 'everything happens somewhere'. The Government acknowledge that a better understanding of location is an important factor in moving forward the transformational Government agenda.

Implementation of the location strategy will maximise the value to the public, Government and UK industry of the use of geographic information. It will provide a consistent framework to assist national, regional and local initiatives and service delivery for the benefit of all our people. Key areas where the location strategy will be of benefit are in policy and operational areas of the public and private sector, where shared and integrated place-based information is essential for decision making. It will also be the basis for delivering the United Kingdom's obligations under the European INSPIRE directive.

The Government now wish to build on the progress represented by publication of the location strategy. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has agreed to lead implementation of the location strategy alongside INSPIRE; implementation planning has commenced. Agreement has been reached that the initial phases of implementation will be funded by contributions that will be drawn from key stakeholder Departments across Government. A key early deliverable is the establishment of a UK location council, to be chaired by DEFRA, and I am also pleased to announce that Government have approved the actions necessary to set up the location council. It will continue the excellent work undertaken by the UK Geographic Information Panel, which will now be dissolved.

I wish to place on record my thanks to the UK Geographic Information Panel, chaired by Vanessa Lawrence CB, for its excellent work in conceiving, developing and championing the UK location strategy to this point.

## DEFENCE

### Coalition Regional Commands (Iraq)

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton):** I should like to make a statement on the restructuring of coalition regional commands in Iraq and the implications for the ongoing UK mission there.

As the Iraqi security forces have grown and matured, coalition forces across Iraq have been able to move increasingly into over-watch and mentoring operations. These successes have allowed coalition forces and structures to be rationalised and combat forces from several nations have been able to return home. The UK has also been able to reduce the scale of its deployment.

Until recently, the area south of Baghdad was divided into three multi-national divisional areas—MND-Centre under US control, MND-Centre South under Polish control and MND-South East under UK control. In future, it is anticipated that only a single multi-national divisional headquarters will be required south of Baghdad, given that the Iraqi security forces now have the lead in providing the security for all nine provinces in this area. As part of this restructuring, MND-Centre merged with MND-Centre South as Polish forces completed their mission and MND-Centre has now also taken over over-watch from MND-South East of the three provinces Muthanna, Dhi Qar and Maysan. This new US divisional area is called MND-Centre. Security in these three provinces is provided by the 10th Division of the Iraqi army—previously trained by UK and Australian forces—and therefore this boundary move does not affect any UK forces which are focused in Basrah. This restructuring of divisional areas is therefore an adjustment to reflect better both the dispositions of coalition and Iraqi forces on the ground and the continuing improvements in security. This new divisional area will remain MND-Centre.

MND-South East, which now consists solely of Basrah province, remains focused on developing the rapidly improving 14th Division. The delivery of 14th Division was defined by the Prime Minister in his 22 July statement as one of the decisive conditions for transition and it is therefore right that this is where UK forces concentrate their efforts. As the Iraqi security forces increasingly take responsibility for providing security, the role and shape of the coalition will naturally evolve as efforts increasingly focus on economic development, reconstruction and capacity building.

### NATO Defence Ministerial Meetings

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton):** I attended an informal meeting of NATO Defence Ministers in Budapest, Hungary, on 9 and 10 October 2008. It provided an important opportunity for discussions on operations and on the transformation of NATO capabilities, following the informal Defence Ministers' meeting in London on 18 and 19 September 2008, which was attended by my predecessor as Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne).

The main focus of the meeting in London was the continuing transformation of the alliance. Ministers expressed their strong support for NATO transformation and for proposals made during the meeting to increase the targets for allies' deployable capabilities. Over dinner, Ministers reflected on the implications for NATO of the events in Georgia in the preceding months. There was consensus that collective defence and discretionary, out-of-area operations required the same expeditionary capabilities.

The focus of the meeting in Budapest was on current operations. This was the first ministerial meeting in which Albania and Croatia participated fully. Ministers underlined the importance of the NATO operation in Afghanistan, and in response to a request from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, directed ISAF to take action, with the Afghan authorities, against narcotics facilities and facilitators supporting the insurgency within priority regions. Ministers stated their continued support for NATO's KFOR mission and its work in providing a safe and secure environment in Kosovo. On Afghanistan, NATO Ministers also had a meeting with their counterparts from non-NATO nations making valuable contributions to the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, together with the Defence Minister of Afghanistan, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and a European Union senior representative.

At the request of the United Nations, Ministers agreed that NATO will contribute to deter piracy in the waters off the coast of Somalia, by providing a number of ships from the Alliance's Standing Naval Maritime Group to patrol the waters off the coast of Somalia and escort ships carrying food supplies for the world food programme.

At the meeting, Ministers re-affirmed the importance that they attach to developing deployable capabilities and agreed to increase targets for the deployability of allies' land forces. In addition, the first ministerial-level meeting of the NATO-Georgia Commission took place, where the Defence Minister for Georgia set out the Georgian Government's priorities in security and defence policy.

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2008-09)

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton):** Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Ministry of Defence departmental expenditure limits (DEL) will be increased by £3,434,312,000—voted and non-voted—from £34,075,771,000 to £37,510,083,000. The administration cost budget will be increased by £64,108,000 from £2,294,141,000 to £2,358,249,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

| | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-Voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| *Resource* | 3,560,019 | 90,158 | 37,127,302 | 146,196 | 37,273,498 |
| *Of which* | | | | | |
| *Administration Budget* | -45 | 64,153 | 2,294,096 | 64,153 | 2,358,249 |
| *Near-cash in RDEL* | 3,210,019 | 90,158 | 25,836,849 | 376,710 | 26,213,559 |
| Capital | 113,000 | - | 7,983,045 | 851 | 7,983,896 |
| Depreciation[1] | -328,865 | - | -7,737,825 | -9,486 | -7,747,311 |
| Total | 3,344,154 | 90,158 | 37,372,522 | 137,561 | 37,510,083 |

[1]The total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The changes to the resource and capital elements of the DEL arise from:

a net increase in the RfR2 of £2,302,000,000 direct resource DEL, £1,063,000,000 capital DEL, and indirect resource DEL of £350,000,000 to reflect the forecast costs of peacekeeping operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Balkans;

transfers in from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of £2,400,000 for Balkans funding (RfR2) and £2,800,000 for helicopter pilot training for counter-narcotics operations (RfR1);

a transfer in from the Cabinet Office of £209,000 in respect of future funding arrangements for the expansion of the Parliamentary Counsel Office (RfR1);

transfers out to the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) of £4,000,000 being the MOD's contribution to BERR's chemical and nuclear weapons disposal pool (RfR1); transfers out to the FCO of £16,000,000 and the Department for International Development of £1,970,000 being the MOD's contribution to the stabilisation aid fund (RfR2); a transfer out to the Cabinet Office of £40,000 being the MOD contribution to the Government secure zone fund (RfR1); and a resource administration budget transfer of £45,000 to the Centre of Expertise for Sustainable Procurement (RfR1);

a transfer within RfR1 of £1,000,000,000 capital DEL to direct resource within RfR1 relating to single use military equipment (SUME) flexibility with no overall impact on DEL;

to reflect the estimated indirect resource impact of the first stage of the international financial reporting standards on derivatives and impairments of £215,000,000, with no overall impact on DEL;

to revise sub-head provisions to reflect resource and capital revisions in allocations between top level budget holders to match required defence outputs, with no overall impact on DEL;

additional fiscal capital DEL provision of £50,000,000;

to increase non-operating appropriations-in-aid to reflect a QinetiQ receipt of £200,000,000 and a receipt for the Defence Aviation Repairs Agency of £60,000,000, with a corresponding and offsetting increase in capital expenditure (no overall impact on capital DEL);

to reallocate Royal Hospital Chelsea (RHC) costs of £9,232,000 from other current voted expenditure to non-voted expenditure;

to reallocate DEL grants-in-aid from DEL to non-budget grants-in-aid (non-voted) to reflect classification changes for the Council of Reserve Forces and Cadets Association of £55,522,000; £8,631,000 for the Marine Society and Sea Cadets; and a re-classification of cost of capital for public corporations from voted other current costs to grants of £21,396,000 with no impact on resource DEL;

to increase grants-in-aid funding for the royal naval museum of £75,000; Royal Hospital Chelsea of £1,000,000; the RAF museum of £400,000; and the national army museum of £395,000 by reducing resource DEL current costs and increasing non-budget grants-in-aid with no overall impact on resource;

to increase grants-in-aid funding for the armed forces memorial of £80,000 by reducing resource DEL current costs and increasing non-budget grants-in-aid (outside DEL); and

to reflect the reclassification of non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) museums from voted to non-voted DEL of £14,903,000.

The changes to resource DEL and capital DEL will lead to an increased net cash requirement of £3,389,122,000.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture and Fisheries Council

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** I and Huw Irranca-Davies represented the United Kingdom at November's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels. Richard Lochhead, Conor Murphy and Elin Jones also attended.

All of the 'A' points were adopted.

On fisheries the Council reached agreement by unanimity on a new regulation to establish elements for a medium-term multi-annual framework to allow for the recovery and management of cod stocks. Following an initial table round and bilateral discussions with the most interested member states, the presidency was able to reach agreement with the Commission and so table a final compromise. The final compromise represents a balance between those offering appropriate protection for the stocks, and the opportunity to encourage sustainable fishing. The main elements are:

Targets expressed in terms of fishing mortality, rather than the previous approach of increased spawning stock biomass, over which fleets have no control. In all sea areas the target is 0.4;

Mortality reductions in the first year of 25 per cent. They will then be set at 10 per cent. annually for the North sea and, depending on biomass levels, either 25 per cent., 15 per cent. or 10 per cent. elsewhere until the target mortality rate is reached;

For quota setting, constraints on the movements of TACs of 20 per cent. for the North sea and 15 per cent. elsewhere. The North sea constraint will not apply to quota increases in 2009;

The allocation kW day effort "pots" to member states and allows them to administer their own effort to reward sustainable fishing; adjusted on an annual basis. This extends these arrangements based on collaboration with the fishing industry, and pioneered in the UK (both Scotland and England) as possibilities to all member states. The effort levels will be based on the average deployed either during 2004-06 or 2005-07, as member states wish;

The geographical scope is extended further to the west of Scotland to include the vast majority of cod catches;

The Celtic sea remains outside the scope of the plan.

Member states then re-enforced their priorities for the final round of negotiations scheduled to finalise the EU-Norway fisheries agreement. The Commission noted the difficulty of resolving member states' conflicting views on which stocks should be used to pay for the balance of access to Arctic cod, Norway's strong desire for pfogress on discard reductions and the willingness of Norway to accept a modest TAC increase. The UK noted that decisions on cod TAC needed to be taken with Norway and should be part of a wider package, including in cod recovery. We also supported the wider principle on discards issue, but noted the need for more technical work.

The Council held an initial exchange of views on the Commission's very recent proposal to reform the regulation that governs member states' responsibilities to enforce fisheries regulations. This is a recognised area of weakness in the common fisheries policy framework, and in which nearly all fishing member states have a weak record. The Commission noted that improvement should not wait for the general CFP reform in 2012. The new proposal would encourage a culture of compliance by all in the sector; those who break the rules should not benefit; a penalty points system would lead to licence withdrawal of licence where necessary. It would introduce a new common approach to control and inspection to all stages of the chain; including import, transport and at market; using modern technologies and risk analyses. Control and enforcement are member states' exclusive competence and this would reaffirm their complementary roles with the Commission. It offered more flexibility for quota reductions or financial penalties where necessary.

Nearly all fishing member states spoke briefly to acknowledge the general need for improvement, the need to avoid over-bureaucratic requirements and to support compliance by industry. France was the most dubious about the ease of progress.

With regard to aquaculture, member states discussed the future of the aquaculture sector based on a Commission non-paper and a presidency questionnaire. The Commission expressed concerns that the EU industry's output seemed to be stagnating while that of third countries were continuing to expand and explained that they planned to publish a communication next spring on the matter.

There was general support for simplification of the legislation and of the administrative procedures but disagreement on whether the environmental legislation needed amending to reflect the needs of the aquaculture sector. While there was some support for the EFF giving more attention to the aquaculture sector there was also a clear rejection from UK, the Netherlands, Sweden and Germany for any extra funds to be made available. Most landlocked member states asked for a differentiation to be made in the EFF rules between inland and marine aquaculture. Many member states called for a community promotion campaign and there were also general calls for a community action plan to deal with the problem of cormorant predation. The UK and Slovenia mentioned the importance of reducing the input of wild fish protein. There was a clear rejection of the French suggestion that the Community had a role to play in questions concerning zoning.

Finally on fisheries, the Council noted reports from the Commission on recent measures to simplify CFP regulations, and on Poland's significant recent progress to comply with the regulation on quota reduction and stricter enforcement.

On agriculture items, the Council reached majority agreement on the CAP Health Check—the scheduled review and adjustment of the mechanisms of the EU's common agricultural policy, which was intended to improve, reinforce and build on the 2003 CAP reforms. However the UK did not support the final deal.

The UK set out its ambitions for the Health Check in April. We made it clear then that we wanted to cut further the trade distorting nature of the CAP, reduce regulatory burdens, give farmers greater control over their business decisions, and redirect more CAP spending away from direct farm payments towards delivery of targeted public benefits. Progress has been made in these areas, often in the face of opposition from other member states, but we are also disappointed that some new distortions have been introduced.

The Health Check took a number of positive steps in reforming the CAP, which the UK welcomes. These include:

Further decoupling of approximately £3 billion of direct farm payments—reducing the market distortions faced by UK farmers and making farmers across the EU more responsive to market signals in important sectors such as arable crops - although this decoupling could be significantly reduced if member states fully utilise payments under national envelopes under article 68.

The phase-out of the remaining processing aid schemes for dried fodder, starch, flax and hemp;

Further reductions in the intervention system, including the abolition of intervention for pigmeat, butter for manufacture and butter for direct consumption;

Agreement on the process for phasing out milk quotas by 2015, including a 1 per cent. per year increase in quotas over the next five years—although other aspects of the final deal

involve differential increases for some member states, while two scheduled reviews of the dairy market could create uncertainty for the dairy industry.

Reducing red tape for farmers through some simplification of direct farm payments and the requirements of cross-compliance.

An increased focus on environmental benefits across Europe, by increasing the rate of compulsory modulation to 10 per cent. by 2012, and therefore increasing the share of CAP funding that goes towards environment and rural development schemes. This will reduce the gap in modulation between the UK and the rest of the EU, leading to a more level playing field for UK farmers.

The ending of compulsory set-aside, leaving farmers free to take their own production decisions based on market circumstances.

Flexibility in the new cross-compliance requirements to allow member states to pursue options for capturing the environmental benefits of set-aside that is appropriate to local environments.

The UK is concerned about some aspects of the Health Check, in particular the market distortions created by the increased flexibility in the use of "national envelopes" which allow member states to support specific sectors using payments coupled to production, and to fund risk management measures.

We are also disappointed that the Health Check was unable to go further in achieving full decoupling across the EU (although that will be achieved in England), phasing out all the remaining market support mechanisms such as intervention, and focusing even more CAP spending on delivering public benefits, including environmental benefits.

On balance, the UK could not support the final Health Check deal because it allows unused funding from single payment scheme budgets to be used to fund measures within national envelopes, rather than being returned to member states, thus increasing the potential for distortions, and because it creates short-term competitive distortions and uncertainty in the dairy sector from a range of measures, in particular differential changes to milk quotas, changes to rules on the butterfat content in milk (which is used as a reference for deciding dairy quotas) and two reviews of the quota phase-out process.

Overall, the UK takes the view that the agreement reached on the Health Check is a step in the right direction of further reform, but is also a missed opportunity to speed up the process of change. We will continue to press for further steps for the benefit of farmers, consumers, taxpayers and the environment in the forthcoming EU Budget review, in which we want to see a more fundamental reassessment of the CAP.

The Council also agreed the presidency compromise on the school fruit scheme, but it failed to secure a majority either way on the approval of Round-Up Ready II GM soya for use as food and feed. The Commission will now act on its own initiative to approve this use.

Finally, the Netherlands and UK raised concerns about the European Parliament's proposed amendments to the pesticides package. These could have an adverse affect on the availability of pesticides and so agricultural activity, with no impact on public health. It was important that the Council held to its agreed position. A number of member states intervened in support, whilst the Commission said it supported the Council's common position, and not the Parliament's approach.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Winter Supplementary Estimates

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £149,848,000 from £1,930,709,000 to £2,080,557,000. The administration budget will be decreased by £34,000 from £430,569,000 to £430,535,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000s

| | Change | | | New DEL | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Voted | Non-voted | Total | Non-voted | Total |
| Resource | 166,848 | -17,000 | 1,976,547 | 1,000 | 1,979,547 |
| of which: | | | | | |
| Administration budget[1] | 5,240 | -5,262 | 430,535 | - | 430,535 |
| Near-cash in RDEL | 166,848 | -17,000 | 1,905,493 | 17,000 | 1,922,493 |
| Capital[2] | - | - | 206,060 | - | 206,060 |
| Less Depreciation[3] | - | - | -105,050 | - | -105,050 |
| Total | 166,848 | -17,000 | 2,077,557 | 1,000 | 2,080,557 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

*Request for Resources 1*

*Administration*

1. £11,000 transfer of Administration Budget from Cabinet Office in respect of legal work undertaken by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel.

2. £45,000 transfer of Administration Budget to the Office of Government Commerce for sustainable procurement.

*Programme*

1. Transfer of £5,000,000 other current expenditure from the Home Office for work on migration.

2. Transfer of £4,000,000 other current expenditure from DFID is respect of the Returns and Reintegration Fund.

3. Transfer of £2,800,000 other current expenditure to MOD for counter-narcotics work in Afghanistan.

4. Transfer of £400,000 other current to the Security and Intelligence Agencies for expansion and capability.

5. Transfer of £40,000 other current expenditure to the Cabinet Office for the Government Secure Zone.

6. Transfer from the British Council of £40,000 other current expenditure to the Cabinet Office for the Government Secure Zone.

*Request for Resources 2*

*Programme*

1. Claim on the reserve of £100,000,000 in respect of African Peacekeeping activities.

2. Claim on the reserve of £31,300,000 in respect of Global Peacekeeping activities.

3. Transfer of £16,000,000 from MOD in respect of the Stabilisation Aid Fund.

4. Transfer of £2,400,000 to MOD in respect of Global Peacekeeping activities.

5. Transfer of £730,000 to DFID in respect of management of Stabilisation Aid Fund projects in Afghanistan.

## HEALTH

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2008-09)

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw):** The Department of Health's element of the departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be reduced by £4,630,000 from £98,570,061,000 to £98,565,431,000. The administration cost limit remains unchanged at £219,163,000. Subject to the necessary supplementary estimate, the Food Standards Agency DEL will increase by £1,000 from £137,719,000 to £137,720,000 and the administration cost limit will increase by £1,000 from £50,439,000 to £50,440,000. The overall DEL, including the Food Standards Agency, will reduce by £4,629,000 from £98,707,780,000 to £98,703,151,000. The impact on resource and capital are set out in the following table:

| | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* £ million | *Non-voted* £ million | *Voted* £ million | *Non-voted* £ million | *Total* £ million |
| | *Department of Health* | | | | |
| Resource DEL | 0 | -4.180 | 90,666,765 | -589.046 | 93,855,319 |
| Of which: | | | | | |
| Administration budget[1] | 0 | | 209,163 | | 219,163 |
| Near-cash in Resource DEL | 0 | -4.180 | 90,070,072 | 645,078 | 90,675,950 |
| Capital DEL | 0 | -0.520 | 1,912,811 | 2,777,301 | 4,710,112 |
| Total Department of Health DEL | 0 | -4.630 | 96,377,576 | 2,188,255 | 98,565,431 |
| Depreciation[2] | 0 | 0 | -789,994 | -59,400 | -849,394 |
| Total Department of Health spending (after adjustment) | 0 | -4.630 | 95,991,582 | 2,128,855 | 97,720,437 |
| | *Food Standards Agency* | | | | |
| Resource | 0.799 | | 136,689 | | 136,689 |
| Of which: | | | | | |
| Administration budget[1] | 0.000 | | 50,440 | | 50,440 |
| Near-cash in Resource DEL | 0.799 | | 133,950 | 0.700 | 134,650 |
| Capital | 0.000 | | 1,031 | | 1,031 |
| Total Food Standards Agency DEL | 0.000 | | 137,320 | | 137,720 |

| | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* £ million | *Non-voted* £ million | *Voted* £ million | *Non-voted* £ million | *Total* £ million |
| | *Department of Health* | | | | |
| Depreciation[2] | | | -1.955 | | -1.955 |
| Total Food Standards Agency spending (after adjustment) | 0.001 | | 135.765 | | 135.765 |

[1]The total of 'administration budget' and 'Near cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than the total resource DEL, due to definitions overlapping.
[2]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since the capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The Department of Health DEL has reduced by £4,630,000 made up of:

A transfer to the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration and the Heath Service Commissioner for England to allow for the change in responsibility for handling NHS complaints.

The Department of Health's administration cost limit remains unchanged at £219,163,000.

The change to the Food Standards Agency element of the DEL is due to:

a transfer of £400,000 from programme into capital increasing it from £631,000 to £1,031,000 to fund infrastructure investment; and

a token increase in FSA's administration cost.

### Office for Strategic Co-ordination of Health Research (Progress Report)

**The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson):** The Office for Strategic Co-ordination of Health Research (OSCHR) was established 22 months ago following Sir David Cooksey's recommendations for better co-ordination of health research activities across the UK, and a stronger focus on translating basic science into improved care for NHS patients. Sir David's report "A Review of UK Health Research Funding" was published in December 2006. The first progress report from the chairman of OSCHR, Professor Sir John Bell, was published on 18 November 2008.

Sir John's report "Office for Strategic Co-ordination of Health: Chairman's First Progress Report" highlights the main elements of the combined approach that has been put in place by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Medical Research Council (MRC) since the Cooksey review. This period has seen an unprecedented commitment to health research in terms of funding, infrastructure, research programmes and the volume of health research commissioned.

The Government's single health research fund, which will soon top £1.7 billion a year, is allocated by the Department of Health to the National Institute for Health Research in England, and by the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills to the Medical Research Council, which supports research throughout the United Kingdom.

The progress report also announces that the Prime Minister has asked for a set of national ambitions for health research to be developed to build on the progress

so far and encourage the translation of major research breakthroughs into new NHS treatments and services. The national ambitions will be developed independently of Government by the research funding bodies, under the auspices of OSCHR, in consultation with the academic community.

A copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the House.

## HEALTH

### Correction (Written Answer)

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw):** I regret that the written answer I gave the hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1069-1071W, included a reference to a write off of £40 owed by Annette Craze that was incorrect. Further investigation has shown that Annette Craze did not owe any money and should not therefore have been referred to in the reply.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2008-09)

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith):** Plans of changes to the Departmental Expenditure Limit and Administrative Budget for 2008-09.

Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimate, the Home Office's Departmental Expenditure Limits for 2008-09 will be decreased by £67,008,000 from £9,755,389,000 to £9,688,381,000 and the administration budget will be reduced by £29,760,000 from £429,049,000 to £399,289,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table

| | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | *£000* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource DEL | (77,432) | 13,017 | 8,206,796 | 794,703 | 9,001,499 |
| *of which:* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *Administration budget*[1] | (14,228) | (15,532) | 370,811 | 28,478 | 399,289 |
| *Near cash in RDEL*[1] | (46,098) | (16,769) | 8,074,198 | 726,849 | 8,801,047 |
| Capital[2] | 502 | (502) | 576,187 | 277,813 | 854,000 |
| Less depreciation[3] | (2,593) | 0 | (110,834) | (56,284) | (167,118) |
| Total | (79,523) | 12,515 | 8,672,149 | 1,016,232 | 9,688,381 |

[1]The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

| | *Total* | *o/w near cash* | *£'000s o/w Admin* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *(a) The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:* | (64,415) | (62,867) | (29,760) |
| *Transfers from other government departments:* | 32,401 | 32,401 | 1,403 |
| Programme from the Welsh Assembly to the Departmental Unallocated Provision as a contribution towards police funding. | 21,547 | 21,547 | |
| Programme from the Department for Children, Schools and Families to the UK Border Agency (section F) to fund the additional costs of the 'Leaving care' programme. | 6,000 | 6,000 | |
| Programme from the Cabinet Office to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (section R) to fund counter narcotic work overseas. | 3,019 | 3,019 | |
| Administration from the Cabinet Office to Central Services (section H) for the Parliamentary Counsel office. | 1,326 | 1,326 | 1,326 |
| Programme from the Department for Children, Schools and Families to Crime Reduction (section B) to fund the respect database. | 432 | 432 | |
| Administration from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to the UK Border Agency (section F) for the transfer of staff. | 77 | 77 | 77 |
| *Transfers to other government departments:* | (51,816) | (50,268) | (26,430) |
| Administration from Central Services (section H) to the Ministry of Justice for central support costs related to the machinery of Government transfer effected in the Winter Supplementary Estimate 2007. | (26,135) | (24,587) | (26,135) |
| Programme from The Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (section D) to the Cabinet Office to fund counter terrorism work. | (10,000) | (10,000) | |
| Programme from crime reduction and drugs grants (section K) to the Welsh Assembly to fund the drug intervention programme. | (6,495) | (6,495) | |
| Programme from the UK Border Agency (section F) to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to help meet the costs of migration policies. | (5,000) | (5,000) | |
| Programme from Crime Reduction (section B) to fund the Ministry of Justice's additional costs of implementing the provisions of the Violent Crime Reduction Act. | (2,233) | (2,233) | |
| Programme from the UK Border Agency to the Ministry of Justice to facilitate the automatic deportation of foreign criminals. | (1,430) | (1,430) | |
| Administration from the UK Border Agency(section F) to the Office for National Statistics for improving migration data. | (250) | (250) | (250) |

| | *Total* | *o/w near cash* | £'000s *o/w Admin* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Programme from Crime Reduction (section B) to fund the Crown Prosecution Service's additional costs of implementing the provisions of the Violent Crime Reduction Act. | (148) | (148) | |
| Programme from the Office forSecurity and Counter Terrorism (section D) and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (section R) to the Cabinet Office for Information Security Monitoring and Co-ordination Centre (ISMCC). | (80) | (80) | |
| Admin from the departmental unallocated provision to HM Treasury for a contribution towards the centre of expertise in sustainable procurement. | (45) | (45) | (45) |
| *Planning round changes:* | (45,000) | (45,000) | 0 |
| Re-profiling UK Border Agency (section F) programme from 2009-10 to 2008-09. | 3,000 | 3,000 | |
| Re-profiling Office for Security and Counter Terrorism programme from 2008-09 to 2009-10 and 2010-11. | (48,000) | (48,000) | |
| *Classification changes:* | 0 | 0 | (4,733) |
| Switch Departmental Unallocated Provision from admin to programme to reflect the latest budget delegations. | | | (4,733) |
| (b) Capital<br>There is no change to the capital element of the DEL. | | | |

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

**The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be increased by £19,360,000 from £18,368,379,000 to £18,387,739,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £1,733,000 from £70,000,000 to £71,733,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

| *£'000* | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-Voted* | *Voted* | *Non-Voted* | *Total* |
| Resource DEL | -17,491 | 36,751 | -4,050,840 | 20,448,611 | 16,397,771 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| Administration Budget [1] | 1,733 | 0 | 71,733 | 0 | 71,733 |
| Near Cash in Resource DEL [1] | -19,091 | 36,751 | -5,254,711 | 20,292,877 | 15,038,166 |
| Capital DEL[2] | -234,011 | 234,111 | -161,169 | 2,151,137 | 1,989,968 |
| Less Depreciation [3] | -1,413 | 0 | -4,618 | -141,753 | -146,371 |
| Total DEL | -252,915 | 270,862 | -4,216,627 | 22,457,995 | 18,241,368 |

[1]The total of 'Administration Budget' and 'Near Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL in the table above, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

### *Resource DEL*

The increase in the resource element of the DEL of £19,260,000 arises from a decrease in the voted element of resource DEL of £17,491,000 and an increase of £36,751,000 in the non-voted element of resource DEL.

### *Voted Resource DEL*

The £17,491,000 decrease in the voted element of resource DEL arises from:

*RfR1*

The take up from the departmental unallocated provision (DUP) of £5,000,000 for part-time student support.

A machinery of Government transfer from the Cabinet Office of £1,600,000 for Government skills.

A transfer from the Cabinet Office for £42,000 for parliamentary counsel costs.

A transfer from the Ministry of Justice of £13,912,000 for offender learning.

A transfer from the Department for Children, Schools and Families of £3,655,000 for vocational qualifications reform.

An increase in voted receipts for the Higher Education Funding Council for England of £1,142,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, offset by an increase in the Higher Education Funding Council for England non-voted resource DEL.

An increase in voted receipts for the Student Loans Company of £1,700,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, offset by an increase in the Student Loans Company non-voted resource DEL.

An increase in voted receipts of £50,000 for receipts from the Department of Health for Health and Well-being at Work, offset by an increase in the Investors in People UK non-voted resource DEL.

A net decrease in voted receipts for the Learning and Skills Council of £39,289,000, offset by a net decrease in the Learning and Skills Council non-voted resource DEL.

An increase in central administration costs of £91,000 for an element of the comprehensive spending review 2007 settlement omitted from the main estimate.

A net movement from non-voted resource DEL of £7,921,000 consisting of increases to voted resource DEL for student support (£7,500,000), foundation degrees (£711,000), international programmes (£210,000) and a decrease to technology strategy (£500,000).

*RfR2*

A movement to non-voted resource DEL of £36,109,000 for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (£55,000,000) and the Research Councils (£31,109,000).

*Non-voted Resource DEL*

The £36,751,000 increase in non-voted resource DEL arises from:

A movement to RfR1 voted resource DEL of £5,000,000 for the take-up from the departmental unallocated provision (DUP) for part-time student support.

An increase in the Higher Education Funding Council for England non-voted resource DEL of £1,142,000 offset by an increase in voted receipts for the Higher Education Funding Council for England from the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

An increase in the Student Loans Company non-voted resource DEL of £1,700,000, offset by an increase in voted receipts for the Student Loans Company from the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

An increase in the Investors in People non-voted resource DEL of £50,000, offset by an increase in voted receipts from the Department of Health for Health and Well-being at Work.

A net decrease in the Learning and Skills Council non-voted resource DEL of £39,289,000, offset by a net decrease in voted receipts for the Learning and Skills Council.

A net movement to RfR1 voted resource DEL of £7,921,000 consisting of increases to voted resource DEL for student support (£7,500,000), foundation degrees (£711,000), international programmes (£210,000) and a decrease to voted resource DEL for technology strategy (£500,000).

A movement to non-voted resource DEL of £36,109,000 from RfR2 voted resource DEL for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (£55,000,000) and for the Research Councils (£31,109,000).

A transfer to the Cabinet Office of £40,000 for the Government security zone.

*Capital DEL*

The increase in the capital element of the DEL of £100,000 arises from a decrease in the voted element of capital DEL of £234,011,000 and an increase of £234,111,000 in the non-voted element of capital DEL.

*Voted Capital DEL*

The £234,011,000 decrease in the voted element of capital DEL arises from:

*RfR1*

An increase in departmental capital costs of £100,000 for an element of the comprehensive spending review 2007 settlement omitted from the main estimate.

*RfR2*

An increase in voted receipts for the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council of £4,900,000, offset by an increase in the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council non-voted capital DEL.

A movement to non-voted capital DEL of £229,211,000 from voted capital DEL for the Higher Education Funding Council for England (£190,000,000) and for the Research Councils (£39,211,000).

*Non-voted Capital DEL*

The £234,111,000 increase in the non-voted element of capital DEL arises from:

An increase in the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council non-voted capital DEL of £4,900,000, offset by an increase in voted receipts for the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

A movement from RfR2 voted capital DEL of £229,211,000 to non-voted capital DEL for the Science and Research Investment Fund (£190,000,000) and for the Research Councils (£39,211,000).

*Administration Budget*

*RfR1*

The £1,733,000 increase within the administration budget arises from:

A machinery of Government transfer from the Cabinet Office of £1,600,000 for Government skills.

A transfer from the Cabinet Office for £42,000 for parliamentary counsel costs.

An increase in central administration costs of £91,000 for an element of the comprehensive spending review 2007 settlement omitted from the main estimate.

## Student Finance (Uprating)

**The Minister of State, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. David Lammy):** On 29 October 2008 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, announced that the Government is making extra money available, totalling £100 million in steady state, to meet the higher than expected demand for student support in 2009-10 and beyond. This will enable the Government to maintain its intention that two-thirds of eligible students should receive either the full grant of £2,906 or a partial grant in 2009-10. We also expect that our commitment for one-third of eligible students to receive a full grant will be exceeded—under the new package, we anticipate that 40 per cent. of students may be eligible for a full grant.

This means that students with household incomes ranging from £18,360 to £50,020 will be eligible for higher levels of grant than in 2007-08, while those with incomes ranging from £18,360 to £57,708 will be eligible for a more generous package of grant and loan support than in 2007-08. Amendment Regulations to the Education (Student Support) (No 2) Regulations 2008 are being laid today.

My predecessor as Minister of State for Higher Education, the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell), placed a Memorandum in the Library on 13 May 2008 giving details of the increased loan, grant and fee rates for the 2009-10 academic year, in line with forecast price increases. The detailed tables in that memorandum gave income thresholds for the partial maintenance grant and for the non-means-tested element of the student loan, which have now been revised. I am therefore placing an updated memorandum in the Library which makes clear the levels of support available to new entrants in 2009-10, as well as giving tables showing support for continuing students.

# INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)

**The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander):** As a consequence of budgetary transfers associated with the Winter Supplementary Estimates, the Department for International Development's total departmental expenditure limit will be reduced by £1,377,000 from £5,737,828,000 to £5,736,451,000. Within

the total DEL change, the impact on Resource and Capital is set out in the following table:

| £'000 | Change | | New DEL | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Voted | Non Voted | Voted | Non Voted | Total |
| Resource DEL | - | -1,377 | 4,010,309 | 857,142 | 4,867,451 |
| Of which:[1] | | | | | |
| Administration Budget | - | -45 | 162,102 | 853 | 162,955 |
| Near-cash in RDEL | - | -1,377 | 3,921,309 | 857,142 | 4,778,451 |
| Capital DEL | - | - | 881,000 | 10,000 | 891,000 |
| Less Depreciation[2] | - | - | - 22,000 | - | - 22,000 |
| Total DEL | - | -1,377 | 4,869,309 | 867,142 | 5,736,451 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Depreciation, which forms part of the resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL, since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of these assets would lead to double counting.

The net change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

*Additions*

£1,970,000 transferred to DFID from the Ministry of Defence in relation to Stabilisation Aid Fund projects in Iraq.

£738,000 transferred to DFID from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in relation to Stabilisation Aid Fund funded projects in Afghanistan.

*Reductions*

£40,000 transferred from DFID to the Cabinet Office in relation to the funding of the Government Security Zone.

£4,000,000 transferred from DFID to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in relation to the Returns and Reintegration Fund.

£45,000 transferred from DFID to HM Treasury as a contribution to the Office for Government Commerce's project Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement.

There are no changes in the capital element of DEL.

## JUSTICE

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2008-09)

**The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Northern Ireland Court Service (NICS) and the National Archives (TNA) total departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased as follows:

Total DEL for MoJ (RfR1, RfR2 and RfR3) is increased by £319,016,000 from £9,424,829,000 to £9,743,845,000 and the administration budget has increased by £24,541,000 from £437,300,000 to £461,841,000.

Total AME for MoJ (RfR1, RfR2 and RfR3) is increased by £150,000,000.

Total DEL for NICS is increased by £1,201,000 from £131,368,000 to £132,569,000 and the administration budget has decreased by £3,000,000 from £2,493,000 to £(507,000). This is due to an increase in administration income.

Total DEL for the TNA has remained unchanged.

Within the Total DEL change for MoJ (RfR1, RfR2 and RfR3), the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

| | Change | | New DEL | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Voted £'000 | Non-voted £'000 | Voted £'000 | Non-voted £'000 | Total £'000 |
| Resource DEL | 225,017 | (101,955) | 5,619,897 | 3,630,921 | 9,250,818 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| Administration[1] | 24,541 | 0 | 461,841 | 0 | 461,841 |
| Near cash in Resource DEL | 62,887 | 47,588 | 4,632,946 | 3,954,264 | 8,587,210 |
| Capital[2] | 203,440 | 7,600 | 853,040 | 39,600 | 892,640 |
| Depreciation[3] | (17,801) | 2,715 | (396,328) | (3,285) | (399,613) |
| Total | 410,656 | (91,640) | 6,076,609 | 3,667,236 | 9,743,845 |

[1]The total of 'administration budget' and 'near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource and capital DEL for MoJ arises from:

*RfR1: To promote the development of a modern, fair, cost effective and efficient system of justice for all.*

Resource Change: Administration (total increase of £24,306,000)

*Take-up of End-Year Flexibility (EYF):*

An increase of £397,000 in resource DEL in respect of EYF draw-down for the Diana Princess of Wales inquest.

*Other Increases:*

An increase of £24,439,000 in resource DEL in relation to the transfer of corporate costs from the Home Office.

*Decreases:*

A decrease in the administration budget of £485,000, in relation to transfer to OFSTED for the responsibility for the inspection of CAFCASS.

A decrease in the administration budget of £45,000 transferred to the Office of Government Commerce in relation to contribution to the Centre of Expertise for Sustainable Procurement.

Resource Change: Programme (total increase of £122,238,000)

*Reserve Claims:*

An increase in near-cash resource funding of £100,000,000 in relation to the prison capacity programme.

An increase in non-cash resource funding of £11,260,000 in relation to the prison capacity programme.

*Other Increases:*

An increase in resource DEL of £3,500,000 in relation to the child support reform funding from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

An increase in resource DEL of £2,233,000 in relation to the downstream costs of the Violent Crime Reduction Act from the Home Office.

An increase in resource DEL of £1,696,000 in relation to the early retirement provisions from the Home Office.

An increase in resource DEL of £1,430,000 from the Home Office in relation to costs associated with the prison sentences of 12 months plus for foreign nationals and automatic deportation orders.

An increase in resource DEL of £1,000,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in relation to adoption costs.

An increase in resource DEL of £569,000 in relation to ESA funding from the DWP.

An increase in non-voted resource DEL of £550,000 in relation to by-election funding.

Resource Change: Programme (total decrease of £23,717,000)

*Decreases:*

A decrease of £13,912,000 net resource DEL transferred to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) in relation to the prisoner education programme.

A decrease of £4,300,000 resource DEL transferred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in relation to the COMPASS case management system.

A decrease of £1,793,000 to align MoJ's resource DEL to the agreed CSR07 settlement.

A decrease of £1,182,000 resource DEL transferred to the CPS in relation to the Local Criminal Justice Boards.

A decrease of £1,130,000 resource DEL transferred to the CPS in respect of the Corporate Manslaughter Act.

A decrease of £600,000 resource DEL transferred to the CPS in relation to the EXISS R1 programme.

A decrease of £417,000 resource DEL transferred to the CPS in relation to costs arising from the Road Safety Act 2006.

A decrease of £343,000 resource DEL transferred to the CPS in respect of the progress project.

A decrease of £40,000 resource DEL transferred to the Cabinet Office in relation to the Government security zone's SM and C centre.

Capital Change (total increase of £211,040,000)

*Reserve Claims:*

An increase of £211,000,000 in capital DEL in respect of the prison capacity programme.

*Other Increases:*

An increase of £40,000 in capital DEL to align with the agreed CSR settlement.

AME Changes (total increase of £150,000,000)

*Other Increases:*

An increase in AME of £150,000,000 in respect of impairment of assets within Her Majesty's Court Service.

*RfR2: Overseeing the effective operation of the devolution settlement in Scotland and representing the interests of Scotland in the UK Government*

Total DEL for Scotland has remained unchanged.

*RfR3: To support the Secretary of State in discharging his role of representing Wales in the UK Government, representing the UK Government in Wales and ensuring the smooth running of the devolution settlement in Wales.*

Resource Change: Administration (total increase of £235,000)

*Other Increases:*

An increase of £235,000 in Resource DEL in respect of the Parliamentary Counsel Office funding.

There is no change in the Capital DEL for RfR2 and RfR3.

The change in the resource and capital DEL for the Northern Ireland Court Service (NICS) arises from:

Within the total DEL change for Northern Ireland Court Service, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:[1]

| | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted £'000* | *Non-voted £'000* | *Voted £'000* | *Non-voted £'000* | *Total £'000* |
| Resource DEL: | 1 | - | 58,974 | 74,494 | 133,468 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| Administration[1] | (3,000) | - | (507) | - | (507) |
| Near cash in resource DEL | 1 | - | 44,023 | 71,706 | 115,729 |
| Capital[2] | 1,200 | - | 8,200 | - | 8,200 |
| Depreciation[3] | - | - | (8,658) | (441) | (9,099) |
| Total | 1,201 | - | 58,516 | 74,053 | 132,569 |

[1]The total of 'administration budget" and 'near-cash in resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.

[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in estimates and accounts but which are treated as capital DEL in budgets.

[3]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource Change: Admin (total decrease of £3,000,000)

*Other Decreases:*

An increase in admin income of £3,000,000 to reflect an increase in the fee rates and additional work income. This will offset against additional costs to dispose of civil fee business. The appropriations-in-aid are classified as administrative income and so the additional fee income will reduce the administration cost limit by £3,000,000.

Resource Change: Programme (total increase of £3,001,000)

*Other Increases:*

An increase in administration income has a subsequent impact of an increase of £3,000,000 in programme costs. This reflects an increase in the fee rates and additional work income.

A token increase of £1,000 to allow increase in appropriations-in-aid.

Capital Change (total increase of £1,200,000)

*Increases:*

An increase of £1,200,000 in relation to re-profiling of capital from 2009-10 into 2008-09.

The National Archives are not submitting a winter supplementary estimate.

## CABINET OFFICE

**The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Liam Byrne):** Subject to parliamentary approval of the winter supplementary estimate 2008-09, the Cabinet Office total Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will be decreased by £1,537,000 from £359,433,000 to £357,896,000.

The impact on resources and capital is set out in the following table:

| *£'000* | *Main Estimate DEL* | | | *Changes* | | | *Winter Supplementary Estimate New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-Voted* | *Total* | *Voted* | *Non-Voted* | *Total* | *Voted* | *Non Voted* | *Total* |
| Resource DEL | 306,334 | 39,470 | 345,804 | -1,653 | -1,994 | -3,647 | 304,681 | 37,476 | 342,157 |
| Of which: | | | | | | | | | |
| Administration Budget | 214,882 | - | 214,882 | -11,632 | - | -11,632 | 203,250 | - | 203,250 |
| Near cash in RDEL | 260,372 | 39,470 | 299,842 | +502 | -879 | -377 | 260,874 | 38,591 | 299,465 |
| Capital DEL[2] | 49,541 | 50 | 49,591 | -1,000 | +1,000 | - | 48,541 | 1,050 | 49,591 |

| £'000 | *Main Estimate DEL* | | | *Changes* | | | *Winter Supplementary Estimate New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-Voted* | *Total* | *Voted* | *Non-Voted* | *Total* | *Voted* | *Non Voted* | *Total* |
| Depreciation[1] | -35,962 | - | -35,962 | +2,110 | - | +2,110 | -33,852 | - | -33,852 |
| Total DEL | 319,913 | 39,520 | 359,433 | -543 | -994 | -1,537 | 319,370 | 38,526 | 357,896 |

[1]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.

The change in the resource element of DEL, a reduction of £3,647 million, comprises £2.357 million resulting from Machinery of Government transfers of function and £1.290 million resulting from transfers of budgetary cover, both to other Government Departments.

There is no overall change to the capital element of DEL.

*Changes in Resource DEL (RDEL)*

The changes which result in a net decrease in Resource DEL of £3,647,000 are as follows:

*Machinery of Government transfers*

The transfer of Government Skills to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) reduces non-cash resource DEL by £1,600,000.

The transfer of the e-Delivery Team to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) reduces resource DEL by £1,030,000 comprising a reduction in near cash of £475,000 and in non-cash of £555,000.

The transfer of the Statistics Review Team from HM Treasury increases resource DEL and near-cash requirement in the estimate by £273,000.

*Budget cover transfers outwards*

Budget cover transfers to 13 Government Departments to cover the costs of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel reduces resource DEL and net cash requirement in the estimate by £7,030,000.

A budget cover transfer from the Office of the Third Sector to Government Offices in the Department for Communities and Local Government reduces resource DEL and net cash requirement in the estimate by £725,000.

A budget cover transfer to HM Treasury to cover the costs in the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit reduces resource DEL and net cash requirement in the estimate by £250,000.

A budget cover transfer to HM Treasury to cover the expenditure of the Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement reduces resource DEL and net cash requirement in the estimate by £45,000.

*Budget cover transfers inwards*

Budget cover transfers from 16 Government Departments to cover the costs of i-Monitoring Security Co-ordination Centre (iMSCC) increases Resource DEL and Net cash requirement in the estimate by £760,000.

A budget cover transfer from the Security and Intelligence Agencies to cover the costs of the Information Assurance Technical Programme increases resource DEL and net cash requirement in the estimate by £6,000,000.

*Transfers between Voted and Non-Voted Resource and Capital Budget*

The Office of the Third Sector has arranged to transfer £1million of its capital budget in order to cover the increased requirement of the capital grant programmes of its executive non-Departmental public body, Capacity Builders (UK) Ltd. By way of compensation, the Office of the Third Sector has arranged for Capacity Builders (UK) Limited to transfer £1.994 million of its resource budget to cover programme expenditure to be incurred by the Office of the Third Sector. The impact on the overall DEL position and net resource and net cash requirement will be neutral.

## UK Statistics Authority: DEL (2008-09)

**The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Kevin Brennan):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the UK Statistics Authority's total departmental expenditure limit (DEL) will be increased by £805,000 from £210,060,000 to £210,865,000, and the programme budget will be increased by £805,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital is as set out in the following table:

£'000s

| | *Change* | | *New DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource | 805 | - | 210,865 | 6,000 | 216,865 |
| of which: | | | | | |
| Administration budget[1] | - | - | - | - | |
| Near cash in RDEL | 805 | - | 188,365 | 8,000 | 196,365 |
| Capital[2] | - | - | 21,000 | - | 21,000 |
| Less Depreciation[3] | - | - | -16,500 | - | -16,500 |
| Total | 805 | - | 215,365 | 6,000 | 221,365 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to definitions overlapping.
[2]Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3]Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of DEL arises from:

Public expenditure survey transfers from other Government Department in support of migration statistics.

Transfer to HMT in respect of the Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement.

The change in the programme budget arises from transfer from other Government Department of £850,000 and transfer of £45,000 to HMT in respect of the Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement.

## Charity Commission (Departmental Expenditure Limit)

**The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Kevin Brennan):** Plans to change the Charity Commission's departmental expenditure limit (DEL) and administration budget for 2008-09.

Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Charity Commission DEL will be increased by £1,000 from £30,971,000 to £30,972,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £1,000 from £30,971,000 to £30,972,000. Within the DEL change, the impact on resources is as set out in the following table:

£'000s

| | *Change* | *New DEL Voted* | *New DEL Non-voted* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Resource DEL | 1 | 30,972 | 0 | 30,972 |
| *of which* | | | | |
| *Administration budget*[1] | *1* | *30,972* | | *30,972* |
| *Near cash in DEL*[1] | *1* | *29,822* | *0* | *29,822* |
| Capital[2] | 0 | 700 | 0 | 700 |
| Depreciation[2] | 0 | -820 | 0 | -820 |
| Total | 1 | 30,852 | 0 | 30,852 |

[1]The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to definitions overlapping.

[2]Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

a "token" increase to account for the increased Appropriations in Aid arising from project funding by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the continuation of the International Outreach project, which aims to provide guidance and training in areas of the world where the regulatory infrastructure is not as developed as in the UK.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Topical Debates

**The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman):** I should like to make the following statement:

*Subjects proposed for Topical Debates (July 2008- September 2008)*

*To Note*: The list includes all requests and whether they have been submitted on the floor of the House, by letter, e-mail or another method. Weeks where there were no such requests are not included.

*Week commencing 30 June*

"EC Commission's involvement in political affairs in this country and the NHS" (Business Questions)

"Identity Fraud" (Business Questions)

*Week commencing 7 July*

"Review of Services for Children and Young People with Speech, Language and Communications Needs" (by e-mail and Business Questions)

*Week commencing 14 July*

"Proposed Eco-Towns" (Business Questions)

"Tackling Problems in Young People's Health" (Business Questions)

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Non-Jury Trials

**The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins):** During the passage of the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007 Ministers undertook to make a statement to Parliament each year on the volume of non-jury trial cases under the legislation. This is the first such statement.

During the period 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008 inclusive, the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland issued 29 certificates, relating to 28 cases, under section 1 of the Act. Some of those certificates relate to cases that were already in the system at the time the previous "Diplock" arrangements under the Terrorism Act 2000 were repealed, but where the indictment had not yet been presented.

During the same period 48 non-jury cases have been dealt with before the Crown Court. This figure is made up of 13 cases under the 2007 Act, and a further 35 cases being dealt with under the transitional arrangements put in place for the repeal of part VII of the 2000 Act. Under those transitional arrangements, cases where the indictment had been presented at the time of repeal continued to be tried under the 2000 Act arrangements.

A further 24 cases were in the system at 31 July 2008. This figure is made up of 15 cases where certificates have been issued under the 2007 Act, and nine transitional Diplock cases. These nine cases will be the last tried under the Terrorism Act 2000 arrangements.

### Departmental Expenditure Limit (2008-09)

**The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward):** Subject to parliamentary approval the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) will be taking a 2008-09 winter supplementary estimate. The effect this will have is to increase the NIO's DEL by £31,542,000 from £1,183,975,000 to £1,215,517,000.

| £'000 | *Change Voted* | *Change Non-voted* | *New DEL Voted* | *New DEL Non-voted* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Resource | 20,146 | 11,396 | 335,397 | 902,967 | 1,238,364 |
| *Administration budget* | *146* | - | *77,285* | - | *77,285* |
| *Near-cash* | *146* | - | *252,800* | *675,212* | *928,012* |
| Capital | - | - | 28,137 | 43,766 | 71,903 |
| Depreciation | - | - | -38,526 | -56,224 | -94,750 |
| Total | 20,146 | 11,396 | 325,008 | 890,509 | 1,215,517 |

The change in total DEL of £31,542,000 relates to:

£20,000,000 rephasing of Compensation Agency non-cash provisions budget from 2009-10 and 2010-11 into 2008-09;

£146,000 admin budget near cash transfer from the Cabinet Office for Parliamentary Counsel's Office costs; and

£11,396,000 addition of police pension funding.

## SCOTLAND

**The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Jim Murphy):** Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimates, the departmental expenditure limit (DEL) provision for the Scotland DEL will be increased by £329,774,000—of which £157,206,000 is depreciation—from £27,287,375,000 to £27,459,943,000.

The administration of the Scotland Office DEL will remain unchanged.

The Scotland DEL increase takes account of the following routine adjustments to the Scottish Executive provision:

the take-up of end-year flexibility (EYF) by the Scottish Executive amounting to £300,000,000;

the take-up of 2008 Budget consequentials by the Scottish Executive amounting to £13,095,000; and

a switch of £115,562,000 from near-cash to non-cash in respect of increased depreciation charges in the Scottish NHS.

The DEL increase also includes the following changes, amounting to a net increase of £16,679,000. These are:

a transfer for £15,910,000 from the Department for Transport; and

a transfer for £769,000 from the Department for Transport.

The increases will be added to the planned total of public expenditure to fund spending commitments in the current financial year.

## TRANSPORT

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon):** Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary supplementary estimate, the Department for Transport departmental expenditure limit (DEL) for 2008-09 will be decreased by £16,835,000 from £13,255,844,000 to £13,239,009,000 and the administration budget will be increased by £304,000 from £281,622,000 to £281,926,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are as set out in the following table:

£'000

| | *Change* | | *NEW DEL* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Voted* | *Non-voted* | *Total* |
| Resource | 24,941 | -24,314 | 5,930,504 | 425,633 | 6,356,137 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| *Administration budget* | 349 | -45 | 281,876 | 50 | 281,926 |
| *Near-cash in RDEL* | 13,341 | -12,714 | 5,448,439 | 621,698 | 6,070,137 |
| Capital | 88,338 | -98,300 | 6,133,418 | 1,149,811 | 7,283,229 |
| Depreciation[1] | 0 | -7,500 | -367,765 | -32,592 | -400,357 |
| Total | 113,279 | -130,114 | 11,696,157 | 1,542,852 | 13,239,009 |

[1]Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

Resource Change: Administration (total increase of £304,000)

*Voted: total increase of £349,000*

*RfR1*

i) Near-cash transfers of £349,000 from other Government Departments as follows: from the Cabinet Office for parliamentary counsel costs (£313,000); and from the Department for Communities and Local Government to cover staff costs in traffic management (£36,000).

ii) A £45,000 transfer from non-voted near-cash administration provision offset by a £45,000 transfer to the Office of Government Commerce for the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Procurement.

*Non-Voted: total decrease of £45,000*

Transfer of £45,000 to administration near-cash voted provision.

Resource Change: Programme (total increase of £323,000)

*Voted: total increase of £24,592,000*

*RfR1*

i) Treasury agreed near-cash reinstatement of the £7,080,000 abatement of Transport for London's borrowing costs in respect of Metronet that were not avoided in 2008-09 due to the delay in Metronet leaving administration.

ii) A net transfer of £24,269,000 from non-voted provision as follows:

£3,800,000 near-cash for Vehicle and Operator Services Agency heavy goods vehicle enforcement works;

£3,139,000 near-cash for Rail's subsidy to train operating companies (£2,559,000) and other rail services (£580,000);

£2,000,000 near-cash for freight grants;

£2,500,000 near-cash for continuous insurance enforcement;

£1,000,000 near-cash for bus passenger champion;

£200,000 near-cash for travel and transport direct Government franchise;

£40,000 near-cash for central administration for subsequent transfer to the Cabinet Office; and

£11,600,000 non-cash for cost of capital for Humber bridge; partially offset by £10,000 near-cash transferred to non-voted provision in respect of utilisation of the rail provision.

iii) A transfer of £6,757,000 to other Government Departments as follows:

£6,717,000 to the Scottish Executive for Scottish rail services; and

£40,000 to the Cabinet Office for the security, monitoring and co-ordination centre.

*Non-Voted: total net decrease of £24,269,000*

£24,269,000 transferred to voted provision, as detailed above.

Capital Change: (total decrease of £9,962,000)

*Voted: total increase of £88,338,000*

*RfR1*

i) A transfer of £98,300,000 from non-voted provision as follows:

£75,000,000 to increase grants to London Underground Limited;

£10,300,000 for the Highways Agency;

£6,000,000 for Cycling England;

£3,300,000 from British Transport Police Authority to network grant;

£2,000,000 for the blue badge scheme;

£1,500,000 for Vehicle and Operator Services Agency heavy goods vehicle enforcement works; and

£200,000 for the air accident investigation branch's additional hangar refurbishment work.

ii) Partially offset by transfer of £9,962,000 to the Scottish Executive for rail services.

*Non-Voted: total decrease of £98,390,000*

i) £98,300,000 provision transferred to voted provision.

### Correction (Written Answer)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick):** Subsequent to a written answer I gave on 15 September 2008, to a parliamentary question on the hourly rates of pay for cleaning contractors, I would like to inform the House that further investigation has

revealed additional information with regard to the Vehicle Certification Agency. The original answer stated that this was contracted out.

*The response to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) (Question 223278)—15 September 2008, Official Report, columns 2053-56—should read as follows:*

| | *Contractor* | *Hourly Rate* |
|---|---|---|
| Vehicle Certification Agency (HQ Bristol) | ISS/Medicare Ltd | £5.85<br>£5.52 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency (Midlands Centre) | Ideal (Cleaning Services) Ltd | £6.50 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency (Dangerous Goods Office) | No direct cleaning contract | No direct cleaning contract |

## Sustainable Transport System

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon):** I am announcing today the publication of Delivering a Sustainable Transport System. This document marks the latest milestone in our longer term planning process, setting out our goals and identifying the various challenges that future transport schemes will need to address.

The publication of Towards a Sustainable Transport System in October 2007 outlined our approach to long-term transport planning. Since then the department has been undertaking further work and accelerating the process for identifying the strategic national corridors where we face our most immediate transport challenges. The National Networks Strategy Group I announced on 29 October will be focusing on measures to ensure we make best use of investment in key strategic national corridors, and develop these for the longer term. The development of solutions for international networks will also be led by the department. Regions and local authorities will undertake similar work for the remaining networks.

Transport is a critical enabler for the economy and underpins many of the things we regard as important for our quality of life, but we are also committed to addressing climate change both now and for future generations.

A copy of the document has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I am also announcing today that I am bringing forward over £1 billion of investment in improving our nation's transport infrastructure, in particular to tackle bottlenecks and improve access to key international gateways.

This comprises an extra £700 million which will be invested in major transport projects next year to accelerate Government plans to cut congestion and significantly increase rail capacity. This includes:

- dualling of the A46 between Newark and Widmerpool (£100 million—as part of £174 million Government funding overall)
- an additional 200 train carriages to relieve congestion on the Great Western, Northern and Transpennine rail franchises (£300 million)
- introducing more managed motorways schemes to make best use of our existing motorway capacity (£300 million).

Alongside this, £300 million of new Government funding will be committed to speeding up the delivery of other key schemes that improve transport links to some of the UK's most important airports and ports, as well as offering more environmentally friendly options for transporting freight. This includes:

- improvements to the A180-A160 junction to enhance access to Immingham Port (£30 million)
- technology improvements to enhance traffic flow on the A12 between the M25 and Ipswich, improving access to Felixstowe and Harwich ports (£60 million)
- the South East Manchester relief road, to improve access to Manchester Airport (£ 165 million)
- enhancements to the North London Line to enable increased movements of rail freight on this important link (£54million).

Delivery of the A46, A12, A180-A160 and access to Manchester Airport schemes is subject to agreeing regional funding contributions and, with the exception of the A12, the completion of statutory planning processes.

# WALES

## Welsh Assembly Government (Departmental Expenditure Limit)

**The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Paul Murphy):** The Welsh Assembly Government departmental expenditure limit is reduced by £14,859,000 from £14,309,106,000 to £14,294,247,000. This decrease takes account of the following changes:

- An increase of £193,000 in respect of additional provision for flooding;
- A transfer of £21,547,000 to the Home Office for policing; and
- A transfer of £6,495,000 from the Home Office for the Drug Intervention Programme.

Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimates, provision for the Wales Office is increased by £235,000 as a result of a transfer from the Parliamentary Counsel Office of £235,000 near-cash.

Wales Office spending is contained within single Ministry of Justice departmental expenditure limit and administration costs limit.

# WORK AND PENSIONS

## Independent Living Strategy

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw):** On 3 March the Government published the five-year cross-Government Independent Living Strategy. The strategy sets out a series of Government commitments aimed at ensuring that disabled people have choice and control over the support they need to live their everyday lives.

The strategy was produced in partnership with disabled people and we need to ensure that disabled people are actively involved in making the strategy a reality and checking that good progress is being made. Consequently, the launch of the strategy saw the start of a consultation to seek views on how best to do this.

The consultation closed on 20 June and I am pleased to announce that I am today placing copies of the Government's response to this consultation in the Libraries of both Houses.

Following the consultation, and the further involvement of disabled people in the development of the Government's response, the Government have decided to implement the following steps to make sure disabled people are actively involved in the implementation and monitoring of the strategy:

Establish an Independent Living Scrutiny Group to review progress on implementing the strategy.

Develop a web-based and print resource to support disabled people's involvement in local strategic partnership boards.

Work with Equality 2025 to look at how best to use and develop existing networks to form a "network of networks", creating a two-way channel for communication between Government and disabled people.

Examine some of the options, for example, specific courses, suggested by respondents for building leadership capacity.

Work to help disabled people's organisations benefit more from new opportunities to build capacity in the third sector.

The Government's response will be available on the Office for Disability Issues website later today (http://www.odi.gov.uk/working/independentlivingstrategy.asp)

## Remploy

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw):** Remploy's achievement against its targets set by Government for 2007-08.

| *Target Description* | *Target* | *Achievement* |
|---|---|---|
| To live within the Company's financial means in the 2007-08 financial year. | Operating Result £145.8m | £145.8m |
| To meet the financial target for the overall cost of the factory network. | within £100m | £95.7m |
| To meet Job Entry targets through the Company's Employment Services business. | Total Job Entries 6,000; of which; Workstep 4,600 | 6,472 4,632 |

Remploy are due to publish their annual report and accounts in November 2008 giving further details of its performance throughout 2007-08. Copies of the annual report and accounts will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, when it is published.

On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, I have written to the Chairman of Remploy formally approving the provisionally agreed 2008-09 Performance and Resources Agreement between the Department and the Company. The Performance and Resources Agreement includes targets for the current year. The agreement has been negotiated on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. The targets for 2008-09 are:

| *Target Description* | *Target* |
|---|---|
| To live within the Company's financial means in the 2008-09 financial year. | To achieve an: Operational funding result of £121.5m; and To modernise the business within a Cost of £23m. |
| Factory businesses: | To achieve an: Operating result of £67.6m; and a Cost per disabled employee of £22,000. |
| Employment Services business - Job Entries | To achieve a: Total of 7,500 Job Entries, of which 5,500 will be Workstep Job Entries To be achieved within an Operating Result of £29.1m. |

The full agreement for 2008-09 will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## Improving Health and Work: Changing Lives

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell):** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health and I have today published the Government's response to Dame Carol Black's review of the health of Britain's working age population, "Working for a healthier tomorrow".

Dame Carol's review, published on 17 March 2008, built upon the growing evidence that work is generally good for health and that the mounting costs of ill-health are unacceptable, whether for individuals and families, for businesses or for society as a whole. Her analysis brought into focus, as never before, the scale of the economic cost of ill-health and its impact not just on work but on human life. She laid the foundation for a consensus around a new vision for health and work, setting out radical and far-reaching proposals to prevent illness; make early access to work-related health support available to all; and improve the health of the workless so that everyone with the potential to work has the support they need to do so.

Today we are responding in full to Dame Carol's recommendations. Our response "Improving health and work: changing lives" sets out our proposals. It includes a series of pilots and programmes with the potential to redefine the ambition of health and employment support in Britain; shifting the focus of welfare beyond helping people into work to helping them stay there; and further widening the focus of national healthcare from treatment to prevention and early intervention.

Our proposals include:

Changing the paper based 'sick note' to an electronic 'fit note';

Piloting a 'Fit for Work' service;

Creating a National Centre for Working-Age Health and Well-being;

Establishing a network of Health, Work and Well-being Co-ordinators;

Introducing an occupational health helpline;

Extending NHS Plus ;

A review of the health and well-being of the NHS.

Dame Carol set out a challenging vision for improving the health of the working age population. Ultimately responsibility rests with a range of people: Government; employers; trades unions; healthcare professionals; and

individuals themselves. Today, with the publication of our response we are setting out Government's real commitment to this agenda and how we will play our part.

Copies of "Improving Health and Work: Changing Lives" will be placed in the Library of the House.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 26 November 2008*

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Youth Crime Action Plan (Family Support)

**The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls):** I am pleased to announce, together with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Office, our intention to provide a £22 million funding package to 83 local authorities over 2009-10 and 2010-11 to implement family intervention projects and the "Think Family" reforms as set out in the youth crime action plan. This will improve services for families at risk to help prevent children and young people offending and experiencing other poor outcomes.

I am placing the list of 83 local authorities and their funding allocations in the Libraries of both Houses. We will write to the 83 local authorities by 19 December setting out the process for agreeing the use of these funds.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight):** I would like to update the House on the figures that have previously been quoted in regard to the delivery of education maintenance allowances (EMAs).

In my statement of 19 November about delivery of learner support schemes I indicated that as of the day before there were 12,016 applications for EMA in the process of being finalised. This information was drawn from statistics provided to the LSC by Liberata.

Since then, in response to emerging concerns about the methodology being used by Liberata to calculate the work in progress statistics, and to ensure that the figures were accurate in advance of the transfer of the contract to Capita, the LSC commissioned a full count of the outstanding applications. This analysis was made possible by the relatively small number of applications still remaining.

Liberata's physical count on 21 November recorded that there were around 26,000 applications in the process of being finalised. The LSC advises me that the new figure represents a more accurate reflection of the outstanding number of applications. However, once the contract has transferred, Capita will review these figures in more detail.

Clearly this is unsatisfactory. I have therefore today written to Mark Haysom, chief executive of the LSC, asking for a full explanation as to why the issue with the methodology for calculating the statistics had not been revealed sooner.

I have written to the Chairman of the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee to update him on this matter. I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House, along with a copy of my letter to Mark Haysom.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Supporting People

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Sadiq Khan):** The Government are today announcing that the Supporting People programme funding of £1.66 billion will be paid as a ring-fenced unringfenced grant to administering authorities for 2009-10 and will be included in area-based grants from 2010-11. This is the largest single grant to authorities to help millions of people live independently in their homes and this means that authorities will have the flexibility to spend this money as they see fit to help some of the most vulnerable people in their communities.

This year Government have been working with 15 administering authorities, providers, service users, and stakeholders to gather views and evidence about the potential impact of removing the ring fence for Supporting People. During this period, there have not been any serious concerns raised and the feedback from the 15 administering authorities has shown that the kind of innovation they are delivering has been positive and is enabling the delivery of jointly commissioned services which provide better outcomes for service users.

The transition to a non-ringfenced funding stream needs to be managed carefully and Government will continue to work with the sector and build on the success of the programme. Today Government are also announcing a number of measures to support the transition of delivery through an unringfenced grant which will include:

A commitment to deliver a new financial modelling tool which will provide evidence at a local level on the financial benefits of investment in housing support in terms of crisis prevention and the reduced need for more intensive and costly interventions, leading to better outcomes for the citizen and savings to the public purse. The Department will be seeking tenders for this work before Christmas.

The announcement of two national conferences jointly hosted by CLG, DH, the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services in January 2009 to help authorities and their commissioning partners learn from the Pathfinder project and consider how their own localities will respond to the changing agenda.

A commitment that CLG will continue to work with member groups in the sector to support providers in responding to the new commissioning and procurement environment. This will include 18 regional roundtable events in early 2009 to bring commissioners and providers together to discuss planning for the future.

Communities and Local Government are committed to working with the Office of the Third Sector on promoting better commissioning practice, with a special focus on small third sector groups.

The publication today of guidance on understanding regional need for housing related support. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

Ongoing support from the Communities and Local Government regional resource teams to support local performance improvement on the commissioning and delivery of services taking into account the work being undertaken by Government offices and the regional improvement and efficiency partnerships.

### FiReControl

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Sadiq Khan):** I wish to inform the House about the progress of the FiReControl project, which will establish a linked network of highly resilient fire control rooms across England to replace the current stand-alone facilities.

Major emergencies in recent years have shown us the very real challenges we face in today's world. The fire and rescue service is central to our ability to be able to respond to these and the Government are determined to support it by investing around £1 billion to ensure that it has the necessary capabilities and resilience. The FiReControl project is an important part of this investment.

FiReControl will give all fire and rescue services access to systems and technology that only a few currently benefit from. It will result in greater resilience and collaboration, better information and incident support for firefighters, and a better service to the public—both day to day and during major incidents.

The Government are investing £380 million in FiReControl and remain strongly committed to it. Good progress has been made on a number of fronts, including the completion of eight new highly resilient regional control centre buildings, the establishment of eight local authority controlled companies which bring together all relevant local partners, and the development of a strong network of regional project teams working to ensure the project is a success in their areas.

However, FiReControl is a complex and demanding project and as such is subject to rigorous ongoing review. Since I took up my post as fire Minister a thorough review of all aspects of the FiReControl project has been completed, and a number of difficulties with the ICT and other dimensions of the project were identified. These issues will result in some delay, and the FRS rightly expects us to address these in full.

As a result I can announce today that the project is now aiming to achieve cut-over to the first three regional control centres in the North East, East Midlands and South West in summer 2010—nine months later than previously expected, with the full system expected to be in place by spring 2012—five months later than originally planned. I want to emphasise however that, as with any project of this nature, we will only have certainty about the timing of these later stages of the project once earlier stages have been completed successfully.

Our updated plans are being delivered in close partnership with the fire and rescue service, fire and rescue authorities and our suppliers, EADS Defence and Security Systems Ltd. Shorter-term milestones will be monitored very carefully and progress shared with our partners. Longer-term milestones will be reviewed as the project progresses. Members of the fire and rescue service are being given more opportunities to contribute to the development of the project so that they can have full confidence in the new systems being developed, with staff embedded in national and local project teams and playing a full part in joint working groups.

I am also committed to ensuring transparency around the project wherever practical. So I am today publishing Part 2 of the 'FiReControl Business Case', and seeking views during a period of consultation. Part 1 of the business case was published on 8 July 2008 and was placed in the Library of the House. Part 2 will be placed in the Library of the House later today.

### Local Government

**The Minister for Local Government (John Healey):** Earlier this year, Parliament debated and approved Structural Change Orders to create from 1 April 2009 nine new unitary councils—Bedford borough council, Cheshire East council, Cheshire West and Chester council, Central Bedfordshire council, Cornwall council, County Durham council, Northumberland council, Shropshire council and Wiltshire council.

We are working closely with those responsible locally for implementing these new unitary councils to complete the legislative framework needed to support the transition to these new councils. We have already made and laid before Parliament Staffing Regulations (June 2008), Transfer of Functions Regulations (August 2008), and two sets of Transitional Regulations (August and November 2008).

Today, I have laid before the House the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Finance) Regulations 2008, which represent a further significant milestone towards the completion of the legislative framework.

These regulations, made under part 1 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, make transitional, supplementary and consequential provision in relation to finance, including in particular the following matters:

- The setting and approval of budgets, and the process of billing for council tax and non-domestic rates for each unitary council's first financial year.
- Enabling the equalisation of council tax in restructuring areas to occur over a period of more than one year but at the latest in the financial year after the fifth anniversary of the reorganisation to provide where necessary for a more equitable process of equalisation. If these transitional provisions are not used, council tax equalisation will occur in the first financial year.
- Providing that existing local rating lists and valuation lists for a reorganising area will be the lists of the new councils on and after the reorganisation date, and providing for the amalgamation of these lists into a single document at any time after the reorganisation date.
- Ensuring that after a reorganisation, the new unitary council has continuity and responsibility for finance functions relating to earlier financial years.

I am confident that these regulations will ensure that the new unitary councils will have the powers they need to set their budget and council tax for 2009-10, and to bill and collect both their council tax and non-domestic rates for that year. They will also ensure that the new councils are able to fulfil their responsibilities, including enforcement activity, relating to earlier financial years.

No one underestimates the scale of the task those leading the changes in these areas face over the coming months. A key measure of success for the new unitary councils will be that, from the outset, their council tax is affordable and that they adopt a budget which both reflects the savings proposed in their original unitary bid and delivers efficient and quality local services. The framework the regulations put in place will enable them to do this.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### State Aid Notification

**The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham):** In June 2007, my right hon. Friend the Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell), who was then the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, announced that the Government proposed to ask the BBC to make up to £14 million of licence fee funding available to assist Channel 4 with the capital costs of digital switchover. The announcement made clear that the assistance was subject to state aid approval from the European Commission and a formal notification seeking that approval was submitted to the Commission in October 2007.

In March this year, the Commission opened a formal investigation procedure in respect of the notification. The Government submitted a response to the Commission, as did two interested third parties.

In the period since the notification was made, the debate on the future of public service broadcasting in the UK has moved on significantly. Furthermore, the structural challenges that traditional commercially funded public service broadcasters face have been exacerbated by current cyclical conditions.

The Government have therefore brought forward their timeline for decisions and are now committed to take a more comprehensive view on the future institutional and financial framework of public service broadcasting, including the future of Channel 4, early in 2009 within the framework of the Digital Britain project. The Digital Britain project was launched in October to look at innovation, investment and quality in the digital and communications sectors. The Digital Britain report will be a comprehensive analysis of the United Kingdom's digital economy and will bring forward proposals to support the development of these sectors.

The emerging proposals are likely to be more wide-ranging than a proposition relating specifically to Channel 4's switchover costs. The Government will of course ensure that any new proposals for potential state aid arising from this wider consideration process are properly notified to the Commission in advance of implementation.

Against this background the Government have decided against proceeding with the notified proposals to provide assistance for Channel 4 in respect of its switchover costs. The Government have accordingly informed the Commission that they wish to withdraw the current state aid notification.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### EU Energy Council

**The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband):** I am pleased to outline the agenda items for the forthcoming Energy Council in Brussels on 8 December where I plan to represent the UK.

The first item on the agenda is the EU climate and energy package—a directive on the improvement and extension of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme; a directive covering greenhouse gas emissions from sectors not covered by the EU ETS; a directive on regulatory storage of carbon dioxide; and a directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources. We expect the presidency to provide information on progress.

The presidency will report on progress in implementation of the current energy labelling and eco-design for energy-using products directive and we expect a debate on the proposal for a directive establishing a framework for the setting of eco-design requirements for energy related products.

Ministers will discuss the Second Strategic Energy Review (SEER2) on the basis of questions from the presidency. Member States are likely to welcome its publication and to express initial views on priorities. There will be further discussion at February's energy council, with a view to adopting an action plan at the March 2009 spring Council.

Finally, the presidency and Commission will report on the EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Council and the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Bluetongue Serotype One

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** On 25 November 2008 evidence of Bluetongue Serotype One infection was found in five imported cattle on a premises near Blackpool in Lancashire.

The animals were imported from within the BTV1 and BTV 8 restricted zone in the south-west of France and were detected as a result of post-import testing carried out by DEFRA on 19 November. These tests are carried out on all bluetongue susceptible animals arriving in the UK from continental Europe.

This is the first case of BTV1 infection in animals imported into the UK and the five animals have been culled as they may pose a disease threat to other animals. A further animal from the same consignment tested positive for bluetongue virus, though the serotype for this animal could not be confirmed after initial tests. This animal was also culled to prevent any further risk of disease spread.

There is no evidence to suggest that this import was illegal. The documentation for this livestock movement appears to be in accordance with the requirements of the EU legislation. Early investigations indicate that these animals were vaccinated, and had waited the 60 days as required before movement. The tests indicate that despite this some of the livestock may present a disease risk to UK livestock. We have therefore culled all six animals on a precautionary basis.

The premises are now under restriction while an epidemiological investigation takes place. This will include further checks on the other animals present on the premises.

There is no evidence that BTV1 is circulating in the UK and no additional control zones have been declared.

This response is in accordance with DEFRA's bluetongue control strategy, and with the full support of our core group of industry stakeholders and the devolved Administrations.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Visit to Israel, the Occupied Territories, Syria and Lebanon

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** I visited Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Syria and Lebanon between 16 and 19 November. In Israel I met Prime Minister Olmert, Foreign Minister Livni, Defence Minister Barak and opposition leader Netanyahu. In Ramallah, I met President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad. In Syria I met President Assad and Foreign Minister Muallem. In Lebanon I met President Sleiman, Prime Minister Siniora and several senior political leaders. I also heard the perspectives of students, journalists, religious leaders and civil society activists. I spoke to them all about the current situation in the region, the prospects for progress towards a just and lasting settlement of the middle east conflict, and how the UK is seeking to reinforce the efforts made this year to contribute to a stronger more comprehensive peace effort in 2009.

The Annapolis process has been important in building understanding between the parties. It has helped restate the fundamentals of a negotiated settlement, and that there is no viable alternative to a two-state solution. The Israel-Syria talks are a promising beginning. We should build on these to create a fresh dynamic: a more comprehensive process that can deliver a broader peace across the region.

In all four places, I made the case for accepting compromises and taking decisions for peace. I made it clear that we recognised that all faced hard choices: Israel fulfilling its roadmap commitment on illegal settlements and improving conditions on the west bank, and particularly Gaza, consistent with Israeli security concerns; the Palestinians finding a way to reunite around negotiations and non-violence; Syria moving towards playing a constructive, rather than destructive role, helping restrain the militants and restating its commitment to the Arab peace initiative; and an independent and democratic Lebanese Government surmounting sectarianism to build a state that can deliver peace and security for its people.

I heard much about the challenges. In Israel, I discussed the threat from Iran and I saw first hand the rockets which have been fired at Sderot. I also heard much about the suffering in Gaza. It is vital that both sides seek to reinforce the ceasefire: Hamas by engaging with President Abbas and moving to non-violence and the Quartet principles; and Israel by easing restrictions on life in Gaza. The recent tightening of these restrictions on humanitarian access—as highlighted by the UN Secretary-General—is of serious concern and while I welcome the re-opening of the Kerem Shalom crossing on 24 November, I support the UN Secretary-General's call for Israel to permit the sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population of Gaza.

My visit to Syria was the first at a senior political level since the then Prime Minister's visit in 2001. Syria is an important regional player, with a significant role to play in securing stability in the region. I visited now because Syria has taken some positive steps recently including beginning talks with Israel and undertaking to establish diplomatic relations with Lebanon. It came after a series of meetings with the Syrian Foreign Minister in which they had indicated a desire for a better relationship with the UK. I was clear about areas of concern: Lebanon; the flow of foreign fighters into Iraq; counter-terrorism; MEPP; and human rights—but I welcomed the positive moves they had made and expressed a willingness to build on these. Syria has an important choice before it: to be a force for stability or instability. I urged Syria to take the former.

The thread running through the visit was the need for a comprehensive peace and for all to work for it. The UK will continue to work closely with those in the region and beyond to reinforce the peace process and work to create hope that progress is possible.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Police and Community Safety (Funding Settlement 2009-10)

**The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Vernon Coaker):** I have today placed in the Library our proposals for allocation of police grant for England and Wales for 2009-10, with indicative allocations for 2010-11. I intend to implement the proposals on police grant subject to consideration of any representations and to the approval of the House.

The Government announced last year provisional funding totals for the three-year period 2008-09 to 2010-11. Three-year settlements were widely welcomed by police authorities, enabling them to develop medium-term financial strategies and control their spending. The recent multi-year pay deal for the police will help improve further still their medium-term planning. We intend to implement the settlement for 2009-10 broadly unchanged from last year's announcement.

The funding settlement for next year is built on considerable investment in the police service since 1997-98. On a like-for-like basis, Government grant for the police will have increased by over 60 per cent. or over £3.7 billion between 1997-98 and 2010-11. This has helped to expand local policing considerably. Police officer numbers at the end of March this year remain historically high at 140,230 (14,405 more than 1997). The police work force overall, including officers, support staff and community support officers, has increased by 27.5 per cent. (50,246) since 1997 to 233,263 in March 2008, a record number. The work force increased by 3,166 (+1.4 per cent.) between March 2007 and March 2008.

The police reform programme continues. The Policing Green Paper "From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our communities together" was published on 17 July. It set out the Government's vision for the future of policing and put forward proposals to empower citizens, professionalise and free the police from unnecessary bureaucracy and to sharpen the strategic role of Government. Over 300 formal responses to consultation were received. Home Office Ministers and officials have met over a thousand people to share views and prompt debate. We are considering the many views that were put forward and will produce a public response to the consultation shortly setting out the Government's position and plans for implementation.

We have made good progress to date in implementing Sir Ronnie Flanagan's recommendations on reducing bureaucracy. We are also developing the new, single national target on confidence. This target is to increase public confidence that agencies are tackling local crime and antisocial behaviour priorities.

Neighbourhood policing is continuing to transform police forces' relationships with their communities through closer engagement with local people, joint problem solving and working together to make changes for the longer term to make communities safer. Every community in England and Wales now has a dedicated neighbourhood policing team aiming to identify and tackle the key policing priorities identified by local people. The next phase of neighbourhood policing will concentrate on integrating with other local authority services at a neighbourhood level. Neighbourhood crime and justice co-ordinators will help ensure that this is delivered faster and further. This next phase will also build on good practice to deliver a national pledge that guarantees the public key service standards.

The Home Office also contributes £76 million to the safer and stronger communities fund and the young persons substance misuse partnership grant delivered by local government. In addition, the capital element of the safer and stronger communities fund remains at £18 million. This funding will help local areas to deliver national and local improvement priorities such as those set out in local area agreements.

*The police grant settlement 2009-10*

Total provision for policing revenue grants in 2009-10 will be £9,482 million, an overall increase of 2.8 per cent. I propose to distribute the settlement as set out below.

*Table1: Police Revenue Funding Settlement 2009-10 compared with 2008-09*

| | 2008-09 £m | 2009-10 £m | 2010-11 £m[2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Home Office general grant | 4,543 | 4,666 | 4,792 |
| DCLG/WAG general grant | 3,488 | 3,583 | 3,680 |
| Welsh Top-up | 15 | 16 | 16 |
| *Total general Formula Grant*[1] | *8,062* | *8,281* | *8,504* |
| *% increase in general grant* | *2.7%* | *2.7%* | *2.7%* |
| *Total specific grants* | *1,165* | *1,201* | *1,237* |
| *Total Government funding for police authorities* | *9,227* | *9,482* | *9,741* |
| *% increase in total Government revenue funding* | *2.9%* | *2.8%* | *2.7%* |

[1]This figure includes the formula grant allocations in table 2 plus former specific grants (£208m) that are now added to general grant but are not distributed according to the formula.
[2]Indicative figures.

Police funding proposals within the local government finance system for England are being announced by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government today and those for Wales by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Provisional general policing grants (for example, Home Office police grant, revenue support grant and national non domestic rates) for English and Welsh police authorities in 2009-10 are set out at table 2. Indicative figures for 2010-11 are given in table 3.

*General grant*

Within the general grant provision of 2.7 per cent., the funding floor was set at 2.5 per cent. for each of the CSR years. Each police authority in England and Wales is guaranteed an increase of at least this level. The grant floor provides for stability but at the same time a degree of grant scaling has enabled us to target resources to areas with greater relative need. Our promised review of the funding formula before the next CSR is already under way with active collaboration from the police community.

The Government are clear that there is no excuse for excessive increases in precepts on council tax next year. We will not hesitate to use capping powers to deal with excessive council tax increases in 2009-10, including requiring authorities to re-bill if necessary. We took capping action against seven police authorities in 2008-09. This included designating Cheshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire police authorities for capping in advance for 2009-10. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government is announcing today that action is being taken forward to limit these authorities' precept increases to around 3 per cent. in 2009-10. The three authorities have 21 days in which to challenge our decision. Any challenges will be carefully considered before final decisions are taken.

*Welsh police authorities*

I have again ensured that Welsh police authorities are treated in line with English police authorities. I have provided additional support of £15.5 million in 2009-10 to ensure that Dyfed-Powys, Gwent and North Wales police authorities receive at least a minimum grant increase of 2.5 per cent. Floor funding is also partly funded by reducing police grant to South Wales police authority, so that it too will receive the level of grant it would if it were in England.

There are some small changes between funding for the four Welsh police authorities due to corrected data from the Welsh Assembly Government on the number of band D properties in Wales. This correction has no effect on the amount or distribution of funds for English police authorities.

*Specific grants for police authorities*

Police authorities will continue to receive specific grants for particular schemes. Details are set out in table 4.

*Counter-terrorism funding*—We will continue to invest in counter-terrorism policing. As announced last year, funding for police counter-terrorism will be increased from £524 million in 2008-09 to £552 million in 2009-10.

*Crime fighting fund*—Some £277 million will again be made available to forces in 2009-10.

*Neighbourhood policing*—We will maintain the ring-fence on this funding for at least the next two years to ensure that it is properly embedded. Funding will increase by an average of 2.7 per cent. in each year. A total of £332 million will be made available in 2009-10.

*Basic command unit fund*—This will run for one final year at the same level as in 2008-09, £40 million, while plans are developed for a new community safety fund to be created from the resources in the existing BCU fund from April 2010.

*Funding additional to the settlement*

*Protective services*—We made available an additional £35 million from 2008-09 to 2010-11 to support tackling serious organised crime and other protective services—£11 million a year was provided in the first two years, rising to £13 million in 2010-11, to ensure all forces meet the national standards for capability and capacity in protective services by 2011.

*Guns, gangs and knives*—In 2008-09, £6.8 million was made available to the 10 police forces in the tackling knives action programme to enable them and their partners to undertake additional activity to tackle knife crime and gang-related violence. For 2009-10, we will consider making additional specific grant available to areas where knife and gun crime is particularly prevalent or there are significant concerns over gang-related activity. This will enable the police and their partners to bear down on serious violence in our communities.

*The safer and stronger communities fund*—Resource element of £61 million and the young peoples substance misuse grant of £15 million will continue to be paid into the area-based grant for 2009-10. The safer and stronger communities fund capital element will remain at £18 million, and will be paid direct to local authorities by the Home Office.

*Capital*

Capital grant and supported capital expenditure totalling £220 million will be allocated in 2009-10 with each police authority receiving the same allocation as in 2008-09.

In addition to the general provision of capital grant in 2008-09, a £50 million capital fund was provided to increase the number of handheld computers in use by frontline officers. In view of the enthusiastic response from frontline officers, and the success of the programme, a further £25 million capital was announced in the Policing Green Paper as part of our campaign to reduce bureaucracy, making a total of £75 million for the whole programme over the CSR years.

*Efficiency*

Improving performance and increasing efficiency remains critical. We are acutely aware that all provisions for the police must be fully justified. At local level, as we set out in the Policing Green Paper, it is for police authorities to set ambitious local targets and to hold their service to account for delivery. Full weight will have to be given to the importance of driving increased efficiency and productivity across the public sector.

*Table 2: Police Grant Allocations by English and Welsh Police Authority 2008-09*

| Police Authority | 2008-09 Formula Allocation[1] £m | 2009-10 Allocation[1] £m | Change on 2008-09 Formula Allocation % |
|---|---|---|---|
| *English Shire Authorities* | | | |
| Avon and Somerset | 173.7 | 179.7 | 3.5% |
| Bedfordshire | 68.5 | 70.8 | 3.3% |
| Cambridgeshire | 78.7 | 81.0 | 3.0% |
| Cheshire | 117.6 | 120.5 | 2.5% |
| Cleveland | 95.3 | 97.7 | 2.5% |
| Cumbria | 65.6 | 67.2 | 2.5% |
| Derbyshire | 108.2 | 112.6 | 3.2% |
| Devon and Cornwall | 181.9 | 186.4 | 2.5% |
| Dorset | 63.7 | 65.3 | 2.5% |
| Durham | 89.2 | 91.4 | 2.5% |
| Essex | 173.0 | 177.9 | 2.8% |
| Gloucestershire | 57.8 | 59.3 | 2.5% |
| Hampshire | 202.2 | 207.5 | 2.6% |
| Hertfordshire | 117.7 | 121.1 | 3.0% |
| Humberside | 125.1 | 128.4 | 2.6% |
| Kent | 187.2 | 192.1 | 2.7% |
| Lancashire | 199.8 | 204.1 | 2.7% |
| Leicestershire | 114.7 | 118.0 | 2.9% |
| Lincolnshire | 62.3 | 64.3 | 3.1% |
| Norfolk | 85.4 | 87.6 | 2.5% |
| North Yorkshire | 74.8 | 76.7 | 2.5% |
| Northamptonshire | 73.5 | 75.5 | 2.6% |
| Nottinghamshire | 136.9 | 141.4 | 3.3% |
| Staffordshire | 117.4 | 120.6 | 2.7% |
| Suffolk | 69.2 | 71.0 | 2.5% |
| Surrey | 99.3 | 101.8 | 2.5% |
| Sussex | 165.7 | 169.8 | 2.5% |
| Thames Valley | 231.9 | 238.2 | 2.7% |
| Warwickshire | 52.8 | 54.1 | 2.6% |
| West Mercia | 118.9 | 121.8 | 2.5% |
| Wiltshire | 63.6 | 65.2 | 2.5% |
| *Shires Total* | 3571.3 | 3669.0 | 2.7% |
| *English Metropolitan Authorities* | | | |
| Greater Manchester | 445.6 | 458.9 | 3.0% |
| Merseyside | 260.6 | 267.4 | 2.6% |

*Table 2: Police Grant Allocations by English and Welsh Police Authority 2008-09*

| *Police Authority* | *2008-09 Formula Allocation*[1] *£m* | *2009-10 Allocation*[1] *£m* | *Change on 2008-09 Formula Allocation* *%* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Northumbria | 243.8 | 249.9 | 2.5% |
| South Yorkshire | 199.1 | 204.1 | 2.5% |
| West Midlands | 468.0 | 486.1 | 3.9% |
| West Yorkshire | 328.2 | 339.2 | 3.4% |
| *Mets Total* | 1945.4 | 2005.7 | 3.1% |
| *London Authorities* | | | |
| GLA-Police | 1930.0 | 1978.3 | 2.5% |
| City of London[2] | 20.2 | 21.0 | N/A |
| *English Total* | 7466.9 | 7674.0 | 2.8% |
| *Welsh Authorities* | | | |
| Dyfed-Powys[3] | 53.1 | 54.4 | 2.5% |
| Gwent[3] | 80.6 | 82.6 | 2.5% |
| North Wales[3] | 78.2 | 80.1 | 2.5% |
| South Wales[3] | 176.7 | 181.5 | 2.7% |
| *Welsh total* | 388.6 | 398.6 | 2.6% |
| *Total* | 7855.5 | 8072.6 | 2.8% |

Notes to tables 2 and 3
[1]Rounded to the nearest £100,000. Grant as calculated under the Local Government Finance Report (England) and Local Government Finance (No.2- Provisional Settlement Police Authorities) Report (Wales). Table includes the effects of floors and scaling.
[2]Figures for the City of London relate to Home Office Grant only as calculated in the Police Grant Report (England and Wales). Revenue Support Grant is allocated to the Common Council of the City of London as a whole in respect of all its functions. The City is grouped with education authorities for the purposes of grant floors.
[3]Welsh figures include Home Office floor funding.
[4]Figures for 2010-11 are indicative

*Table 3: Police Grant Allocations by English and Welsh Police Authority 2009-10 to 2010-11*

| *Police Authority* | *2009-10 Formula Allocation*[1] *£m* | *2010-11 Allocation*[1,4] *£m* | *Change on 2009-10 Formula Allocation* *%* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *English Shire Authorities* | | | |
| Avon and Somerset | 179.7 | 186.1 | 3.5% |
| Bedfordshire | 70.8 | 73.1 | 3.3% |
| Cambridgeshire | 81.0 | 83.5 | 3.0% |
| Cheshire | 120.5 | 123.5 | 2.5% |
| Cleveland | 97.7 | 100.1 | 2.5% |
| Cumbria | 67.2 | 68.9 | 2.5% |
| Derbyshire | 112.6 | 116.2 | 3.1% |
| Devon and Cornwall | 186.4 | 191.1 | 2.5% |
| Dorset | 65.3 | 66.9 | 2.5% |
| Durham | 91.4 | 93.7 | 2.5% |
| Essex | 177.9 | 183.1 | 2.9% |
| Gloucestershire | 59.3 | 60.8 | 2.5% |
| Hampshire | 207.5 | 213.0 | 2.7% |
| Hertfordshire | 121.2 | 124.9 | 3.0% |
| Humberside | 128.4 | 131.8 | 2.6% |
| Kent | 192.1 | 197.4 | 2.7% |
| Lancashire | 204.1 | 209.7 | 2.7% |
| Leicestershire | 118.0 | 121.4 | 2.9% |
| Lincolnshire | 64.3 | 66.3 | 3.2% |
| Norfolk | 87.6 | 89.8 | 2.5% |
| North Yorkshire | 76.7 | 78.6 | 2.5% |
| Northamptonshire | 75.5 | 77.5 | 2.7% |
| Nottinghamshire | 141.4 | 146.0 | 3.3% |
| Staffordshire | 120.6 | 123.8 | 2.7% |
| Suffolk | 71.0 | 72.7 | 2.5% |
| Surrey | 101.8 | 104.4 | 2.5% |
| Sussex | 169.8 | 174.1 | 2.5% |
| Thames Valley | 238.2 | 244.7 | 2.8% |
| Warwickshire | 54.1 | 55.6 | 2.7% |
| West Mercia | 121.8 | 124.9 | 2.5% |
| Wiltshire | 65.2 | 66.8 | 2.5% |
| *Shires Total* | 3669.0 | 3770.0 | 2.8% |
| *English Metropolitan Authorities* | | | |
| Greater Manchester | 458.9 | 472.5 | 3.0% |

*Table 3: Police Grant Allocations by English and Welsh Police Authority 2009-10 to 2010-11*

| *Police Authority* | *2009-10 Formula Allocation*[1] *£m* | *2010-11 Allocation*[1,4] *£m* | *Change on 2009-10 Formula Allocation* *%* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Merseyside | 267.4 | 274.3 | 2.6% |
| Northumbria | 249.9 | 256.2 | 2.5% |
| South Yorkshire | 204.1 | 209.2 | 2.5% |
| West Midlands | 486.1 | 504.3 | 3.8% |
| West Yorkshire | 339.2 | 350.5 | 3.3% |
| *Mets Total* | 2005.7 | 2067.1 | 3.1% |
| *London Authorities* | | | |
| GLA-Police | 1978.3 | 2027.7 | 2.5% |
| City of London[2] | 21.0 | 21.8 | N/A |
| *English Total* | 7674.0 | 7886.6 | 2.8% |
| *Welsh Authorities* | | | |
| Dyfed-Powys[3] | 54.4 | 55.8 | 2.5% |
| Gwent[3] | 82.6 | 84.7 | 2.5% |
| North Wales[3] | 80.1 | 82.1 | 2.5% |
| South Wales[3] | 181.5 | 186.4 | 2.7% |
| *Welsh total* | 398.6 | 409.0 | 2.6% |
| *Total* | 8072.6 | 8295.7 | 2.8% |

*Table 4: Specific Grant Allocations 2008-09 to 2010-11*

| | *2008-09* *£m* | *2009-10* *£m* | *2010-11* *£m*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Crime Fighting Fund | 277 | 277 | 277 |
| Neighbourhood Policing Fund and Community Support Officers | 324 | 332 | 341 |
| Police Counter -terrorism | 524 | 552 | 579 |
| Basic Command Unit Fund | 40 | 40 | - |
| Community Safety Fund | - | - | 40 |
| *Grand Total* | 1,165 | 1,201 | 1,237 |

[1]Indicative figures

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Zimbabwe

**The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander):** The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe is rapidly deteriorating, with an escalating cholera outbreak making an already serious situation much worse.

Today I am making available a £10 million package of support to provide life-saving assistance and respond to the escalation of the disease. This support will:

provide essential drugs and medical supplies;

support the provision of basic health services; and

help UNICEF treat cholera cases and prevent further outbreaks.

This package includes £3 million new funding, and brings our total support to the people of Zimbabwe to £47 million this financial year.

With a collapsing health system and a population badly weakened by a prolonged food crisis, HIV and AIDS, the threat from cholera is all the more severe. More than 8,000 cases have already been reported, with over 300 deaths—the vast majority of them preventable under normal conditions. Our contribution will be used to provide vital medical supplies and equipment to treat patients, provide clean water supplies, and ensure that front-line health workers are available to treat patients.

The food crisis in Zimbabwe also remains a serious challenge. The UN estimates that five million people will be in need of food aid as we move into the new year. To date, the UK has provided £9 million to the World Food Programme's appeal. With the results of nutritional surveys in the coming weeks we will, alongside the UN and other donors, monitor closely the need for further contributions.

As the group of elders noted during their recent visit to southern Africa, the need to arrest the humanitarian crisis is now urgent. There is no doubt that this has been caused by a systemic and prolonged failure of policy and leadership in Zimbabwe. Only a political solution and a major change of policy direction by the Government of Zimbabwe can provide what is needed to Zimbabwe's people. The international community will continue to support the immediate needs of the Zimbabwean people.

With international partners, we stand ready to play our part in Zimbabwe's economic and social recovery when the time comes.

## JUSTICE

### Probation Services (Best Value)

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson):** The Government are committed to ensuring taxpayers receive the best possible value for money from the record investment made in probation in recent years.

I announced on 9 April 2008 the consultation on a best value regime for probation services and I am pleased to announce to the House the outcome of that consultation. I propose, following the consultation, to introduce a new best value framework as signalled during the passage of the Offender Management Bill last year.

The National Offender Management Service Agency will require local probation boards and trusts to undertake a rolling programme of best value reviews. The proposed framework will apply to probation boards and trusts with the exception of areas reserved to probation trusts in the Offender Management Act 2007. It will enable boards and trusts to demonstrate, in a transparent way, the value for money of their services, and to drive improvements in the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of their service delivery. Having considered the options, I have decided that best value will proceed on the basis of benchmarking of selected areas of work, assessment

of probation performance against that benchmark, and greater competition for all sectors for those who do not meet the required standard through improvements to existing services.

I intend to announce shortly the first areas of work for which best value will apply. The Government are currently developing a regulatory framework to ensure that competition is conducted in a fair and transparent way, allowing all sectors to compete. Discussions are currently ongoing with interested parties and will be published in due course.

The measures ensure greater value for money and more effective services, to punish and reform offenders and to deliver better outcomes for victims and the public.

I am grateful for the response to the consultation from a wide range of interested parties.

Copies of the best value consultation response document will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office and on the internet at http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp0608.htm

### Publication of Election Candidates' Addresses

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills):** The Government are today publishing a consultation paper which seeks views on whether candidates' addresses should continue to be disclosed automatically during UK parliamentary elections.

The proposal has been made following the removal of MPs and peers from certain provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. It is argued that such public figures and their families face more than ordinary risks to their safety, security and peace of mind and that special considerations therefore apply to them.

Others argue that the electoral process should be open and transparent and that those putting themselves forward for public office in this way should be prepared to face those risks in the interests of accountability and the free expression of democracy.

This paper seeks to examine those arguments in more depth, as well as the practical issues which may arise from any proposed change and the implications for the electorate, for the electoral process, for candidates and for administrators.

The Government have open minds on this issue and the purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the proposal that the full home addresses of candidates should no longer appear on ballot papers, nomination papers and other electoral documents open to public inspection at UK parliamentary elections.

Copies of the consultation paper will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

## TRANSPORT

### Motorcycling Test

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick):** I have today published a consultation paper seeking views on a proposal to introduce a new practical motorcycling test and associated fees.

It is proposed to split the practical motorcycling test into two modules:

Module 1—a specified manoeuvres test.

Module 2—a road riding test.

It is also proposed to increase the practical motorcycling test fees from 5 October 2009.

Copies of the consultation paper and initial impact assessments have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The documents are also available from the DSA website—www.dsa.gov.uk—or by telephone on 0115 936 6092.

Those wishing to comment on the proposals have until 9 January 2009 to do so.

### King Review (Government Response)

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon):** I am today publishing the Government Response to the King Review of Low-Carbon Cars. Copies of the report will be available in the Libraries of both Houses and a further copy of the report will be available on the Department for Transport website at www.dft.gov.uk

The Government warmly welcome Professor King's wide-ranging and comprehensive report, published in two parts in October 2007 and March 2008, which set out the technology options likely to contribute to decarbonising road transport. Professor King made a number of policy recommendations ensuring that Government, industry and research communities all contribute to reducing carbon emissions from cars. The response document describes how Government are taking forward Professor King's recommendations as part of our wider mission to tackle the climate change impacts of the transport sector.

Professor King's report provides grounds for optimism that major reductions in road transport emissions can be achieved in ways that are technologically feasible, affordable and publicly acceptable.

Professor King's recommendations have a particular emphasis on technology and removing barriers to behavioural change. There are various recommendations aimed at driving technology change through EU legislation and promoting the research, development or deployment of relevant technologies to reduce the impacts of vehicles throughout their life-cycle. We are working on all these areas with a view to seeing a new car fleet average of 100g$CO_2$/km by 2020—a target that will require deployment of a range of technologies such as all-electric and plug-in hybrid cars that hold the promise of ultra-low carbon private transport.

We intend to seize the opportunities a low-carbon transport sector represents, thereby helping to reduce the UK's emissions from domestic sources and contributing to meeting our greenhouse gas targets as set out in the Climate Change Bill 2008.

### Civil Aviation Authority

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon):** Sir Joseph Pilling's report of his independent strategic review of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) was published by the then Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bolton, West (Ruth Kelly) on 17 July. My right hon. Friend accepted Sir Joseph's

recommendations in relation to the CAA's corporate governance and promised a further statement in the autumn. I should like to add my thanks to Sir Joseph for his important contribution to ensuring that the CAA will be as effective a regulator in the future as it has been in the past.

I accept that the CAA's current status as a public corporation should be retained. As Sir Joseph recommended, the department will work with the CAA to develop amendments to bring the legislative framework up to date, addressing specific issues identified in the report. As Sir Joseph noted, some of his recommendations were relevant to the separate review of airport economic regulation which my predecessor announced in April and to improving the passenger experience, such as his recommendation for a statutory Air Transport Users Council (AUC). He was also right to ask us to consider whether the UK's aviation regulator should have a general environmental duty and in what context. We are looking sympathetically at these connected issues, which would require legislation and prior consultation, and will make a further announcement in the early part of next year.

Otherwise, I am pleased to be able to announce that I have accepted in broad principle Sir Joseph's recommendations, as has the CAA board. Implementation of the report's many recommendations, and corresponding revisions to the sponsorship statement which defines our relationship, are in hand with two exceptions. We are deferring a decision on changing the route of appeal for fitness of character decisions until the general regulatory chamber and the supporting first tier tribunals are fully established. Also, in the financial downturn which has developed since Sir Joseph Pilling reported, I have agreed with the CAA that it is not a priority to recruit additional international staff or rent separate premises for the AUC although the CAA will endeavour to meet the principle of these recommendations in other ways.

I am also pleased to say that the process of governance change has begun. We are currently seeking a new part-time non-executive Chair for the CAA and this will be followed by the recruitment of a chief executive for the CAA, on the basis envisaged by Sir Joseph Pilling.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Protection from Disability Discrimination

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw):** In preparing the disability discrimination provisions for inclusion in the proposed Equality Bill, the Government have been considering the implications of both the House of Lords' judgment of 25 June 2008 on the case of the London borough of Lewisham v Malcolm, and the European Commission's proposals to introduce a new directive that will provide protection against discrimination based on disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and age, in areas beyond employment.

We have considered how the present Disability Discrimination Act 1995 now operates in respect of discrimination that arises for a reason related to the individual's disability. We have concluded that it would be appropriate for the disability provisions in the Equality Bill to take a different approach to this type of discrimination from that currently taken in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. We intend instead to use the concept of indirect discrimination. We consider that this will provide improved protection for disabled people in the Equality Bill by ensuring that the legislation re-establishes an appropriate balance between the rights of disabled people and the interest of duty holders. It will also improve consistency within the Bill between the disability provisions and the provisions for people who have the other protected characteristics, and ensure compliance with the anticipated requirements of European anti-discrimination legislation.

We are today beginning a consultation on the proposal to adopt the concept of indirect discrimination for disability within the Equality Bill. The consultation will end on 6 January 2009.

Preparing for the Bill is a substantial undertaking as it will bring together the wide range of equality legislation. In order to allow for analysis of the consultation responses, and to ensure that decisions based on the analysis can inform the provisions in the Bill, it is necessary to restrict the consultation period to six weeks. However, to ensure that we obtain an appropriately broad range of input to the consultation, the written consultation is being supplemented by a range of discussions with key stakeholders including representatives from the fields of disability, equality, business, advice, and the voluntary sector.

The consultation document is being sent to around 200 organisations and will be available on the website of the Office for Disability Issues at:
http://www.officefordisability.gov.uk/indirectdiscrimination
and on my Department's website at:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2008.

Copies will be placed in the House Library.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Pension Schemes

**The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Ms Rosie Winterton):** My noble Friend the Lord McKenzie of Luton has made the following statement:

"During the passage of the Pensions Bill through both Houses, there has been much debate on the Government's view on responsible investment and disinvestment by pension schemes. This is clearly an issue of some importance—particularly to trustees—and is one which is continually developing as the body of case law on responsible investment evolves.

It would be inappropriate for the Government to comment on the future development of the existing principles contained in case law, as the interpretation of case law is of course a matter for the courts and not for Ministers.

However, I would like to put on record the Government's view of the law. There is no reason in law why, in making investment decisions, trustees cannot consider social, ethical and environmental considerations, including sustainability, in addition to their usual criteria of financial returns, security and diversification.

It follows from this that it may be appropriate for trustees to engage in these considerations with companies in which they invest. This may include disinvesting from such companies if, acting in accordance with their fiduciary duties and the objects of their trust, they consider that this is right and in the best interests of their members."

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 17 November 2008*

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 21 February 2001, *Official Report*, columns 772-74W, on the Saville inquiry, whether the information provided on cash expenditure and main categories of expenditure included all the costs incurred by the Saville inquiry to the end of October 2006; and what expenditure in categories other than those listed in the answer has been incurred since October 2006. [236344]

**Paul Goggins:** The answer of 21 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 772-74, provided a breakdown of expenditure on the Bloody Sunday inquiry into six categories: legal fees; accommodation; transportation; provision of IT equipment; hiring of halls and other. The final category included all spend on the inquiry not falling into the first five categories. As such, there is no expenditure incurred by the inquiry since October 2006 that could not be included in categories listed in this answer.

### Departmental ICT

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each year since 1997. [234083]

**Paul Goggins:** No memory sticks or desktop computers have been lost or stolen in the period 2001-08.

Between 2001 and 2008 five laptops were stolen; one in 2001, one in 2006 and two in 2007. There were none lost in this period.

One hard drive was reported stolen in 2001.

Between 2001 and 2006 22 mobile phones were lost; seven in 2001, two in 2002, two in 2003, two in 2005, two in 2006, five in 2007 and two in 2008. In the same period six were reported stolen; one in 2001, three in 2004, one in 2005 and one in 2007.

Figures prior to 2001 are not available.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data was lost by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231435]

**Paul Goggins:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* During the last 12 months two mobile phones have been lost by Northern Ireland Office staff.

*(b)* The Northern Ireland Office, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, did not report any personal data related incidents for the period 2007-08.

This answer relates to the core Northern Ireland Office Department and its agencies only.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Questions for written answer were tabled to his Department in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235387]

**Mr. Woodward:** Parliamentary questions for my Department are recorded by calendar year rather than by parliamentary Session.

The total number of questions received per year are as follows:

| | *Number of questions* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 1,729 |
| 2003 | 2,908 |
| 2004 | 4,137 |
| 2005 | 4,476 |
| 2006 | 5,046 |
| 2007 | 1,896 |
| 2008 (up to 11 November) | 1,336 |

These figures cover questions tabled in both the House of Commons and House of Lords, including oral questions in the House of Commons. They exclude transferred or withdrawn questions.

In order to determine what proportion of questions were answered substantively and which were not answered on the grounds of disproportionate cost would require a manual trawl of all 21,528 questions. This information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, as an illustration of the proportion of questions not answered on the grounds of disproportionate cost my officials have carried out a manual trawl for questions tabled in 2008. Of the 1,336 questions received, 23 received no substantive answer on the grounds of disproportionate cost. This represents 0.02 per cent. of the total.

### Irish Language

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of his Department's employees are fluent in Irish. [234636]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office does not hold a record of the number of its employees who are fluent in Irish.

### Recruitment: Religion

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people who are *(a)* Catholic and *(b)* Protestant were recruited by his Department in the last two years; and what percentage of the number of recruits this represented. [234639]

**Paul Goggins:** In compliance with the Fair Employment and Treatment (NT) Order 1998 monitoring regulations, all NIO staff working in Northern Ireland, both home civil servants and Northern Ireland civil servants, are monitored for community background. The Department also has a small number of staff working in London whose community background is not monitored.

164 permanent staff were recruited to the NIO core Department in the last two years, of whom 73 (44.5 per cent.) were Protestant and 75 (45.7 per cent.) were Roman Catholic. Of the remaining 16, the community background of 15 (9.1 per cent.) could not be determined, while 1 (0.6 per cent.) was recruited in London.

### Saville inquiry

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the Saville inquiry to report. [234175]

**Mr. Woodward:** Lord Saville wrote to me on 4 November 2008 stating that the tribunal now expects to deliver the completed report to me in autumn of next year.

## OLYMPICS

### Brazilian Grand Prix

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people attended the Brazilian Grand Prix at the expense of her Office; what the purpose of the visit was in each case; and what estimate she has made of the costs incurred. [234828]

**Tessa Jowell:** This Government publish an annual list of all ministerial travel costing over £500. The list includes a breakdown of travel by all Ministers and the global figure for the cost of ministerial travel includes the cost of staff accompanying Ministers. Detail of travel taken in the current year will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the financial year. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many Questions for written answer were tabled to her in each Session since she was appointed; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235386]

**Tessa Jowell:** The number of written questions tabled (and transferred) to me as Minister for the Olympics is as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 82 |
| 2007-08 | 293 |

Information obtained from the DCMS Parliamentary Questions Database.

Information on how many written questions were answered substantively and not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However all of my answers are a matter of public record and can be found in the *Official Report*.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many external consultants work for his Department. [236643]

**Ann McKechin:** As at 30 October 2008, the Scotland Office had one external consultant.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data was lost by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231432]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, did not report any personal data related incidents for the period 2007-08; or lost any equipment in the same period.

### Hotels

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on hotel bills by his Department in 2007-08. [236642]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office does not separately record expenditure on overnight accommodation from other forms of subsistence such as meal allowances, day subsistence, incidental expenses and motor mileage.

### Performance Appraisal

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235213]

**Ann McKechin:** All the staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice who hold the individual personnel records, including annual performance. Poor performance is dealt with by line management within the procedures prescribed by the parent Departments. The Office does not maintain a central record of the performance of staff.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Performance Appraisal

**David Simpson:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many staff in the House service did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235221]

**Nick Harvey:** The total number of staff in the House of Commons service who did not receive an acceptable assessment grade in 2007-08 was 12 out of a total of 1,402 staff. These figures exclude staff within catering and retail services who do not receive an annual performance assessment.

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many questions for written answer were tabled to the hon. Member representing the Church Commissioners in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235399]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** The Commissioners' records of questions are not ordered by parliamentary Session but in calendar years and they do not differentiate between questions for written and oral answer.

However, I can tell the hon. Gentleman that the total numbers of questions I have answered for the Church Commissioners in each of the calendar years since 2002 are as follows:

| | *Questions (oral and written)* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 82 |
| 2003 | 54 |
| 2004 | 57 |
| 2005 | 56 |
| 2006 | 71 |
| 2007 | 69 |
| 2008 to date | 42 |

I believe that they have all been answered substantively and none, so far as I can recall, have not been answered on grounds of disproportionate cost.

### Older Workers

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many people recruited by the Church Commissioners in 2007-08 were aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years; and what percentage this represented of the number of new recruits in each case. [235250]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** In 2007 the Commissioners recruited one person aged 60 (representing 12.5 per cent. of their new recruits in that year). They have not recruited anyone over 55, so far in 2008.

## WALES

### Departmental Internet

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales for which Government websites his Department is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [235028]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** My Department is responsible for two websites:

www.walesoffice.gov.uk

and

www.swyddfa.cymru.gov.uk

In the period July 2008-September 2008 they received 4,439 hits.

The cost of running these sites for this period was £1,725.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236935]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Wales Office sponsors no non-departmental bodies.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many Questions for written answer were tabled to his Department in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235380]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The information is as follows:

| | *Questions* | *Percentage answered substantively* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 330 | 99.5 |
| 2003-04 | 202 | 100 |
| 2004-05 | 75 | 97 |
| 2005-06 | 487 | 97.5 |
| 2006-07 | 272 | 97 |
| 2007-08 (to date) | 378 | 98 |

### EC Action

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials support him when he represents the interests of Wales at EU institutions. [236209]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** I have not held any discussions at EU institutions since my re-appointment but plan to do so in the new year.

The number of officials accompanying my will be kept to a minimum.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Casinos: Licensing

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1092W, on casinos: licensing, whether a casino which is not one of the 16 small and large casinos may be opened in an area outside one of the 53 permitted areas; and if he will make a statement. [236255]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** It is not permitted for a casino which is not one of the 16 new small and large casinos permitted under the Gambling Act 2005 to be opened in an area other than one of the 53 permitted areas.

Casinos other than 2005 Act casinos are licensed under the Gaming Act 1968. The 1968 Act established the principle of permitted areas in order to prevent a proliferation in the number of small casinos.

This remains a key objective of the Government's casino policy: we believe that limiting casinos licensed under the 1968 Act to the 53 permitted areas will continue to act as a deterrent to proliferation, as it is unlikely that operators will want to open more casinos in these limited geographical areas than the market there can naturally sustain.

## Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Departmental website received in 2007-08. [232802]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Visitor figures for 2007-08 are provided as follows:

unique visitors;

total visitors;

total page views.

*DCMS website statistics 2007-08*

| | *April 2007* | *May 2007* | *June 2007* | *July 2007* | *August 2007* | *September 2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Agora* | | | | | | |
| Unique visitors | 1,334 | 1,531 | 2,002 | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] |
| Total visitors | 4,680 | 4,577 | 6,705 | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] |
| Total page views | 12,585 | 11,903 | 11,894 | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] |
| BBC Charter Review | | | | | | |
| Unique visitors | 7,750 | 7,178 | 7,841 | 6,048 | 6,771 | 5,855 |
| Total visitors | 43,271 | 41,938 | 60,466 | 86,421 | 50,104 | 41,413 |
| Total page views | 75,509 | 55,083 | 35,641 | 38,914 | 30,368 | 33,521 |
| *Communications Act* | | | | | | |
| Unique visitors | 2,561 | 2,849 | 3,108 | 2,828 | 2,401 | 1,793 |
| Total visitors | 7,495 | 7,582 | 10,129 | 9,196 | 7,496 | 5,579 |
| Total page views | 14,395 | 13,542 | 13,995 | 17,473 | 14,058 | 49,767 |
| *Culture* | | | | | | |
| Unique visitors | 140,659 | 107,151 | 110,019 | 100,454 | 87,734 | 80,915 |
| Total visitors | 438,709 | 428,143 | 536,314 | 587,309 | 441,640 | 331,014 |
| Total page views | 4,524,875 | 2,970,995 | 2,355,172 | 2,460,635 | 1,850,388 | 1,820,461 |
| *Digital TV* | | | | | | |
| Unique visitors | 24,255 | 25,698 | 22,507 | 21,191 | 16,906 | 22,432 |
| Total visitors | 44,847 | 46,461 | 47,199 | 39,797 | 29,596 | 34,529 |
| Total page views | 105,335 | 100,819 | 88,851 | 79,844 | 57,707 | 69,050 |
| *Government Art Collection* | | | | | | |
| Unique visitors | 20,259 | 22,163 | 21,275 | 22,751 | 20,041 | 20,978 |
| Total visitors | 64,439 | 64,452 | 79,241 | 97,443 | 66,262 | 56,091 |
| Total page views | 201,087 | 171,534 | 192,881 | 254,621 | 178,070 | 170,379 |
| *World Heritage* | | | | | | |
| Unique visitors | 731 | 886 | 1,859 | 1,389 | 964 | 1,148 |
| Total visitors | 1,378 | 1,652 | 3,177 | 2,322 | 1,910 | 2,636 |
| Total page views | 9,251 | 9,957 | 12,452 | 13,854 | 10,136 | 10,856 |
| *Where We Live* | | | | | | |
| Unique visitors | 415 | 585 | 479 | 396 | 426 | 577 |
| Total visitors | 732 | 1,100 | 1,091 | 894 | 864 | 780 |
| Total page views | 8,031 | 8,751 | 8,465 | 11,745 | 8,974 | 8,855 |

| | *October 2007* | *November 2007* | *December 2007* | *January 2008* | *February 2008* | *March 2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Agora* | | | | | | |
| Unique visitors | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total visitors | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| | October 2007 | November 2007 | December 2007 | January 2008 | February 2008 | March 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total page views | | | | | | |
| **BBC Charter Review** | | | | | | |
| Unique visitors | 6,621 | 6,850 | n/a | 6,504 | 5,677 | 8,711 |
| Total visitors | 33,622 | 30,836 | n/a | 29,311 | 21,686 | 34,798 |
| Total page views | 34,245 | 33,274 | n/a | 34,826 | 34,674 | 36,743 |
| *Communications Act* | | | | | | |
| Unique visitors | [1] | | | | | |
| Total visitors | [1] | | | | | |
| Total page views | [1] | | | | | |
| *Culture* | | | | | | |
| Unique visitors | 104,309 | 92,602 | 70,554 | 91,025 | 90,997 | 94,808 |
| Total visitors | 356,186 | 232,620 | 292,222 | 351,792 | 329,162 | 375,255 |
| Total page views | 1,934,782 | 2,002,367 | 2,107,114 | 229,003 | 1,842,804 | 2,296,292 |
| *Digital TV* | | | | | | |
| Unique visitors | 22,551 | 28,852 | 25,205 | 23,576 | 14,542 | 16,035 |
| Total visitors | 51,978 | 43,586 | 38,126 | 38,277 | 26,066 | 28,354 |
| Total page views | 58,007 | 76,705 | 67,377 | 65,922 | 41,441 | 45,308 |
| *Government Art Collection* | | | | | | |
| Unique visitors | 24,238 | 24,943 | 21,294 | n/a | 22,776 | 31,273 |
| Total visitors | 61,291 | 58,925 | 51,942 | n/a | 52,022 | 78,430 |
| Total page views | 159,108 | 177,680 | 151,660 | n/a | 152,178 | 199,961 |
| *World Heritage* | | | | | | |
| Unique visitors | 1,947 | 2,911 | 1,012 | 1,391 | 893 | 1,606 |
| Total visitors | 3,226 | 5,950 | 2,022 | 2,816 | 1,598 | 1,804 |
| Total page views | 11,583 | 13,753 | 10,792 | 11,602 | 9,916 | 10,216 |
| *Where We Live* | | | | | | |
| Unique visitors | [2] | | | | | |
| Total visitors | [2] | | | | | |
| Total page views | [2] | | | | | |

n/a = No figures available
[1] Website closed July 2007
[2] Website closed October 2007

## Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people recruited by his Department in 2007-08 were aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years; and what percentage this represented of the number of new recruits in each case. [235248]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** As the values involved are less than five in DCMS standard statistical practice prevents us from releasing this information to protect individuals' identities.

## Football: Debts

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward legislative proposals to *(a)* regulate the debt of professional football clubs and *(b)* regulate the ownership of professional football clubs, with particular reference to foreign ownership. [235992]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Neither the Secretary of State nor I are currently considering any legislation to regulate the debt or the ownership of professional football clubs.

However, I understand that these issues are of concern to the public and I have therefore sought the views of the football authorities on these and other issues. I look forward to receiving their response.

## Gambling: Regulation

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 805-06W, on gambling, what steps the Gambling Commission has taken in respect of those gambling operations which failed its mystery shopper tests; if he will place in the Library a list of those organisations which have failed the tests to date; how many such tests have been conducted to date; how many remote gambling operations have failed the tests; and in which jurisdictions those remote organisations are based. [234866]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** A pilot mystery shopping exercise was undertaken in the summer of 2007 on remote sites operated by prospective licensees and others. The Commission also conducts an ongoing programme of mystery shopping visits to remote gambling websites as part of its wider compliance effort for licensed remote gambling operators. The Commission expects to conduct further testing of operators licensed in other jurisdictions but to date all of those tested since 1 September 2007 under the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 are operators licensed in Great Britain.

In instances where deficiencies are identified, the Commission engages in further testing and may require operators to respond to our compliance findings in writing or conduct formal compliance visits depending on the circumstances. All of the licensed operators identified as having questions over their procedures in the pilot study undertaken last summer were found to have effective measures in place in our more recent testing.

The Commission has the power to impose a more serious regulatory sanction on any licensed operator in the remote gambling sector but has not yet had reason to do so.

The Commission has advised me that by disclosing the names of websites visited it would compromise transparent communication between the regulator and regulated community, prejudicing the Commission's ability to investigate instances of non-compliance. In the light of this advice, it would not be appropriate to provide this information.

### Gambling: Young People

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what research the Gambling Commission has undertaken on age verification procedures in jurisdictions which have remote online gambling companies allowed to advertise in the UK. [234869]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Gambling Commission has not undertaken specific research relating to age verification procedures in jurisdictions permitted to advertise remote gambling in the United Kingdom. However, the Commission has provided advice to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on certain technical aspects in relation to applications received by the Department to be allowed to advertise gambling in the UK.

### Lotteries

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to lay before the House the order increasing society lottery limits. [234823]

**Barbara Follett:** I shall very shortly be laying an order before the House to increase the proceeds limit for social lottery draws.

### Museums and Galleries

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many visits there were to national museums in each of the last 16 years. [234505]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested is set out in the following tables.

| Institution | 1990-91 | 1991-92 | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| British Museum | 5,050,000 | 5,960,000 | 6,910,000 | 6,030,000 | 6,240,000 | 6,130,000 | 6,500,000 | 6,300,000 | 6,406,067 |
| Cathays Museum | 40,000 | 42,000 | 42,000 | 42,000 | 46,000 | 52,000 | 55,000 | 60,000 | 91,447 |
| Horniman Museum | 120,000 | 145,000 | 164,000 | 204,000 | 188,000 | 165,000 | 222,000 | 226,000 | 230,599 |
| Imperial War Museum | 1,210,000 | 1,050,000 | 1,150,000 | 1,190,000 | 1,270,000 | 1,310,000 | 1,300,000 | 1,350,000 | 1,374,103 |
| Museum of London | 460,000 | 500,000 | 520,000 | 500,000 | 270,000 | 270,000 | 260,000 | 300,000 | 322,648 |
| Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester | 330,000 | 550,000 | 540,000 | 710,000 | 260,000 | 260,000 | 340,000 | 230,000 | 222,977 |
| National Gallery | 3,700,000 | 4,400,000 | 4,200,000 | 4,000,000 | 4,350,000 | 5,000,000 | 4,000,000 | 4,200,000 | 4,800,000 |
| National Maritime Museum | 350,000 | 600,000 | 560,000 | 530,000 | 620,000 | 500,000 | 600,000 | 670,000 | 492,630 |
| National Museums Liverpool | 1,250,000 | 1,250,000 | 1,150,000 | 1,300,000 | 1,300,000 | 1,250,000 | 700,000 | 630,000 | 700,000 |
| National Museum of Science and Industry | 2,600,000 | 2,630,000 | 2,580,000 | 2,670,000 | 2,500,000 | 2,700,000 | 2,540,000 | 2,400,000 | 2,319,462 |
| National Portrait Gallery | 600,000 | 600,000 | 560,000 | 700,000 | 930,000 | 920,000 | 680,000 | 950,000 | 966,850 |
| Natural History Museum | 1,600,000 | 1,600,000 | 1,730,000 | 1,700,000 | 1,640,000 | 1,400,000 | 1,600,000 | 1,820,000 | 1,780,870 |
| Royal Armouries[1] | | | | | | | 395,000 | 500,000 | 537,000 |

| Museum | 1990-91 | 1991-92 | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sir John Soane's Museum | [illegible] | [illegible] | 50,000 | 52,000 | 58,000 | 76,000 | 84,000 | 92,000 | 84,998 |
| Tate Gallery | [illegible] | [illegible] | 2,200,000 | 2,700,000 | 2,800,000 | 3,000,000 | 2,500,000 | 2,200,000 | 3,033,527 |
| Tyne and Wear Museums Service | — | — | — | — | — | 930,000 | 1,050,000 | 1,170,000 | 1,154,981 |
| Victoria and Albert Museum | [illegible] | [illegible] | 1,450,000 | 1,580,000 | 1,600,000 | 1,530,000 | 1,590,000 | 1,450,000 | 1,438,200 |
| Wallace Collection | [illegible] | [illegible] | 200,000 | 150,000 | 150,000 | 160,000 | 180,000 | 180,000 | 189,499 |
| Total | [illegible] | [illegible] | 23,646,000 | 23,648,000 | 24,310,000 | 24,571,000 | 24,915,000 | 24,171,000 | 23,969,901 |

| Museum | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| British Museum | [illegible] | [illegible] | 4,813,119 | 4,623,500 | 4,622,169 | 4,778,200 | 4,485,482 | 4,902,259 | 6,049,000 |
| Geffrye Museum | [illegible] | [illegible] | 82,639 | 81,194 | 86,529 | 79,959 | 79,408 | 76,907 | 80,352 |
| Horniman Museum | [illegible] | [illegible] | 130,581 | 250,387 | 272,220 | 303,428 | 282,856 | 429,866 | 477,894 |
| Imperial War Museum | [illegible] | [illegible] | 1,607,929 | 1,980,000 | 1,966,000 | 2,056,446 | 1,906,510 | 1,956,069 | 1,999,331 |
| Museum of London | [illegible] | [illegible] | 311,900 | 362,685 | 381,528 | 556,545 | 481,866 | 471,786 | 418,052 |
| Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester | [illegible] | [illegible] | 389,582 | 434,055 | 381,932 | 481,039 | 411,547 | 408,469 | 819,104 |
| National Gallery | [illegible] | [illegible] | 4,859,000 | 4,100,000 | 4,648,000 | 4,909,000 | 3,953,000 | 4,734,000 | 3,912,000 |
| National Maritime Museum | [illegible] | [illegible] | 1,004,604 | 1,208,000 | 1,365,264 | 1,532,690 | 1,512,191 | 1,633,592 | 1,782,405 |
| National Museums Liverpool | [illegible] | [illegible] | 823,000 | 1,240,000 | 1,525,520 | 1,537,590 | 1,608,133 | 1,694,065 | 2,167,626 |
| National Museum of Science and Industry | [illegible] | [illegible] | 3,061,148 | 4,260,468 | 4,270,255 | 3,815,850 | 3,576,679 | 4,373,176 | 4,492,767 |
| National Portrait Gallery | [illegible] | [illegible] | 1,479,179 | 1,319,527 | 1,425,655 | 1,468,875 | 1,528,628 | 1,664,894 | 1,645,680 |
| Natural History Museum | [illegible] | [illegible] | 2,196,416 | 2,893,337 | 3,143,935 | 3,328,478 | 3,281,810 | 3,892,878 | 3,779,420 |
| Royal Armouries[1] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 337,626 | 398,000 | 380,000 | 432,755 | 394,720 | 376,269 | 443,202 |
| Sir John Soane's Museum | [illegible] | [illegible] | 86,548 | 86,461 | 94,054 | 87,165 | 84,624 | 92,141 | 93,301 |
| Tate Gallery | [illegible] | [illegible] | 5,528,219 | 6,332,787 | 6,214,869 | 6,293,000 | 6,412,000 | 7,708,000 | 7,711,283 |
| Tyne and Wear Museums Service | [illegible] | [illegible] | 1,450,312 | 1,277,739 | 1,341,710 | 1,673,907 | 1,568,901 | 1,493,156 | 1,501,767 |
| Victoria and Albert Museum | [illegible] | [illegible] | 1,862,500 | 2,532,500 | 2,689,500 | 2,471,600 | 2,195,500 | 2,874,700 | 2,623,100 |
| Wallace Collection | [illegible] | [illegible] | 228,991 | 233,918 | 236,255 | 288,009 | 219,214 | 277,648 | 346,980 |
| Total | [illegible] | [illegible] | 30,253,293 | 33,614,558 | 35,045,395 | 36,094,536 | 33,983,069 | 39,059,875 | 40,343,264 |

[1] Royal Armouries in Leeds opened in March 1996.

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the daily average number of domestic visitors to each *(a)* museum and *(b)* art gallery in London in receipt of Government funding was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [234582]

**Barbara Follett:** The information is as follows:

*(a) Daily average number of domestic visits to DCMS funded museums in London, in 2007-08*

| Museum | Average daily domestic visits |
|---|---|
| British Museum | 6,396 |
| Geffrye Museum | 220 |
| Horniman Museum | 1,270 |
| Imperial War Museum | 3,652 |

*(a) Daily average number of domestic visits to DCMS funded museums in London, in 2007-08*

| *Museum* | *Average daily domestic visits* |
|---|---|
| National Maritime Museum | 2,281 |
| Science Museum London | 4,430 |
| Natural History Museum | 6,162 |
| Sir John Soane's Museum | 192 |
| Victoria and Albert Museum of Childhood, Bethnal Green | 849 |
| Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington | 3,804 |
| Wallace Collection | 513 |

*(b) Daily average number of domestic visits to DCMS funded art galleries in London, in 2007-08*

| *Gallery* | *Average daily domestic visits* |
|---|---|
| National Gallery | 5,863 |
| National Portrait Gallery | 2,955 |
| Tate | 12,307 |

These figures were derived from dividing the total number of domestic visits to each of the museums and galleries in 2007-08 by 365.

The figures for the Imperial War Museum, Natural History Museum and the Tate include domestic visits to branches outside of London. We do not collect information on domestic visits by branch.

### Official Visits: Sports

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department attended the Brazilian Grand Prix in an official capacity; what the purpose of the visit was in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department. [234770]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** This Government publish an annual list of all ministerial travel costing over £500. The list includes a breakdown of travel by all Ministers and the global figure for the cost of ministerial travel includes the cost of staff accompanying Ministers. Detail of travel taken in the current year will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the financial year. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

### Sports: Finance

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding sports national governing bodies *(a)* have received in the current funding cycle and *(b)* will receive in the next funding cycle. [235167]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* The table details funding provided from the Exchequer and Lottery to sport national governing bodies, allocated by Sport England and UK Sport, in the current funding cycle 2005-09.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| UK Sport | 266.9 |
| Sport England | 317.5 |
| Total | 584.4 |

It should be noted that the figures for Sport England do not include funding provided from the Community Investment Fund as to ascertain this would result in disproportionate cost.

*(b)* UK Sport and Sport England have not yet made final decisions on allocations to Sport National Governing Bodies for the next funding cycle (2009-13). This will be considered by their respective boards in December 2008.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which her Office is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236909]

**Maria Eagle:** There have been no such complaints since the Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007.

## JUSTICE

### Community Legal Advice: Marketing

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 621W, on community legal advice: marketing, on what basis the 104 hon. Members who did not request a leaflet stand were selected to receive one; for what reason stands were sent to no more than 151 hon. Members; and if he will make a statement. [234831]

**Mr. Malik:** The agreed practice for distribution of Community Legal Advice (CLA) marketing materials and stands is to advise organisations of their availability and provide them with details for ordering any materials. An introductory letter is sent and only those requesting stands are provided with the leaflets and stands.

However, the Birmingham regional office recently sent out around 100 stands in error to MPs in the west and east midlands who had not requested them, together with a letter of introduction but without the standard offer letter preceding any delivery of stands. All other Legal Services Commission regional offices and the central CLA team have only sent out stands as requested.

In order to ensure consistency the Legal Services Commission CLA team will remind relevant staff of the agreed practice for distribution of marketing materials. CLA will also issue guidance that the central CLA marketing team should be alerted to any major promotional activities to ensure all major activities meet strategic and operational guidelines.

### Counterfeit Manufacturing: Internet

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been prosecuted in the UK for the sale of illegal or counterfeit goods over the internet in each of the last five years. [235168]

**Maria Eagle:** Criminal offences involving sales of goods over the internet cannot be separately identified from other offences concerning sales of goods, as the particulars surrounding a case are not held centrally.

### Courts: Video Conferencing

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made for the potential use of virtual courts; and what representations he has received on this matter. [234874]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Police and Justice Act 2006 made provision for the use of virtual courts. A 12-week prototype of the concept started in July 2007, and was hosted by Camberwell Green magistrates court. An evaluation report of the prototype showed that it had been a success, enabling first hearings to take place in an average time of three-and-a-half hours.

A larger scale one year pilot has now been agreed to take place in parts of London and North Kent. This pilot will commence early in 2009. The pilot will fully test the costs and benefits of virtual courts and allow representations at a local and national level to inform decisions on wider roll out.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 167-68W, on departmental buildings, what the cost of each refurbishment was. [233415]

**Mr. Straw:** The information requested is shown as follows.

Costs stated are for refurbishment works to the fabric and structure of the building and do not include items such as furniture. All costs exclude VAT except where indicated. The provision of a more detailed breakdown of the total figures for each property would incur a disproportionate cost.

*Ministry of Justice HQ*

| | Location | Net internal area (m2) | Refurbishments costs (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 102 Petty France, London SW1H 9AJ | 34868 | 131,000,000 |
| 2007 | Part 2nd Floor, Carlton Tower, 34 St. Pauls Street Leeds | 1170 | 72,000 |

*NOMS (non-custodial)*

| | Location | Net internal area (m2) | Refurbishments costs (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 | Argyle House, Argyle Way, Stevenage SG1 2AP | 1,165.34 | 2,004,061 |
| 2006 | 4 Mitre Buildings, West Square, Harlow CM20 1DR | 850 | 766,355 |

*NOMS (custodial)*

| | Location | Net internal area (m2) | Refurbishments costs (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| None | None | 0 | n/a |

*HMCS Estates*

| | Location | Net internal area (m2) | Refurbishments costs (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 | Regional Office, Greyfriars, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 2NR | 561 | 218,000 |
| 2007 | Regional Office, Lynx House, Pynes Hill, Rydon Lane, Exeter EX2 5JL | 316 | 11,000 |
| 2007 | London and South East Regional Office, Rose Court, Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HS | 2038 | [redacted] |
| 2007 | Wales Regional Office, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff CF10 2HH | 570 | 388,000 |
| 2007 | Kent Area Directors Office, Gail House, 5 Lower Stone Street, Maidstone ME15 6NB | 998 | 602,000 |

*Tribunal Service*

| | Location | Net internal area (m2) | Refurbishments costs (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 | Hagley Road, Birmingham | 3052 | 656,500 |
| 2007 | Leicester Arnhem House (5th Floor), Leicester | 750 | 148,250 |

*Legal Services Commission*

| | Location | Net internal area (m2) | Refurbishments costs (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | Floors 11, 12 and 13 Building 2, Exchange Tower, Harbour Exchange, London EC15 | 3363.101 | †159,098 |
| 2007 | Viking B8, Jarrow, Newcastle | 6720.35 | †1,489,000 |

† Including VAT

### Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of employees in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours per week. [233833]

**Mr. Straw:** Within the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) there are a number of flexible working opportunities. These include: working part-time, compressed hours, and part-year working, such as during school term times.

Centrally held information shows that 13 per cent. of Ministry of Justice staff work part-time as of September 2008.

Staff who are on other flexible working patterns and who are on a job share employment contract are not held centrally and could be provided only by contacting each local area within MoJ at a disproportionate cost.

Within the Prison Service arrangements for working from home are administered locally and data are not held centrally. The Former DCA records show 20 members of staff worked from home full-time, but any other

arrangements are held locally only. The NOMS agency does not record staff who work from home. Figures on staff who work from home are available only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work for and *(b)* provide assistance for his Department. [235301]

**Mr. Wills:** As at April 2008, there were 31 full-time equivalent press officers working for the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice is also occasionally supported by COI News which provides regional press support on an issue or case-by-case basis. However, because of the nature of this support it is not possible to quantify it as an equivalent to full-time press officers without incurring disproportionate costs.

### Departmental Official Residences

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what permanent residential accommodation is provided for use by civil servants in his Department; how many residential dwellings are provided; where they are located; and for what grade of civil servant they are provided. [221967]

**Mr. Malik:** Her Majesty's Courts Service has a total of 19 residential properties across London and regional areas of England and Wales and of these, 14 are occupied by managers of judges lodgings. All residents of these properties are a Grade EO apart from one that is a Grade HEO. The remaining five properties, mainly located within Greater London, are allocated to a Regional Fire and Safety Manager at Band C, Court Keepers at Band D, and a Custodian/Keeper at Band F.

Her Majesty's Prison Service has 360 residential properties across 36 regional towns and cities in England and Wales with the largest number of properties (195) in London. Prison officers occupy 280 properties and chaplains and agricultural workers occupy a further 69. The remaining 11 properties accommodate industrial workers, store men, admin staff, former staff and staff widows.

The rest of Ministry of Justice has no residential property.

### Departmental Pensions

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229528]

**Mr. Wills:** Information on staff pensions in the Ministry of Justice as at September 2008 is as follows:

| | *Number of staff in scheme* | *Proportion of staff in each scheme (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Classic | 39,755 | 49 |
| *(b)* + *(d)* Classic Plus + Premium Civil Service Pension Scheme | 29,673 | 36 |
| *(c)* Nuvos | 6,778 | 8 |

The figures provided do not include employees who have elected to join a Partnership pension scheme or have opted out of the pension. Therefore the figures provided do not total 100 per cent. of employees currently in the Department.

It is not possible to differentiate between those employees in the Premium pension scheme and those in the Classic + pension scheme. They are not recorded separately on the pension records held by the Department's payroll provider and would be available only at disproportionate cost, if at all.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what reductions in expenditure his Department plans to make by April 2011; and what assessment he has made of their likely effects; [232502]

(2) what recent decisions have been taken on reducing his Department's future expenditure; and if he make a statement. [232503]

**Mr. Straw:** The MoJ settlement received in the last Comprehensive Spending Review meant that the MoJ would have to absorb cost of living increases and other upward pressures equivalent to approximately £1 billion over the three-year period. We have plans for year 1 and plans are being developed for years 2 and 3 taking us up to March 2011. The details are being worked on, but will focus on reducing overheads, removing duplication and increasing efficiencies. We will prioritise front line services we provide to the public to make communities safer, provide access to justice and cut re-offending—without jeopardising performance throughout the MoJ. We will continue the transformation of the services we provide so that they are more open, visible and transparent to the people they service.

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the presentation given in his Department on 28 September 2008 on the Department's budgetary position and the options for dealing with its budgetary shortfall. [232504]

**Mr. Straw:** No. The presentation was a piece of draft analysis presented by the MoJ Corporate Management Board to Ministers for internal planning purposes. The MoJ Permanent Secretary has undertaken to write to Select Committee in December with more details of our planned savings package following a period of due diligence.

### Electronic Voting

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what lessons his Department has learned from pilots of e-counting; and what steps he has taken to ensure that such lessons are taken into account in any future pilots. [233952]

**Mr. Wills:** The purpose of pilots is to investigate the issues surrounding the use of various potential innovations in electoral administration and gain learning that will inform development of policy and possible future e-counting solutions. One of the aims of the e-counting pilots that took place in May 2007, for example, was to investigate whether commercially available scanning

machines could successfully be used in an e-counting solution. The pilots demonstrated that it is possible to use commercially available scanning machines, and this should lead to lower costs.

All electoral pilots are evaluated by the Electoral Commission, which makes recommendations regarding the future operation of particular innovations. These evaluations usually encapsulate the key lessons and recommendations from each pilot. The Government take these into account alongside lessons learned during development and implementation of the pilots themselves and, where relevant, the experience of e-counting elsewhere in the UK and overseas.

**Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre**

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost for providing a place in *(a)* Feltham A for 15 to 17-year-olds and *(b)* Feltham B for 18 to 21 year olds is in the latest year for which figures are available. [236048]

**Mr. Hanson:** The average annual cost for providing a place in Feltham A for 15 to 17-year-olds is £43,360 and Feltham B for 18 to 21-year-olds is £42,050. The cost includes direct prison costs only and excludes overhead costs.

**Housing**

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many sales orders in respect of residential property were made in each year since 1997; [235908]

(2) how many charging orders over residential properties were issued in each year since 1997. [235909]

**Bridget Prentice:** The table shows the numbers of applications for charging orders, and the number of charging orders made, in the county courts of England and Wales in each year since 1997. These figures cover charging orders against all types of property, not just residential property. Figures relating solely to orders against residential property are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Similarly, figures on the number of orders for sale are not held centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

*Number of applications for charging orders and charging orders made in England and Wales 1997-2007*

| | *Applications* | *Orders made* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 14,161 | 11,422 |
| 1998 | 13,758 | 10,652 |
| 1999 | 13,600 | 9,749 |
| 2000 | 16,014 | 9,689 |
| 2001 | 21,870 | 15,487 |
| 2002 | 30,781 | 21,408 |
| 2003 | 35,052 | 25,217 |
| 2004 | 45,516 | 33,235 |
| 2005 | 65,780 | 49,218 |
| 2006 | 92,933 | 67,090 |
| 2007 | 131,637 | 97,026 |

*Source:*
HMCS CaseMan system (2000-07) and manual returns (19,97-99)

**Members: Correspondence**

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the hon. Member for Mid-Worcestershire's letter of 1 August on the length of time taken to respond to a freedom of information request regarding Titan prisons for Wychavon District Council made on 25 April 2008. [236479]

**Mr. Hanson:** I replied to the hon. Member on 6 October.

**Penalty Notices**

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether primary legislation will be required to amend the sentencing guidelines for penalty notices for disorder. [234872]

**Mr. Straw:** The independent Sentencing Guidelines Council has not produced a sentencing guideline for penalty notices for disorder as these disposals are issued by the police and other designated persons and not by the courts.

**Penalty Notices: Shoplifting**

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of issuing penalty notices for disorder in preventing shoplifters from re-offending. [234774]

**Maria Eagle:** No assessment has been made. A study of criminal histories and re-offending rates of PND recipients is under way and will be published in due course.

The aim of the PND Scheme is to provide the police with a swift financial punishment to deal with misbehaviour, including minor shoplifting, and a practical deterrent to future re-offending.

**Political Parties: Finance**

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to change the regulated limit for local candidate spending during election periods for *(a)* local elections, *(b)* devolved institution elections and *(c)* European Parliamentary elections; and if he will make a statement. [233385]

**Mr. Straw:** I have no such plans.

**Prisoners: Suicide**

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* suicides and *(b)* self-harm incidents there have been in (i) HM prisons and (ii) young offender institutions in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [235714]

**Mr. Malik:** The numbers of suicides and self-harm incidents since 1998 are contained in the following table.

The National Offender Management Service has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This encompasses a wide spectrum

of Prison and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, substance misuse and resettlement. Any prisoner identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm is cared for using the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) procedures. ACCT is the prisoner-centred flexible care-planning system introduced across the prisons estate in partnership with the Department of Health during 2005-07 to replace the old F2052SH system.

Any death in custody is a tragic event. The Government are committed to learning from such events and reducing the number of self-inflicted deaths in state custody. We are implementing many of the recommendations of Robert Fulton's Review of the Forum for Preventing Deaths in Custody. From April 2009, a new three tier Ministerial Council on Deaths in Custody will replace the existing forum and the Ministerial Roundtable on Suicide.

| | *All prisons* | | *Young offender institutions*[1] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Self-inflicted deaths* | *Self-harm incidents* | *Self-inflicted deaths* | *Self-harm incidents* |
| 1998 | 83 | n/a | 7 | n/a |
| 1999 | 91 | n/a | 11 | n/a |
| 2000 | 81 | n/a | 9 | n/a |
| 2001 | 73 | n/a | 7 | n/a |
| 2002 | 95 | n/a | 6 | n/a |
| 2003[2] | 94 | 11,833 | 2 | 1,467 |
| 2004 | 95 | 12,555 | 4 | 1,791 |
| 2005 | 78 | 14,405 | 9 | 1,955 |
| 2006 | 67 | 15,052 | 1 | 2,206 |
| 2007 | 92 | 15,229 | 4 | 2,050 |

[1] Due to the mixed roll (adult and young offender) of some prisons and re-rolling over the years there is more than one way to present figures for young offender institutions therefore caution needs to be taken when interpreting them.

[2] A new system for monitoring self-harm was introduced in December 2002, and as a result, recording of self-harm improved through 2003. Self-harm figures for 2003 and earlier are not comparable with later years.

## Sentencing

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the reasons are for the time taken to respond to the consultation on sentencing guidelines; [234877]

(2) what plans he has to revise guidelines on the co-ordination of evidence emanating from police, local government authorities, the probation services and others, which demonstrates a particular pattern of behaviour for the purposes of sentencing in the event of a conviction for retail theft; [234878]

(3) if he will undertake a regular review of the sentencing guidelines for shop theft conviction. [234879]

**Mr. Straw:** The independent Sentencing Guidelines Council is responsible for producing, publishing and reviewing definitive guidelines on sentencing for criminal offences. I understand that the definitive guideline dealing with retail theft will issue soon.

## Shoplifting: Compensation

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many cases court disposals have required full recompense to be made to the victims of retail theft in each of the last three years. [234873]

**Mr. Straw:** The available information is contained in the following table, which shows the number of compensation or restitution orders that have been imposed for shoplifting by criminal courts.

The information supplied is for the last three years for which data are available. 2007 data will be available in late November.

*Offenders ordered to pay compensation or restitution orders as criminal court disposals for retail theft[1], 2004-06*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 7,421 |
| 2005 | 7,356 |
| 2006 | 7,219 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] These figures refer only to actions taken in criminal courts.

*Note:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

*Source:*
OMS Analytical Services.

## Young Offender Institutions: Per Capita Costs

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of providing a place in *(a)* a young offender institution for 18 to 21 year olds, *(b)* a young offender institution for 15 to 17 year olds and (c) a secure training centre for under 15 year olds was in the latest year for which figures are available. [236050]

**Mr. Hanson:** The average cost per annum of a place at a young offender institution (YOI) for 2007-08, as provided by the National Offender Management Service, was £32,799. There are a number of 'split site' young offender institutions which accommodate both 15 to 17-year-olds and 18 to 20-year-olds; and it is not possible, except at disproportionate cost, to split the overall costs between the two age groups.

The average cost a year of a place at a secure training centre (STC) for 2007-08, as provided by the Youth Justice Board (YJB), was £191,618. The age range for the young people in STCs is 12 to 17 years.

In comparing the two figures, account will need to be taken of variations in the methods of calculation. In particular, the YJB figure includes health care and education, whereas the YOI figure excludes those elements.

## Young Offenders: Education

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what percentage of young offenders aged *(a)* under 16 years and *(b)* between 16 and 18 years returned to full or part-time education on release from custody in the last 12 months; [236044]

(2) how many young offenders aged between 18 and 21 were released from custodial sentences in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what percentage went into full or part-time employment on release. [236046]

**Mr. Hanson:** Data that specifically identify the percentage of young offenders released to full-time or part-time education in the specified age groups are not available. However, the following figures show the percentage of young offenders released from custody into full or part

time education or training from young offender institutions (YOIs) in the 12 month period from October 2007 to September 2008:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| YOI establishments holding 15 to 17-year-olds | 53 |
| YOI establishments holding 18 to 21-year-olds | 15 |
| YOI establishments holding both 15 to 17-year-olds and 18 to 21-year-olds | 26 |

Data for young offenders released from secure training centres (STC) and secure children's homes (SCH) are not available. However, data are available for young offenders released from STCs, SCHs and YOIs and at the end of the community element of their custodial sentence. During the 12 months period (July 2007-June 2008) 64.4 per cent. of young people of statutory school age were in full time education or training (for 25 hours and more). Of those above school age 64.5 per cent. were in suitable employment, training or education.

The number of young offenders aged between 18 and 21 who were released from custodial sentences and the percentage that entered employment in the 12 months period from October 2007 to September 2008[1] is shown in the following table.

Data of this nature are only available by entire establishment type, therefore some data relating to 18 to 21-year-olds are also included within those establishments that also hold 15 to 21-year-olds and it is not possible to separate out specific age ranges.

| *Establishment type* | *Number of offenders discharged*[2] | *Percentage of offenders entering into employment* |
|---|---|---|
| YOI establishments holding 18 to 21-year-olds | 5,903 | 26 |
| YOI establishments holding both 15 to 17-year-olds and 18 to 21-year-olds | 4,240 | 19 |

[1] Data are provisional and subject to ongoing validation.
[2] Exclude temporary releases or prisoners that are deported upon release.

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much time per week young offenders aged *(a)* under 15 years old, *(b)* between 15 and 17 years old and *(c)* between 18 and 21 years old spent on (i) education and training and (ii) sporting activities. [236045]

**Mr. Hanson:** I refer the hon. Member to my previous answers on 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 629-30W. Data of this nature are only available by establishment type. The average number of hours spent on education or training activities and physical education and recreational sports per prisoner per week for each young offender institution (YOI) during the period April to September 2008 (latest figures available[1]) is shown in the table. It is not possible to breakdown the figures to the two age bands at tables 1 and 2 for the split sites (see table 3).

Secure training centres (STCs) have structures in place to provide each young person with the opportunity to receive a minimum of 25 hours a week of taught lesson time or vocational training. Providers do all that they reasonably can to ensure that young people take up the opportunity. In addition to taught education young people in STCs receive an hours a day of offending behaviour programmes and a range of training in social and domestic skills.

For secure children's homes (SCHs) the requirement is that they meet the Youth Justice Board's National Specification for Learning and Skills. This requires that young people are given the opportunity to receive 30 hours of timetabled activities based around a curriculum encompassing taught education, vocational work or offending behaviour work. In addition there is an expectation that young people engage in an hour a day of private study and 12 hours a week of activities such as hobbies or clubs.

Young people engage in sporting activities in STCs and SCHs as part of the school curriculum, as part of activities outside of the school day and as part of social activities. The levels of sporting activities engaged in by each young person are not recorded and collated so it is not possible to provide an average level of sporting activity.

[1] Data are provisional and subject to ongoing validation.

*Table 1: NOMS establishments holding 15 to 17-year-olds*

| *Establishment* | *Average number of hours spent on education or training activities per prisoner per week* | *Average number of hours spent on sport or other physical activity per prisoner per week* |
|---|---|---|
| Ashfield | 15.4 | 8.2 |
| Cookham Wood | 14.1 | 7.7 |
| Huntercombe | 12.2 | 4.5 |
| Warren Hill | 17 | 2.6 |
| Werrington | 19.8 | 4.1 |
| Wetherby | 12.2 | 4.4 |

*Table 2: NOMS establishments holding 18 to 21-year-olds*

| *Establishment* | *Average number of hours spent on education or training activities per prisoner per week* | *Average number of hours spent on sport or other physical activity per prisoner per week* |
|---|---|---|
| Aylesbury | 6.1 | 3.5 |
| Deerbolt | 7.9 | 4.7 |
| Glen Parva | 5.3 | 2.8 |
| Northallerton | 9.8 | 3.1 |
| Portland | 5.9 | 2 |

*Table 2: NOMS establishments holding 18 to 21-year-olds*

| *Establishment* | *Average number of hours spent on education or training activities per prisoner per week* | *Average number of hours spent on sport or other physical activity per prisoner per week* |
|---|---|---|
| Reading | 4.9 | 3.7 |
| Rochester | 3.6 | 3 |
| Swinfen Hall | 8.2 | 3.1 |
| Thorn Cross | 11.5 | 7.3 |

*Table 3: NOMS establishments holding both 15 to 17-year-olds and 18 to 21-year-olds*

| *Establishment* | *Average number of hours spent on education or training activities per prisoner per week* | *Average number of hours spent on sport or other physical activity per prisoner per week* |
|---|---|---|
| Brinsford | 9.6 | 2.5 |
| Castington | 10 | 2.6 |
| Feltham | 7.5 | 3.1 |
| Hindley | 12.2 | 4.2 |
| Lancaster Farms | 9.7 | 2.2 |
| Stoke Heath | 6.8 | 3.9 |

## TRANSPORT

### Airwave Service

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234694]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport itself uses Airwave handsets. The following of the Department's executive agencies and sponsored non-departmental bodies are also users of Airwave handsets:

Highways Agency

Marine and Coastguard Agency

British Transport Police

The following two executive agencies have been made 'approved sharers' of Airwave by Ofcom, the radio spectrum regulator, but do not currently use Airwave handsets:

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency.

### Aviation: Oxygen

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 240W, on aircraft: oxygen, what consideration his Department gave to including in the Code of Practice on Access to Air Travel for Disabled Persons and Persons with Reduced Mobility a provision that air carriers should carry portable oxygen cylinders free of charge as medical equipment. [235440]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** This matter was discussed by the working group which drafted the code of practice. As there is no specific obligation in the European regulation about the provision of oxygen, it was not considered appropriate to make a specific recommendation in the code about carriage of oxygen cylinders. Instead, the code reflects current guidance and practice in this area, in particular with regard to security considerations.

The code of practice makes clear that it cannot be an authoritative statement of the law since any question over the interpretation of the European law is ultimately a matter for the courts. The Department for Transport has, however, raised this matter with the European Commission in the context of other issues where interpretation of the Regulation is unclear and has led to practical difficulties or differences in practice among airlines.

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pensioners in Enfield North constituency have received a free bus pass since April 2008. [235435]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many applications individual authorities have received.

Enfield North is part of Greater London. Concessionary travel in London is administered by London Councils on behalf of the metropolitan boroughs. The last information held by the Department was that as of April this year, London had issued approximately 800,000 passes eligible for the statutory concession.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many pensioners have claimed free bus travel *(a)* in Crosby constituency and *(b)* England in each year since the inception of the scheme; [236695]

(2) how many disabled people have claimed free bus travel in *(a)* Crosby constituency and *(b)* England in each year since the inception of the entitlement. [236697]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes individual authorities have issued.

Crosby is part of Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive, Merseytravel. The latest figures held by the Department is that as of June 2008 Merseytravel had issued approximately 272,000 concessionary passes to both elderly and eligible disabled people.

As of October 2008, approximately 7.2 million ITSO concessionary smartcard passes have been issued in England and approximately 900,000 London Freedom Passes have been re-stickered for national use.

We cannot currently break down the figure by disabled and elderly passes, but reports are being set up to allow us to do so in the future.

### Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will reverse the recent increases in toll charges on the Dartford river crossing. [236230]

**Paul Clark:** Over the weekend of 15 and 16 November we introduced a number of changes to the charging regime at the Dartford Crossing, an increase in daytime charges, the removal of night time charges when traffic is lighter and discount schemes for immediate residents in the vicinity of the crossing in Kent and Essex. The charges exist to address serious congestion pressures at the crossing, and the new arrangements we are introducing follow two consultation exercises. There are no plans to reverse the increases.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 198-99W, on departmental buildings, what the cost of each refurbishment was. [233418]

**Mr. Hoon:** The requested information is provided in the following table.

| *Property* | *Cost of refurbishment (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| Driving Standards Agency HQ, Nottingham | 2.673 |
| Highways Agency, Lateral, Leeds | 2.412 |

Information on the cost of refurbishments undertaken by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency cannot be provided for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

### Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* on a flexible working contract, *(b)* on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [233820]

**Mr. Hoon:** The Department for Transport does not record this information centrally.

Staff may arrange such conditions with line manager agreement and subject to business needs.

Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental ICT

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each year since its inception. [234085]

**Mr. Hoon:** The Department for Transport was formed in 2002 and now includes seven agencies, a shared service centre and the central Department, with a total staff of over 19,000. The figures provided here for lost and stolen devices are for the entire Department including its agencies and shared service centre where that information is available. The figures provided do not include losses or thefts where records are not available, where equipment has not been procured centrally, or where such losses or thefts were not reported. The figures are as follows:

| | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Memory sticks lost | | | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Memory sticks stolen | | | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Laptops lost | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| Laptops stolen | 7 | 13 | 23 | 14 | 9 | 24 | 15 |
| Desktops lost | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Desktops stolen | | 20 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| Hard drives lost | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| Hard drives stolen | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mobile phones lost | 1 | 9 | 13 | 6 | 13 | 15 | 12 |
| Mobile phones stolen | 2 | 20 | 24 | 22 | 15 | 5 | 3 |

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last three years; and what the cost of each contract was. [230037]

**Mr. Hoon:** The Department for Transport commissions the production of press cuttings of national, regional and specialist media coverage of transport issues, and these services form the majority of media monitoring costs. The following table lists organisations that provided media monitoring services to the Department in each of the last three financial years and the cost.

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *£000 2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *DfT(C)* | | | |
| COI Media Monitoring Unit | 53.0 | 60.2 | 68.7 |
| EDS Media | 243.1 | 252.8 | 267.3 |
| *DSA* | | | |
| TNS Media Intelligence | 12.0 | 0 | 0 |

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | £000 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|
| EDS Media | 5.0 | 18.0 | 20.0 |
| *DVLA* | | | |
| International Press Cutting Bureau | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| *GCDA* | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *HA* | | | |
| TNS Media Intelligence | 16.8 | 8.8 | 11.0 |
| EDS Media | 31.3 | 58.9 | 73.4 |
| Meltwater News Ltd. | 0 | 0 | 5.9 |
| *MCA* | | | |
| TNS Media Intelligence | 60.7 | 94.8 | 96.4 |
| PA News | 4.7 | 5.2 | 5.4 |
| Meltwater News Ltd. | 0 | 0 | 4.1 |
| *VCA* | | | |
| Meltwater News Ltd. | 0 | 0 | 3.0 |
| *VOSA* | 0 | 0 | 0 |

* Details for NDPBs can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Internet

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for which Government websites his Department is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [235037]

**Mr. Hoon:** The Department for Transport maintains 66 public-facing websites, including those run by the Executive agencies.

Tables have been placed in the Libraries of the House showing unique visitor numbers and maintenance costs for the Department for Transport websites.

Unique visitor data are not provided for all sites as the statistical software used on those sites do not produce this level of detail, only providing page requests rather than unique visitor data.

Where annual maintenance costs are not available this is due to a number of reasons; either the site has only recently been available and maintenance costs are only applicable for the current financial year; the costs are part of a much larger contract and cannot be itemised; or the costs cannot be calculated without incurring disproportionate costs. Costs provided do not include staff costs.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many page hits from how many visitors his Department's website received in 2007-08. [237141]

**Mr. Hoon:** The Department for Transport website: www.dft.gov.uk

received 30,913,738 page hits from 3,571,614 visitors in 2007-08.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the methods by which all contractors, consultants and staff from employment agencies working in DfT Human Resources and DfT(C) Human Resources were hired. [234782]

**Mr. Hoon:** Human Resources in the Department for Transport and in its Agencies use framework arrangements for the hire of agency staff. Consultants and contractors are generally hired through competitive tender using pre-negotiated frameworks.

### Dial-a-Ride

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* capital investment and *(b)* revenue funding has been spent on Dial-a-Ride in London in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [235664]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The funding of Dial-a-Ride services in London is a matter for the Mayor of London and Transport for London.

### Driving: Licensing

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will commission research into the accuracy of information provided by drivers in each age group to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in relation to self-certification for fitness to hold a driving licence; [233150]

(2) what representations he has received on the accuracy of information provided by drivers on their *(a)* health and *(b)* eyesight when self-certifying their suitability to hold a driving licence; and if he will make a statement; [233151]

(3) what representations he has received from coroners on the procedures for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to obtain information on driving licence holders who have medical conditions which should disqualify them from driving; and if he will make a statement. [233166]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Individual drivers have a duty to ensure they are fit to drive before doing so. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), in conjunction with the Department for Transport, is reviewing the formal systems and procedures in place in Great Britain for ensuring that those who hold a driving licence are fit to do so. The issue of the accuracy of self-certification forms part of that review.

A formal record is not kept of individual representations. However, the issue has been raised by a range of stakeholders and those views have fed into the review. In addition, the Department has received one report from a coroner in relation to the procedures for DVLA to obtain information on driving licence holders who have a medical condition which would disqualify them from driving.

### Ferries: Isle of Wight

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what obligation Wightlink is under to provide ferry services at *(a)* Yarmouth and *(b)* Lymington; [236206]

(2) what consultation process *(a)* has been and *(b)* will be undertaken with residents of the Isle of Wight on the introduction of new W class ferries on the Yarmouth to Lymington service, with particular reference to the (a) economic well-being and (b) social needs of those residents; [236236]

(3) if he will make an assessment of the contribution of the Yarmouth to Lymington ferry service to the *(a)* residents and *(b)* economy of the Isle of Wight, with particular reference to the West Wight; and if he will make a statement; [236237]

(4) what restrictions are in place regarding the operation of the Yarmouth to Lymington ferry *(a)* above and *(b)* below the low water mark; and who is responsible for ensuring those restrictions are adhered to. [236238]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport does not make assessments of the impacts of private ferry services, or conduct any related consultations, nor do we impose any obligations upon Wightlink to operate a ferry service between Lymington and Yarmouth.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is responsible for issuing a passenger safety certificate for ferries but the Department has no other role in respect of restrictions on ferry operations or for any further permissions required. I understand that works to berths or jetties to facilitate ferry operations are or have been the subject of applications for consent from DEFRA and the local planning authorities.

### Freight

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road haulage operators were trading in each of the last five years for which figures were available. [235596]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* The following number of road haulage operators were trading in each of the last five years:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 98,316 |
| 2006-07 | 99,794 |
| 2005-06 | 99,889 |
| 2004-05 | 102,746 |
| 2003-04 | 105,218 |

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road haulage companies entered receivership in 2007 and how many have done so in 2008 to date. [235597]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) does not record this information.

### Grants

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what area-based grants his Department makes; and what the budget for each such type of grant is in 2008-09. [234909]

**Mr. Hoon:** The area-based grants made by the Department for Transport for the Comprehensive Spending Review period of 2008-11 are published in a table on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/xls/770696.xls

The budget for each grant is included in the table.

### Gulf of Aden: Piracy

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment his Department has made of the risks to UK-flagged merchant vessels from piracy in the Gulf of Aden. [235844]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Piracy is an international problem that requires an international solution. Piracy attacks in the Gulf of Aden are less than 0.1 per cent. of the estimated 16,000 vessels which pass through the region annually. The Government are however, very concerned by increasing numbers of incidents in and around Somali waters. The EU is planning a counter piracy operation to which the UK will provide the operation commander and operation headquarters. EU partners agree that any operation must be co-ordinated with NATO and Combined Task Force 150, themselves active to deter piracy off the Horn of Africa. The UK contributes to both. The UK Government are also tackling piracy at its roots on land. Through the Department for International Development, the UK has allocated £25 million to support efforts to tackle instability in Somalia. The instability creates the conditions allowing piratical activities to flourish.

The Department for Transport has issued advice to seafarers on the measures that can be taken to prevent acts of piracy and armed robbery in Marine Guidance Note 298. We have also urged masters to obtain up to date information about pirate attacks in order to plan their passage through the Gulf of Aden. This advice can be obtained from the Royal Navy's UK Maritime Trade Operation based in Dubai. The shipping industry has also been informed of the Maritime Security Patrol Area (MPSA) established by the Combined Maritime Forces. The MPSA does not eliminate the risk of criminal activity and shipping has been warned to exercise extreme caution and vigilance.

### Highways Agency: Compulsory Purchase

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many properties the Highways Agency has acquired through compulsory purchase in each year since 1995; and what percentage of such properties have subsequently been *(a)* demolished and a road scheme progressed, *(b)* demolished without a road scheme being progressed, *(c)* resold and *(d)* retained. [235572]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* Since 1995, the Agency has purchased 1,776 properties in advance of its immediate operational requirements. Of these 1,776 properties, 436 were agricultural, 1,114 were residential and 226 were commercial.

The Agency cannot separately identify the method of purchase but they were bought using compulsory purchase powers, the planning blight provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act or discretionary purchase powers under the Highways Act.

1,125 of these properties have been sold (63 per cent. of the total), 107 have been demolished (6 per cent.), and a further 88 (5 per cent.) have been removed for other reasons, for example, plots combined together with another property for a sale or taken into operational use. 456 properties (26 per cent.) are currently being retained, although 132 (29 per cent.) of these retained properties are surplus and will be sold.

We are unable to identify which properties may have been demolished for reasons other than a road scheme without referring to individual property files.

The following tables detail the breakdown of the purchases, demolitions and sales.

*Properties purchased since 1 January 1995*

| | | Sold | | Demolished | | Other removals | | Retained | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Bought | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Commercial | 226 | 105 | 46 | 22 | 10 | 36 | 16 | 63 | 28 |
| Agric | 436 | 162 | 37 | 30 | 7 | 47 | 11 | 197 | 45 |
| Residential | 1,114 | 858 | 77 | 55 | 5 | 5 | 0.4 | 196 | 18 |
| Total | 1,776 | 1,125 | 63 | 107 | 6 | 88 | 5 | 456 | 26 |

*Properties purchased by year since 1995*

| | Agricultural | Commercial | Residential | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1995 | 67 | 20 | 451 | 538 |
| 1996 | 67 | 25 | 291 | 383 |
| 1997 | 36 | 26 | 126 | 188 |
| 1998 | 40 | 29 | 51 | 120 |
| 1999 | 18 | 19 | 28 | 65 |
| 2000 | 29 | 12 | 22 | 63 |
| 2001 | 20 | 18 | 16 | 54 |
| 2002 | 16 | 10 | 20 | 46 |
| 2003 | 23 | 18 | 18 | 59 |
| 2004 | 47 | 26 | 13 | 86 |
| 2005 | 32 | 11 | 26 | 69 |
| 2006 | 28 | 7 | 24 | 59 |
| 2007 | 11 | 4 | 14 | 29 |
| 2008 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 17 |
| Total | 436 | 226 | 1,114 | 1,776 |

*Of the retained properties bought since 1995, the following are now surplus and will be sold*

| | Number/percentage |
|---|---|
| Residential | 15 |
| Commercial | 27 |
| Agricultural | 90 |
| Total | 132 |
| Percentage | 29 |

Consideration of any mitigation measures is still at an early stage and decisions on consultation arrangements will be made alongside any decisions on an eventual scheme.

### M40: Noise

**John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what consultation arrangements will be made with regard to the Highways Agency's report into its estimates of the cost of noise barrier improvements on the M40 at Milton Common; and whether the data used in the production of the report will be published; [235369]

(2) when the Highways Agency will publish the report requested in March 2008 by the Department of Transport on the Agency's estimates for noise barrier improvements on the M40 at Milton Common. [235370]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* The findings of the Highways Agency's study into noise barrier improvements on the M40 at Milton Common should be available by the end of December and we aim to publish them early in 2009.

### Maritime and Coastguard Agency

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what projects the Maritime and Coastguard Agency is conducting; and from what budgets project expenditure is met in each case. [234902]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) current plans, activities and priorities are set out in the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08, including its plans for 2008-09 and beyond. Current projects with defined start and end dates using project management methodology are:

Automatic Identification System (AIS) Service provision

Search and Rescue Helicopter (SAR-H) Harmonisation with the Ministry of Defence

Radio Equipment Replacement

Consolidated European Reporting System (CERS) development

Seafarer Records System development

Direction Finding replacement

Security accreditation for migrating to the Public Sector network

Estate Management and maintenance

The costs of these will be split between the Agency's published resource and capital budgets as appropriate.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Chief Executive of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency plans to provide a substantive response to the letters from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 30 June and 20 August 2008 on his constituent, Ms J. Wood of Great Leighs, Chelmsford. [235251]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 12 November 2008]:* The Chief Executive of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has not received any correspondence dated 30 June or 20 August from the hon. Member on behalf of his constituent, Ms Joanne Wood. He did receive a letter dated 23 June and a reply was sent on 8 July. If the hon. Member would care to re-submit his letter of 20 August to DVLA, its content will be given full consideration and a reply provided.

### Performance Appraisal

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235211]

**Mr. Hoon:** The central Department and its agencies recorded the following numbers of staff who were bottom ranked in their annual report for the period ending 31 March 2008.

| 2007-08 | Total number bottom ranked in annual report |
|---|---|
| DFTC | 24 |
| DSA | 8 |
| DVLA | 24 |
| HA | 11 |
| VCA | 0 |
| MCA | 0 |
| GCDA | 1 |
| VOSA | [1] |
| Total | 73 |

[1] The Vehicle and Operator Service (VOSA) do not have bon markings within their performance management arrangements and could not provide information.

### Piracy

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents of piracy affecting UK-flagged merchant vessels his Department has been made aware of in each of the last five years. [235843]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of British-flagged or British-managed ships that have reported piracy incidents to the International Maritime Bureau in each of the last five years are as follows:

| | Ships flagged in UK |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 7 |
| 2005 | 4 |
| 2006 | 3 |
| 2007 | 1 |
| 2008 | 5 |

### Railway Network: Greater London

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much capital has been spent on each central London overground passenger rail terminal in each year since 1997; and what the projected capital spend for each terminal is for the next five years. [235675]

**Paul Clark:** I am advised that this information does not exist in the format requested. However, Network Rail has indicated that it should be able to work out the figures for the period from 2004 to 2014. The hon. Member should therefore contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG

### Rescue Services: Telecommunications

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on charges to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for the use of very high frequency communications; and if he will make a statement. [235940]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The issues that have been raised about the charges for the use of the very high frequency communications by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution have been brought to the attention of the appropriate authority, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). Ofcom's consultation, "Applying spectrum pricing to the Maritime and Aeronautical sectors", finished at the end of last month and they will now evaluate these responses.

### Roads: Accidents

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many accidents involved cars without a valid MOT certificate in the last 12 months; [234641]

(2) how many road traffic accidents involving uninsured drivers have been reported to his Department in the last 12 months. [234648]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1010W.

**Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged between 17 and 21 were killed in road traffic accidents in (i) Gateshead and (ii) Sunderland in each of the last three years. [235965]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is given in the table:

Number of fatalities

| | 2005 | | | 2006 | | | 2007 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Gateshead | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Sunderland | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

### Schools: Transport

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost per seat of retrospective fitting of seat belts to school buses. [233355]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 5 November 2008]*: National legislation, brought in during 1998, requires

that all coaches and minibuses irrespective of their age, that carry groups of children aged three to 15 years on organised school trips, including dedicated home-to-school transport, are equipped with seat belts.

Since 1 October 2001, seat belts have been required to be installed in each forward and rearward facing seat in all new buses. There is derogation from these requirements for buses specifically designed for urban use with standing passengers, when used for scheduled commercial services, whether or not school children are being carried.

The Department for Transport has made no recent estimate of the cost of retrospectively fitting seat belts to all vehicles used for school transport.

The decision not to require the retrospective fitting of seat belts to urban buses was taken primarily on technical grounds. A review of the design of buses and of the materials used in their construction concluded that seat belts could not be easily installed in such a way as to be effective without very significant changes being made to the vehicle's construction.

While modern coaches are designed to accommodate seat belts, the strength of the important structural points in buses has generally remained unaltered.

### Somerset Trust: Finance

**Mr. Caton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what payments have been made from his Department to the Somerset Trust for access easements for infrastructure projects. [226800]

**Paul Clark:** The Highways Agency has interrogated its Highways Agency Lands IT system (HALI), which is the tool for recording and managing all land compensation business, including financial management.

It has been unable to identify record of payment made directly to the Somerset Trust.

### Speed Limits: Rural Areas

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will review the speed limits on rural roads; and if he will make a statement. [235646]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** National speed limits are kept under review to ensure they remain appropriate, and will be considered in developing the new Road Safety Strategy for the years beyond 2010.

In the meantime, local authorities have powers to introduce local speed limits on their roads, and the Department for Transport issued guidance on this in August 2006, asking local authorities to review the speed limits on all of their A and B roads, and implement any necessary changes, by 2011.

### Transport: Advisory Bodies

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Government Office regions have established regional transport boards. [236097]

**Paul Clark:** All Government office regions have established committees or boards responsible for considering regional transport strategy. However not all of the regions use the term "regional transport boards", and the particular arrangements vary, for example on membership, to fit with other regional structures. There is no statutory requirement to establish a regional transport board.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Members: Pay

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members are not eligible for any additional salary granted for a Ministerial or other position in the House above the basic hon. Member's salary. [236052]

**Chris Bryant:** A total of 158 Members currently receive an addition to the basic Member's salary, listed as follows:

31 Select Committee Chairmen

32 Members of the Chairmen's Panel

one Speaker

one Chairman of Ways and Means

two Deputy Chairs of Ways and Means

The Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition Chief Whip.

There are currently 97 Ministers who are MPs, tabled as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Cabinet | 21 |
| Minister | 27 |
| PUSS | 30 |
| Whip | 16 |
| Law officers | 1 |

Of these, eight are unpaid, making a total of 89 paid Ministers.

483 Members will therefore receive the basic salary only. (The figures exclude the five Sinn Fein Members who do not receive a salary).

### Performance Appraisal

**David Simpson:** To ask the Leader of the House how many staff in her Office did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235217]

**Chris Bryant:** All staff in the Leader of the House's Office achieved an acceptable assessment grade in their annual appraisal report in the reporting year 2007 to 2008.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Bournemouth

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Prime Minister when he next plans to visit Bournemouth. [236235]

**The Prime Minister:** I have no current plans to do so.

### Middle East

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Prime Minister what the names and affiliations of the members of the business delegation that accompanied him on his recent visit to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Dubai are. [236378]

**The Prime Minister:** The following business leaders accompanied me on my trip to the Gulf states:

Mike Beaumont—Foster Wheeler Energy Ltd.;
Malcolm Brinded CBE—Shell (Royal Dutch Shell);
Professor Keith Burnett CBE FRS—Sheffield University;
Graham Cartledge—Bovis;
Philip Cox—International Power;
Tom Delay—The Carbon Trust;
Tony Douglas—Laing O'Rourke;
Professor Malcolm Grant CBE MA LLD—University College London;
Philip Green—United Utilities;
Dr. Tony Hayward—BP;
David Hodgkinson—HSBC Holdings;
Christopher Hyman—Serco Group plc;
Lady Barbara Judge—United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority;
Sam Laidlaw—Centrica;
Richard Lambert—CBI;
Lord Levene of Portsoken KBE—Lloyd's of London;
Neil MacGregor—British Museum;
Monisha Majidi—Foster + Partners;
John Mulfarnough—Carillion;
John Napier—Royal and Sun Alliance;
Ian L Olver—BAE Systems;
Anand Paul—Cupuro Group;
Leo Quinn—De La Rue;
Sir John Rose—Rolls-Royce;
Peter Sands—Standard Chartered Bank;
Sir Nicholas Serota—The Tate;
Right hon. Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean;
Ian Tyler—Balfour Beatty.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Antisocial Behaviour

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to reduce the number of drunk and disorderly people being held in police custody; and if she will make a statement. [232753]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The National Alcohol Strategy 'Safe Sensible Social' sets out the Government's plan to minimise the health harms, violence and antisocial behaviour associated with alcohol, while ensuring that people are able to enjoy alcohol safely and responsibly. The Strategy focuses action on three groups most at risk which are 18-24 year old binge drinkers, young people under 18 who drink alcohol, and harmful drinkers whose drinking is damaging their health, often without them realising it. The Strategy contains a range of measures to tackle alcohol related crime and disorder, which will have an effect on the number of people becoming drunk and disorderly in public, therefore reducing the number who end up in police custody.

In particular, the Home Office has funded 13 alcohol arrest referral pilots around the country. Alcohol arrest referral schemes make provision, in suitable cases, for adults arrested for alcohol-related offences to be referred to brief advice sessions. Sessions are structured to inform arrestees about the links between unsafe drinking and offending. The schemes aim to reduce offending rates among binge drinkers who are not dependent on alcohol.

Additionally, the Government have also recently launched a new, hard-hitting £4 million national advertising campaign, under the Know Your Limits banner, to drive home the serious consequences of binge drinking. It poses the question:

"You wouldn't start a night like this, so why end it that way?"

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti social behaviour orders have been issued in the London Borough of Enfield in each year since 1999. [235437]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued is not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

The available information is shown in the following table.

*Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts in the Greater London Criminal Justice System area, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2006*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000[1] | 28 |
| 2001 | 15 |
| 2002 | 21 |
| 2003 | 139 |
| 2004 | 446 |
| 2005 | 533 |
| 2006 | 359 |
| Total | 1,541 |

[1] 1 April 1999-31 December 2000.

*Notes:*

1. Previously issued data have been revised.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Source:*

Prepared by OCJR Evidence and Analysis Unit.

### Arrests: Drugs

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* charged with possession of Class (i) A, (ii) B and (iii) C drugs in each police force area in each year since 1997. [166808]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person, burglary, robbery and drug offences.

From these centrally reported data we are not able to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

Information on offenders charged by the police is not reported to the Home Office.

### Community Policing

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to her Department's news release of 22 September 2008, what powers the proposed community crime fighters will have; and what accreditation they will undergo. [235088]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Community crime fighters will be members of the public who are already actively involved in their communities. They will not have any legal powers but will receive free training in things like getting the best services for victims and witnesses, what the policing pledge will mean on the ground and what powers can and should be employed by local services to tackle antisocial behaviour and crime.

### Community Support Officers: Manpower

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers there are in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* England. [234103]

**Mr. Coaker:** There were 67 full-time equivalent police community support officers in the Bolton Basic Command Unit of Greater Manchester police and 15,108 full-time equivalent police community support officers in England as at 31 March 2008.

### Control Orders

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have *(a)* been made the subject of a control order, *(b)* absconded whilst the subject of a control order and *(c)* otherwise breached the terms of a control order in each quarter since the inception of such orders; how many people have breached an order on (i) more than one occasion and (ii) more than two occasions; and how many people have absconded on more than one occasion; [233532]

(2) how many people who have absconded whilst subject to a control order have been arrested or otherwise located and returned to control; [233533]

(3) how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of breaching of a control order; and how many of those convicted have received a custodial sentence; [233534]

(4) how many people of each nationality have been made the subject of a control order since the inception of such orders. [233536]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Secretary of State reports to Parliament on the exercise of her powers under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005.

As of 10 September 2008, the last date covered by the most recent report, 38 individuals have been made subject to a control order. (The total number of control orders made is higher as some individuals have had more than one order made against them.)

These reports include the number of individuals subject to a control order, the number who are British citizens, and the number, if there were any, who have absconded from a control order. I refer the hon. Member to these reports, and in particular the reports of 11 December 2006, 16 January 2007, 22 March 2007, 24 May 2007, 21 June 2007 and 17 September 2007. These statements give as much information as we can provide about the individuals who have absconded given the national security sensitivities of these cases and the need to avoid publishing any information that could lead to the identification of an individual who is subject to an anonymity order.

The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Office are currently working with the National Coordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data relating to those arrested, charged, convicted and imprisoned under terrorist legislation and under other legislation but considered terrorist related. As soon as this is complete a Statistical Bulletin covering this information will be published by the Home Office. This Statistical Bulletin will include figures showing the number of people charged and convicted under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005.

### Crime: EU Nationals

**Mr. Mark Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many A2 nationals were arrested for crimes connected with automatic teller machines in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [168005]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person, burglary, robbery and drug offences. From these centrally reported data we are not able to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

The data are also broken down by age group, gender, ethnicity and police force area. Information on the nationality of offenders does not form a part of this collection, therefore data on the number of arrests of A2 nationals (from Romania and Bulgaria) is not available.

### Crime: Information and Communications Technology

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the *(a)* reliability and *(b)* usefulness of headcam technology in tackling crime; if she will make resources available to make this technology more widely available to the police; and if she will make a statement. [234473]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** A pilot programme for body worn video (which includes head cameras) ran in Plymouth from September 2006 to April 2007. During the pilot the following key points were identified:

Violent crime was reduced by 8 per cent in the pilot sectors (1 per cent. elsewhere);

More serious violence was reduced by 18 per cent. (no change elsewhere);

An increase of 85 per cent. in violent incidents resulting in an arrest;

An increase of 40 per cent. in the number of violent crimes detected.

A number of providers supply body worn video devices. Individual police forces negotiate the best device to fit their needs. Kent police have demonstrated some excellent work in developing a bespoke device with a commercial provider.

The Home Office made a fund of £3 million available specifically to enable police forces across the country to widen their use of body worn video devices. This announcement was made on 12 July 2007, when guidance on the use of this equipment was published by PCSD, which was compiled with the National Police Improvement Agency and the support of ACPO.

Suffolk police was awarded £60,000 of this fund, which was a mid-range allocation from the 38 bids awarded.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which programmes funded by her Department experienced a real-terms reduction in their budget between 2006-07 and 2007-08; and what the budget was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 in each case. [234457]

**Mr. Coaker:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, East (Mr. McNulty) on 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 334W.

### Departmental Telecommunications

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on telecommunications in each year since 1997. [200498]

**Mr. Woolas:** The available information is in the following tables.

*HO (Including UKBA)*

| *Account* | | *2004/05* | *2005/06* | *2006/07* | *2007/08* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Telecoms* | Computer line calls | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Computer line rent | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Mobile Phone Rent | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Mobile call charges | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Mobile phone rent | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Pagers | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Phone call charges | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Rent of other equipment | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Rent of telephone exchanges | — | — | — | — | — |
| | Rolling costs | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | | 10,716,855.86 | 14,422,253.87 | 12,818,464.57 | 14,172,973.47 | 52,130,547.77 |

*Table 2: Identity Passport Service*

| *FY* | *Grand total* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 334,738 |
| 1998-99 | 430,284 |
| 1999-2000 | 1,214,271 |
| 2000-01 | 3,364,716 |
| 2001-02 | 5,606,094 |
| 2002-03 | 5,252,287 |
| 2003-04 | 5,534,515 |
| 2004-05 | 7,892,543 |
| 2005-06 | 8,903,522 |
| 2006-07 | 10,603,607 |
| 2007-08 | 12,852,736 |

### Domestic Violence

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the long-term funding of independent domestic violence advisers in *(a)* Hampshire and *(b)* England and Wales. [231626]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* The Government are committed to contributing towards funding independent domestic violence adviser (IDVA) services with funds derived from the victims surcharge. In 2008-09 125 IDVA services were allocated grants including the 104 services supporting the specialist domestic violence courts. This includes four sites in Hampshire at Alton, Andover, Portsmouth and Southampton. The Government also allocated funding in 2008-09 to Government offices for the expansion of IDVA services (and multi-agency risk assessment conferences) locally and anticipates that funding will be made available again in 2009-10.

### Drinking Banning Orders

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of implementing drinking banning orders, including funding transfers to other departments. [232898]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Impact Assessment in respect of drinking banning orders (DBOs) is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ria-violent-crime-bill-cov-0605/

The administrative costs of DBOs are assumed to be equivalent of an ASBO; £5 million to £30 million. The custodial costs of a DBO are lower (than an ASBO) since the shorter DBOs are assumed to have fewer breaches. This is estimated to be £0.5 million to £2.5 million or £2 million to £10 million, if the increased number requires new prison places to be constructed. This assumes an equal mix of two, six and 12-month DBOs. The additional construction costs are not expected to be necessary as the total impact is expected to be less than 100 prison places. Even this scenario allows for six times more DBOs than there are currently ASBOs.

This implies total costs in the range of £5.5 million to £32.5 million. These estimates do not take into account the possible impacts on the profits of businesses who may lose revenue from banned drinkers.

The production of the Impact Assessment pre-dates the creation of the Ministry of Justice, and therefore there is no separate costing for this Department.

## Driving Offences: Fines

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicle owners were fined for having a vehicle on the public roads without a valid MOT certificate in the last 12 months. [234649]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice cannot separately identify the specific offence of driving a vehicle without a valid MOT certificate. The following table shows the total number of fines imposed at magistrates courts for all vehicle test offences. Data for 2007 are expected to be published at the end of November this year.

As vehicle test offences are also dealt with by the police with the issue of a fixed penalty notice, data on the number issued in 2006 are also included in the table.

*Total number of court imposed fines[1] at magistrates courts and fixed penalty notices[2] issued by the police for vehicle test offences[3], England and Wales, 2006[4,5,6,7]*

| | Total |
|---|---|
| Number of court imposed fines | 51,332 |
| Number of penalty notices issued by the police | 2,921 |

[1] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 10 each year.
[2] Paid, i.e. no further action.
[3] Offences aiding, abetting, causing or permitting vehicle test offences (except fraud) under the Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 47(1), 51(2), 53(1) - (3), 63(1), 63(2), 67(9), 76(8), 165(3) and 175; Road Traffic (Foreign Vehicles Act 1972 s.3(1) (c); Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 Regs. 70 and 73.
[4] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences is less than complete.
[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

## Emergency Services: Radio

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many Airwave handsets have been lost in each year since introduced, broken down by organisation; [230972]

(2) how many *(a)* lost, *(b)* broken and *(c)* other airwave handsets have been disabled by Airwave Solutions Ltd in each year since the airwave handsets were introduced, broken down by police force. [231023]

**Mr. Coaker:** The number of Airwave radio terminals that have been reported lost or stolen by organisations responsible to the Secretary of State for the Home Department since 2002 is 2,699. Each year this represents a very small percentage of the terminals in circulation, for example, for 2008 the number of terminals lost or stolen is less than 1 per cent. of the estimated current terminal population. The breakdown across organisations is given in the following table. The figures for these questions have been compiled from data provided by forces.

Handsets that have been reported lost or stolen are disabled within a short period of time in accordance with a published code of practice. The total number of terminals that have been disabled is likely to be higher than the number reported lost or stolen. This is because the figures do not include broken terminals. Broken terminals are disabled; however, this figure is not held centrally.

Some terminals which are reported lost or stolen may later be found; however, these data are not collected centrally.

| *Organisation* | *Terminals lost or stolen* |
|---|---|
| *2002* | |
| Lancashire Constabulary | 4 |
| Suffolk Constabulary | 2 |
| *2003* | |
| Avon and Somerset Constabulary | 5 |
| Derbyshire Constabulary | 3 |
| Greater Manchester Police | 12 |
| Humberside Police | 3 |
| Lancashire Constabulary | 32 |
| Leicestershire Constabulary | 8 |
| Northumbria Police | 1 |
| Staffordshire Police | 1 |
| Suffolk Constabulary | 8 |
| West Mercia Constabulary | 8 |
| *2004* | |
| Avon and Somerset Constabulary | 37 |
| Bedfordshire Police | 3 |
| Cambridgeshire Constabulary | 2 |
| Cheshire Constabulary | 1 |
| Derbyshire Constabulary | 6 |
| Essex Police | 4 |
| Gloucestershire Constabulary | 40 |
| Greater Manchester Police | 96 |
| Gwent Police | 9 |

| Organisation | Terminals lost or stolen |
|---|---|
| Hertfordshire Constabulary | 7 |
| Lancashire Constabulary | 17 |
| Leicestershire Constabulary | 24 |
| North Yorkshire Police | 2 |
| Northumbria Police | 2 |
| Nottinghamshire Police | 1 |
| South Yorkshire Police | 6 |
| Suffolk Constabulary | 6 |
| Surrey Police | 5 |
| West Mercia Constabulary | 25 |
| West Yorkshire Police | 1 |
| Wiltshire Constabulary | 1 |
| *2005* | |
| Avon And Somerset Constabulary | 34 |
| Bedfordshire Police | 1 |
| Cambridgeshire Constabulary | 2 |
| Cheshire Constabulary | 3 |
| City of London Police | 1 |
| Cleveland Police | 2 |
| Derbyshire Constabulary | 1 |
| Dorset Police | 1 |
| Durham Constabulary | 1 |
| Dyfed-Powys Police | 4 |
| Essex Police | 1 |
| Gloucestershire Constabulary | 19 |
| Greater Manchester Police | 93 |
| Gwent Police | 9 |
| Hampshire Constabulary | 6 |
| Hertfordshire Constabulary | 2 |
| Humberside Police | 2 |
| Kent Police | 2 |
| Leicestershire Constabulary | 21 |
| Lincolnshire Police | 1 |
| Merseyside Police | 5 |
| Norfolk Constabulary | 8 |
| Northumbria Police | 7 |
| South Yorkshire Police | 2 |
| Suffolk Constabulary | 4 |
| Surrey Police | 19 |
| Thames Valley Police | 3 |
| West Mercia Constabulary | 22 |
| West Midlands Police | 10 |
| West Yorkshire Police | 10 |
| *2006* | |
| Avon and Somerset Constabulary | 40 |
| Cambridgeshire Constabulary | 4 |
| Cheshire Constabulary | 4 |
| City of London Police | 3 |
| Cleveland Police | 8 |
| Derbyshire Constabulary | 1 |
| Devon and Cornwall Constabulary | 9 |
| Dorset Police | 6 |
| Dyfed-Powys Police | 6 |
| Essex Police | 2 |
| Gloucestershire Constabulary | 3 |
| Greater Manchester Police | 90 |
| Gwent Police | 3 |

| Organisation | Terminals lost or stolen |
|---|---|
| Hampshire Constabulary | 1 |
| Humberside Police | 3 |
| Kent Police | 2 |
| Leicestershire Constabulary | 9 |
| Merseyside Police | 18 |
| Norfolk Constabulary | 4 |
| Northumbria Police | 3 |
| Serious and Organised Crime Agency | 1 |
| South Yorkshire Police | 6 |
| Suffolk Constabulary | 1 |
| Surrey Police | 11 |
| West Mercia Constabulary | 12 |
| West Midlands Police | 64 |
| West Yorkshire Police | 16 |
| *2007* | |
| Avon and Somerset Constabulary | 29 |
| Borders and Immigration Agency | 7 |
| Cambridgeshire Constabulary | 3 |
| Cheshire Constabulary | 5 |
| City of London Police | 3 |
| Cumbria Constabulary | 8 |
| Derbyshire Constabulary | 5 |
| Devon And Cornwall Constabulary | 6 |
| Dorset Police | 6 |
| Dyfed-Powys Police | 5 |
| Gloucestershire Constabulary | 17 |
| Greater Manchester Police | 158 |
| Gwent Police | 14 |
| Hampshire Constabulary | 1 |
| Humberside Police | 8 |
| Kent Police | 8 |
| Leicestershire Constabulary | 22 |
| Lincolnshire Police | 7 |
| Merseyside Police | 24 |
| Norfolk Constabulary | 12 |
| North Wales Police | 17 |
| Northumbria Police | 1 |
| Nottinghamshire Police | 3 |
| Serious and Organised Crime Agency | 22 |
| South Yorkshire Police | 14 |
| Suffolk Constabulary | 4 |
| Surrey Police | 23 |
| Sussex Police | 49 |
| West Mercia Constabulary | 23 |
| West Midlands Police | 111 |
| West Yorkshire Police | 26 |
| *2008* | |
| Avon and Somerset Constabulary | 21 |
| Bedfordshire Police | 2 |
| City of London Police | 7 |
| Cumbria Constabulary | 3 |
| Derbyshire Constabulary | 1 |
| Devon and Cornwall Constabulary | 5 |

| Organisation | Terminals lost or stolen |
|---|---|
| Dorset Police | 7 |
| Dyfed-Powys Police | 8 |
| Essex Police | 1 |
| Greater Manchester Police | 208 |
| Gwent Police | 4 |
| Hampshire Constabulary | 6 |
| Humberside Police | 3 |
| Kent Police | 8 |
| Lancashire Constabulary | 1 |
| Leicestershire Constabulary | 13 |
| Merseyside Police | 5 |
| Metropolitan Police Service | 556 |
| Norfolk Constabulary | 9 |
| North Wales Police | 14 |
| Northumbria Police | 1 |
| Serious and Organised Crime Agency | 5 |
| South Wales Police | 4 |
| South Yorkshire Police | 2 |
| Staffordshire Police | 2 |
| Surrey Police | 12 |
| Sussex Police | 11 |
| Thames Valley Police | 1 |
| Warwickshire Police | 1 |
| West Mercia Constabulary | 41 |
| West Midlands Police | 79 |
| West Yorkshire Police | 15 |
| Total | 2,699 |

### Essex Police Authority: Pay

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each official employed by Essex Police Authority has received in bonuses in each of the last three financial years; and what the grade of each official was. [233916]

**Mr. Coaker:** This information is not held centrally.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are used to determine whether staff employed by Essex Police Authority receive a bonus; and if she will make a statement. [233917]

**Mr. Coaker:** This information is not held centrally.

### Fixed Penalties: Cycling

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices were issued for offences committed on pedal cycles in each of the last three years, broken down by police force area. [236188]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Fixed Penalties: Proof of Identity

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who received a fixed penalty notice in the last three years were later found to have given *(a)* a false address and *(b)* an incorrect address to the relevant authorities. [236066]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Greater Manchester Police: Labour Turnover

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers *(a)* were recruited to and *(b)* left Greater Manchester Police in each year since 2001. [234102]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available data are given in the following table.

*Police officer recruits[1] and leavers[2] for Greater Manchester Police (FTE)[3] from 2002-03 to 2007-08[4]*

| | Joiners | Leavers |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 113 | 106[5] |
| 2003-04 | 978 | 279 |
| 2004-05 | 233 | 316 |
| 2005-06 | 277 | 421 |
| 2006-07 | 362 | 403 |
| 2007-08 | 426 | 381 |

[1] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Includes normal retirements, medical retirements, resignations, dismissals and death but not transfers to other England and Wales forces and officers leaving after a period of secondment.

[3] Full Time Equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[4] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Data are not available prior to 2002-03.

[5] Excludes quarter one, data not available.

### Identity Cards: Biometrics

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of records against which each biometric taken for the purpose of enrolment in the identity card scheme will need to be checked when the scheme is fully rolled out. [219762]

**Meg Hillier:** It is our intention to conduct checks on individual biometrics when people enrol, against those of other people who have previously enrolled.

The number of people eventually enrolled in the scheme will depend on the take up of identity cards, but the Identity and Passport Service currently holds some 43 million active passport records.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the process of verification of an individual's biometric identifiers for the identity card scheme will check the biometric against a local copy held on the card or against the biometric stored on the National Identity Register. [219764]

**Meg Hillier:** Verification checks of biometrics identifiers will be made against the card in most cases using the biometrics stored in the chip, for example if the facial image or fingerprint biometrics are verified as part of an immigration check at the border. Only in specific circumstances, for example if an ID card has been lost, would verification of identity take place against the biometrics held on the National Identity Register. Such checks will provide a very secure and reliable means of proving identity.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of false matches likely if fingerprint biometrics alone are used for the biometric verification for the identity card scheme after the enrolment of *(a)* one million, *(b)* six million, *(c)* 40 million and *(d)* 60 million individuals. [219765]

**Meg Hillier:** The Identity and Passport Service is still in the process of procurement of specific biometric systems, hence we are unable to give an estimate of false matches that may occur. In the event of an uncertain fingerprint match the scheme will make use of human fingerprint experts to resolve uncertain fingerprint matches from the automated fingerprint matching system.

This procedure is used in all large-scale fingerprint systems to control false matches and the process will apply irrespective of the size of the database.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what response she has made to the views expressed in the annual report for 2007 from the Biometrics Assurance Group on exception handling and fingerprint biometrics of the over 75 year olds for the purposes of the identity card scheme. [224278]

**Meg Hillier** *[holding answer 12 September 2008]:* Responses were only made to the specific recommendations of the Biometrics Assurance Group and as no specific recommendation was made regarding exception handling or the collection of fingerprint biometrics for the elderly, no comment was made.

### Independent Police Complaints Commission

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recommendations of the Independent Police Complaints Commission have not been implemented in each of the last five years; what the reason was in each case; and if she will make a statement; [233899]

(2) what the Independent Police Complaints Commission's (IPCCs) target is for conclusion of investigation of a complaint against the police from the date of registration of the complaint; what the average time taken per case has been since the IPCC was set; and if she will make a statement. [233910]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office does not hold the information requested. This is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

### Independent Police Complaints Commission: Finance

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department provided to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in each of the last three years; what recent discussions she has had with the IPCC about future funding; and if she will make a statement. [233909]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office has provided the following amounts towards the funding of the Independent Police Complaints Commission in the last three years:

| | *Amounts provided towards funding (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 31.2 |
| 2007-08 | 32.2 |
| 2008-09 | 34.2 |

We continue to work closely with the IPCC to ensure that they are sufficiently funded both now and in the future to achieve their objectives while ensuring value for money and appropriate efficiency and effectiveness.

### Police National Missing Person Bureau

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the Police National Missing Person Bureau; and if she will make a statement. [234476]

**Mr. Coaker:** The National Policing Improvement Agency's (NPIA) Missing Persons Bureau has been developing its services to police forces, partners and stakeholders. This includes examining the protocols for the capture, storage and matching of DNA in missing persons' cases, and work with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) on their Action Plan on Young Runaways, launched in June 2008. The Bureau has a change programme with over 40 enhancements designed to develop its response to missing person investigations.

A new national child rescue alert system is being developed and will enable the Bureau to launch United Kingdom-wide alerts and to participate in launching cross-border alerts with other European Union (EU) member states.

The Bureau is involved in an EU-sponsored (Justice and Home Affairs Council) joint Anglo-French alert exercise to determine if a national scheme is viable for the United Kingdom and test a hypothesis of how such a scheme might work.

The Bureau is currently liaising with the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (USA) and with four EU member states in this development programme.

A review is currently being carried out of the state of 'unidentified body' cases within forces and encouraging forensic reviews. Work is also being done to establish an effective DNA strategy for missing persons' enquiries and the Bureau is developing its IT system (Hermes) to enable automatic and electronic transfer of data from police forces to the Bureau and onwards to the charity Missing People.

One of the key future priorities for the Bureau is the development of a code of practice to create a national 'picture' of missing people. A code will generate accurate and timely data to enable the new national indicator on runaways as part of the National Indicator Set for 2009-2010. This indicator (NI71) is designed to secure effective joint working between children's services, the police and other local partners to ensure that necessary data about young runaways is collected, analysed and used to assist in safeguarding children. This code of practice has been drafted and consultation ends on November 21.

A co-hosted event with the charity Missing People will be held in April 2009 to raise awareness and to share best practice.

### Police Patrolling

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours were spent on patrol by police officers in each police force area in each year since 1997. [234106]

**Mr. Coaker:** It is not possible to answer this question except at disproportionate cost.

### Police: Bureaucracy

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours were spent on paperwork or administrative duties by police officers in each police force area in each year since 1997. [234107]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Police: Complaints

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what courts completed proceedings against police officers from Essex have taken place in each year since 1997. [233915]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been informed by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform that the data held centrally on court proceedings do not contain information about the circumstances behind each case, beyond the description provided in the statute under which prosecutions are brought.

It is therefore not possible to identify the occupation of a defendant who has been prosecuted or convicted of a criminal offence. As a result the information requested on court proceedings is not available.

**Sir John Stanley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what publications have been made available to the general public setting out the statutory police complaint procedure; by whom these publications have been published; and if she will place copies of each publication in the Library. [234974]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), which has a guardianship role for the police complaints system under the Police Reform Act 2002, sets out on its website details of the complaints and appeals procedures at:

http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/index.htm

It also produces advice in hard copy and I am arranging for copies to be placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many complaints have been referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in *(a)* England and *(b)* Essex since the IPCC was established, broken down by police force; and how many have been upheld in each case; [233911]

(2) what complaints to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) have been upheld since the establishment of the IPCC; what steps were taken in each case by the relevant police force to implement the relevant recommendations; and if she will make a statement; [233912]

(3) how many complaints have been made against police officers in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex in each year since 1997; and what action has been taken against each of the officers concerned when complaints have been upheld. [233914]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office does not hold the information requested. This is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

### Police: Crime

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many serving police officers have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of a criminal offence in each month since June 2007, broken down by (i) sex, (ii) age and (iii) police force; and how many of those convicted were (A) suspended from duty, (B) demoted, (C) dismissed and (D) cautioned. [233900]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been informed by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform that the data held centrally on court proceedings do not contain information about the circumstances behind each case, beyond the description provided in the statute under which prosecutions are brought.

It is therefore not possible to identify the occupation of a defendant who has been prosecuted or convicted of a criminal offence. As a result the information requested on court proceedings is not available.

### Police: Enfield

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in the London Borough of Enfield in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [234580]

**Mr. Coaker:** Police service strength data have been centrally collected at the Basic Command Unit (BCU) level from 2003 onwards.

As at 31 March 2003 there were 490 full-time equivalent police officers in the Enfield BCU, increasing to 546 as at 31 March 2008.

As at 31 March 1997 there were 26,677 full-time equivalent police officers in the Metropolitan Police force, increasing to 31,014 as at 31 March 2008.

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours per day on average police officers in the London Borough of Enfield spent on patrol in the latest period for which figures are available. [234581]

**Mr. Coaker:** Data on officer activity are not collected centrally for individual boroughs.

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers, *(b)* police constables, *(c)* police sergeants and *(d)* police community support officers were working in the London borough of Enfield in each year since 1997. [235436]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available data are given in the following table. Enfield is a Basic Command Unit (BCU) within the Metropolitan Police. Police personnel statistics were not collected at BCU level until 2002-03 and are not collected by rank of officer.

*Police officer strength (FTE)[1] and police community support officer strength (FTE)[1] for the Basic Command Unit of Enfield[2]*

| | *Officers* | *PCSOs* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 490 | |
| 2004 | 538 | |
| 2005 | 575 | |
| 2006 | 560 | |
| 2007[3] | 582 | 119 |
| 2008 | 546 | 134 |

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[2] Figures as at 31 March in each of the given years.
[3] 2006-07 is the first year that that police community support officer strength by Basic Command Unit has been collected centrally.

**Police: Recruitment**

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were recruited in England in each year since 2005-06. [234158]

**Mr. Coaker:** The number of full-time equivalent police officer recruits in England for the requested financial years only are given as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 6,235 |
| 2006-07 | 6,250 |
| 2007-08 | 5,512 |

Recruits include those officers joining as Police Standard Direct Recruits and those who were previously special constables. This excludes police officers on transfers from other forces and those rejoining.

**Shoplifting: Fines**

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the monetary value of the default fine issued under a fixed penalty notice is for the offence of shoplifting goods of under £200 in value. [235046]

**Maria Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The fine for non-payment of a Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) issued for shoplifting is £120.

Under the PND Scheme police can issue an £80 fixed penalty for shoplifting of goods under £200. The recipient has 21 days in which either to pay the penalty or have their case heard in court. If no action is taken, a fine of one and half times the penalty amount is registered by the courts. PNDs are issued for thefts of value of more than £100 exceptionally and normally where the goods have been recovered.

**Speed Limits: Cameras**

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many local authority CCTV cameras use her Department's automatic number plate recognition system. [235020]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** This information is not held centrally as it is a matter for individual police forces and local authorities.

The Home Office provided £32.5 million from the Home Office 2005-06 capital investment to develop the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) at the national, regional and local level. Consequently, it was a decision for police forces and their partners to decide how best to facilitate the linkages between ANPR and closed circuit television (CCTV) systems according to local policing needs.

**Surveillance: Telecommunications**

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether representatives of the interceptions of communications commissioner undertake inspections of local authorities. [235089]

**Mr. Coaker:** Representatives of the interception of communications commissioner's office are responsible for inspecting those local authorities which make use of the communications data provisions within the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

**Terrorism**

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many charges brought against the individuals at, or awaiting, trial for terrorism-related offences referred to in the Report on the Operation in 2007 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and Part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006, by Lord Carlile of Berriew QC, have since been dropped; [231612]

(2) how many charges brought for offences under anti-terrorism legislation committed in the United Kingdom, excluding Northern Ireland, *(a)* between 11 September 2001 and 31 March 2007 and *(b)* since 31 March 2007 have been dropped. [231613]

**Mr. Coaker:** We are unable to provide the information requested.

The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Office are currently working with the National Coordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data relating to those arrested, charged, convicted and imprisoned under terrorist legislation and under other legislation but considered terrorist related. As soon as this is complete a Statistical Bulletin covering this information will be published by the Home Office.

This Statistical Bulletin will include figures from 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008 showing the number of people charged and convicted of terrorism related

offences and the charge to conviction ratio. The remaining figure will therefore reflect those individuals not convicted whose case resulted in an alternative outcome. It is currently not possible to separately identify those individuals whose case has not been proceeded with, those acquitted and those at or awaiting trial.

### Terrorism: Arrests

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted in respect of (i) offences under the Terrorism Acts 2000 and 2006 and (ii) offences otherwise involving terrorism in each year since 2000 were foreign nationals; how many of them were (A) EU and (B) non-EU nationals; and what proportion of all terrorist offenders each category represents. [234350]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* We are unable to provide the information requested.

The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Office are currently working with the National Coordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data relating to those arrested, charged, convicted and imprisoned under terrorist legislation and under other legislation but considered terrorist related. As soon as this is complete a Statistical Bulletin covering this information will be published by the Home Office.

This Statistical Bulletin will provide a nationality breakdown of terrorist related prisoners, as at 31 March 2008, including individuals in prison either on remand and/or convicted, however, we are unable to provide this breakdown for all of those arrested.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days after arrest the evidence used to prosecute was available for all people convicted of offences under anti-terrorism legislation, who were held for more than 14 days before charge in the last three years. [235536]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* No one who has been held for more than 14 days has yet to be convicted although a number of cases are awaiting trial.

### Terrorism: Criminal Proceedings

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many of the individuals at or awaiting trial for terrorism-related offences referred to in the Report on the Operation in 2007 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and Part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006 by Lord Carlile of Berriew QC have been tried; and what the outcome was in each case where legal proceedings have been completed; [230471]

(2) how many of the charges brought for terrorism-related offences in the United Kingdom, excluding Northern Ireland, between 11 September 2001 and 31 March 2007 proceeded to trial; and what the outcome was in each case where legal proceedings have been completed; [230472]

(3) how many charges have been brought for offences under anti-terrorism legislation committed in the United Kingdom excluding Northern Ireland since 31st March 2007; how many such charges proceeded to trial; and what the outcome was in each case where legal proceedings have been completed. [230473]

**Mr. Coaker:** We are unable to provide the information requested.

The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Office are currently working with the National Coordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data relating to those arrested, charged, convicted and imprisoned under terrorist legislation and under other legislation but considered terrorist related. As soon as this is complete a Statistical Bulletin covering this information will be published by the Home Office.

This Statistical Bulletin will include figures from 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008 showing the number of people charged and convicted of terrorism related offences and the charge to conviction ratio. The remaining figure will therefore reflect those individuals not convicted whose case resulted in an alternative outcome. It is currently not possible to separately identify those individuals whose case has not been proceeded with, those acquitted and those at or awaiting trial.

### Theft: Sheep

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of measures it has taken to prevent sheep rustling in the last five years. [235365]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* Sheep rustling is a crime and is covered under the Theft Act 1968. The Government's Crime Strategy has now moved away from centrally imposed targets toward making local agencies accountable and responsive to the needs and priorities of the local community. Where sheep rustling emerges as a pressing local issue there is a local framework in place for local police forces and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to devote resources to tackling this crime.

The Home Office has recently presented a Tilley Award for innovation to a partnership between the police and industry in the Glens of Antrim, Northern Ireland, which tackled theft of sheep. This project used new technology to identify individual sheep through retinal scanning. It is reported that this has been very effective in the area in reducing the number of sheep stolen and assisting in successful prosecution. The Home Office has made no other assessment of sheep rustling.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Child Minders

16. **Mr. Lilley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the supply of child minders of requiring them to be subject to inspection by Ofsted. [235771]

**Beverley Hughes:** Ofsted has been inspecting child minders since 2001. There is no evidence to suggest that Ofsted inspection has had any impact on the supply of child minders.

Ofsted inspects all child care providers to ensure that they comply with current requirements. In the three years up to March 2008 97 per cent. of the 35,800 child minders inspected were found to be satisfactory or better with 61 per cent. judged good or outstanding.

### School Standards

19. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to support the programme by secondary school head teachers in Northamptonshire to raise educational standards in their schools. [235774]

**Beverley Hughes:** Standards in Northamptonshire have improved at key stage 4. Compared to 2007, the percentage of pupils achieving five good GCSEs has risen by 3.7 percentage points to 58.8 per cent. Taking account of English and mathematics, performance is up by three percentage points to 45.1 per cent.

Discussions have taken place with Northamptonshire local authority to agree the level of support for each of their National Challenge schools. National Challenge Advisers will begin work with individual schools this month.

### National Challenge Programme

20. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress is being made in schools within the national challenge programme; and if he will make a statement. [235775]

**Jim Knight:** Since the National Challenge was announced in June we have been working with local authorities to develop bespoke plans to secure improvement at individual school level. We have now agreed National Challenge funding for 48 local authorities amounting to over £20 million which my right hon. Friend announced last week and are working to agree funding for the remainder with schools in the National Challenge. The sum announced includes £549,000 for secondary schools in Bristol.

### Post-16 Education

21. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what advice is provided to students at secondary school on post-16 education; and who provides this advice. [235776]

**Jim Knight:** We expect schools to provide young people with impartial advice on post-16 education that reflects the interests and needs of the individual. Young people also have access, from the age of 13, to local, independent external information, advice and guidance services delivered under the Connexions brand and to national, confidential online and telephone-based information and advice provided under the Connexions Direct brand.

### Children's Trusts

22. **Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's assessment is of the changes in outcomes for children since the establishment of children's trusts. [235777]

**Beverley Hughes:** DCSF uses a range of evidence to assess children's outcomes, including the Every Child Matters outcomes framework. This contains 106 indicators, around half of which measure aspects of the quality of children's lives and the remaining half measure the quality of services provided to children. Key improvements over the period have been:

The conception rate of 15 to 17-year-old girls fell from 43 per 1,000 in 2004 to 41 in 2006;

Stability of care for looked after children has improved;

The number of schools with less than 30 per cent. of pupils with five A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths fell from 1,100 in 2003 to 638 in 2007 and record levels of educational attainment;

Increases in the number of five-year-olds achieving a good level of development as evidenced by 2008 foundation stage positive results, and reducing the gap between the 20 per cent. lowest achieving children and the rest.

### Academies

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for development of the academies programme. [235767]

**Jim Knight:** The Government are committed to continuing to develop the academies programme and establishing at least 400 academies nationwide. In addition to the 130 now open, four are projected to open in January 2009, up to 80 in September 2009 and up to a further 100 in 2010.

### Youth Facilities

**Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department plans to provide for youth facilities in Gateshead East and Washington, West constituency in the next three years. [235772]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department has allocated a total of £1.7 million through the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) to Gateshead and Sunderland local authorities for investment in youth facilities over the period 2008-11. YCF gives young people control over funding decisions for new facilities in their area, which has a genuine influence on empowering young people, their participation in positive activities, as well as the quality of provision on offer. In addition, over the next three years, all local areas will have the opportunity to bid for, and benefit from, £190 million of Government capital investment through myplace. myplace is being delivered by the Big Lottery Fund, and will fund world class youth facilities n cross-sector partnership, driven by the active participation of young people and their views and needs, through individual grants of £1 to 5 million.

## Bullying

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what additional measures he has considered to reduce the incidence of bullying in schools; and if he will make a statement. [235773]

**Beverley Hughes:** We have a comprehensive strategy in place. Our guidance, 'Safe To Learn', advises schools on tackling bullying related to ethnicity, sexuality, disability and cyberbullying. We are funding the Anti-Bullying Alliance and National Strategies to ensure this work is embedded in schools.

Our future plans include developing our Peer Mentoring pilots, publishing guidance covering bullying outside school, bullying of school staff and bullying related to gender and gender identity, and re-launching our campaign against cyberbullying.

## Contact Orders

**Mr. Ian Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to implement the provisions in Part 1 of the Children and Adoption Act 2006 relating to new powers for the courts to order contact activities and new enforcement powers. [233314]

**Beverley Hughes:** The implementation of the remaining provisions in Part 1 of the Children and Adoption Act 2006, sections 1 to 5 and 8, relating to new powers for the courts to order contact activities and new enforcement powers were announced on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 22WS. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice has made a written ministerial statement, outlining that the provisions will come into force on 8 December. The new arrangements will extend to England and Wales and have been agreed by Welsh Assembly Government Deputy Minister for Social Services, Gwenda Thomas.

## Primary Education: Per Capita Costs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average funding per primary school pupil was in *(a)* England and *(b)* Somerset in (i) 1979-80 and (ii) 1996-97. [236346]

**Jim Knight:** The available information on the net institutional funding per nursery and primary pupils in 1996-97 are (a) £1,730 and (b) £1,644. The figures are in cash terms. There are no comparable figures available for 1979-80.

## Schools: Discipline

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what programmes provide funding to schools to deal with *(a)* behaviour and *(b)* inclusion matters; and how much funding is available under each programme in 2008-09. [235364]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* The main sources of funding for schools are Dedicated Schools Grant and School Development Grant. It is for schools to determine how much of these sources of funding they then spend on behaviour and inclusion, in the light of local priorities and schools' statutory duty to use their best endeavours to make the necessary provision for children with special educational needs.

In addition, the Department maintains a small number of centrally funded programmes which impact on behaviour in schools. Many of these programmes aim to improve school attendance as well as behaviour and it is not possible to disaggregate what is spent on each element. The main such programmes are:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| Behaviour and attendance central co-ordination[1] | 13.9 |
| National Strategies targeted support in schools | 5.4 |
| Social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL) | 10.6 |
| Tackling bullying in schools | 3.1 |
| Alternative Provision pilots[2] | 1.4 |
| Skillforce | 0.9 |
| Day 6 provision for suitable full-time education for excluded pupils[3] | 10.0 |
| A range of small programmes providing support for parents, and guidance on various aspects of school behaviour and attendance | 1.8 |
| Total | 47.1 |

[1] Standards Fund resources mainly to pay for local authority behaviour and attendance consultants

[2] Children's Plan

[3] £16 million of which £10 million is for schools and £6 million is for LAs included in the Dedicated Schools Grant

## Schools: Standards

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to improve *(a)* standards of cleaning in schools and *(b)* the quality of classroom furniture. [236058]

**Jim Knight:** School cleanliness is the responsibility of the head teacher and governors and the local authority where they are the employer. The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 Regulation 9 and the Approved Code of Practice on the regulations issued by the Health and Safety Executive cover cleanliness. More specifically "Toilets in Schools" a recent departmental document on Teachernet makes clear the importance of well designed and well maintained facilities so that pupils can and will make regular use of them. The Government have made a number of steps. The BSF Furniture and Equipment (F & E) brief aims to encourage schools and bidders to recognise the role furniture can play within the transformational agenda. As part of this aim, it will make clear the expectations for furniture such as the need for improved strength and stability criteria as set out in part 2 of the new European standard EN1729. It is also proposed to include the ergonomic requirements of EN1729 part 1. A 30-month research project the Department has recently commissioned into the accommodation implications of personalised learning will examine the role furniture can play in ensuring flexible layouts. The Department has also published a website which gives ergonomic dimensions for furniture in order that designers have the most up-to-date data from which to work on new designs. Quality of furniture in schools can often lie in making the right choices of furniture, the Department's website aims to ensure that schools buy appropriately sized furniture. Many of our

design guides give details on purchasing quality furniture and how to ensure it is 'fit for purpose', one of the key indicators of quality.

### Secondary Education: Admissions

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many unfilled secondary school places there were in *(a)* Wellingborough constituency and *(b)* England on the latest date for which figures are available. [235930]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department collects information annually from each local authority on the number of surplus places which exist within maintained schools, as part of the Surplus Places Survey. The most recent data available relate to the position as at January 2008.

At January 2008 the number of unfilled school places in maintained secondary schools within Wellingborough constituency was 1,022 (13 per cent.) and the number of unfilled school places in maintained secondary schools in England as a whole was 299,538 (9 per cent.).

### Young People: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce alcohol addiction amongst teenagers. [234792]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:*

The proportion of teenagers who drink regularly is falling but those who do drink are drinking a lot more. Young people who drink too much not only put their own health at risk, but are more likely to get involved in antisocial behaviour and contribute to insecurity on our streets. The Youth Alcohol Action Plan, published in June, sets out a number of actions to address the problems of young people's alcohol consumption. We will provide clearer health information for parents and young people about how consumption of alcohol, particularly at an early age, can affect children and young people. This will include the chief medical officer's guidelines on safer drinking by young people and a comprehensive communications campaign aimed at 11 to 15 year-olds to be launched in spring 2009.

In line with recommendations from an independent review of drug and alcohol education, Ministers announced on 30 October 2008 that Personal Health and Social Education (PHSE) would be made statutory subject. This would underline the key role PSHE has to play in young people's personal development.

Very few young people are addicted to alcohol but we know that a small proportion of young people do drink too much which puts them at risk of harm. DCSF are working closely with the National Treatment Agency (NTA) to continue to improve the accessibility and quality of substance misuse treatment for young people (under 18), with the aim of ensuring that effective treatment is available for any young person with alcohol problems that needs it.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Departmental Official Engagements

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the official engagements were of each Minister in his Department in the period from 6 October to 31 October 2008. [234916]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 11 November 2008]:* The following tables provide the details of official engagements for the period 6 October to 31 October 2008 attended by Ministers in his Department.

*Minister: James Purnell, Secretary of State*

| *Official engagement* | *Date* |
|---|---|
| Speaking at the launch of the Social Market Foundation's Mental Health and Welfare Reform Project | 8 October 2008 |
| Speaking at National Association of Pension Funds Conference | 9 October 2008 |
| Speaking at Jobcentre Plus National Conference | 9 October 2008 |
| Speaking at Acevo Lecture Series—Capturing Public Services for the Citizen | 21 October 2008 |
| Speaking at Help the Aged Seminar on "Unequal Ageing" | 21 October 2008 |
| Visit—Falkirk Child Support Agency Centre | 23 October 2008 |
| Speaking at Welfare Reform Consultation Event | 24 October 2008 |
| Visit—Glyndwr University | 30 October 2008 |
| Visit—Rhyl Football Club | 30 October 2008 |

*Minister: Tony McNulty, Minister of State Employment and Welfare Reform*

| *Official engagement* | *Date* |
|---|---|
| National Crime Reduction Board Meeting | 9 October 2008 |
| Speech at Jobcentre Plus Conference | 9 October 2008 |
| Consultation Event on Welfare Reform Drugs Strategy | 13 October 2008 |
| Speech at End Child Poverty Parliamentary Reception | 15 October 2008 |
| UK Drug Policy Commission Roundtable Event | 21 October 2008 |
| Employers Roundtable Welfare Reform Consultation Event | 22 October 2008 |
| Speech at Capita Conference—Neighbourhood Management | 23 October 2008 |
| Speech at launch of AACS Prospectus | 29 October 2008 |

*Minister: Rosie Winterton, Minister of State for Pensions and Aging Society*

| *Official engagement* | *Date* |
|---|---|
| Speech at NAPF conference | 9 October 2008 |
| Speech at National Council on Ageing | 9 October 2008 |
| Speech at ILC intergenerational Research Conference | 9 October 2008 |
| Visit to Age Concern to celebrate 5th Anniversary of Pension Credit | 13 October 2008 |
| Visit and speech at Derbyshire Older people Advisory group | 17 October 2008 |
| Better Government for Older People event—opening address | 27 October 2008 |
| Opening of Unite Headquarters | 20 October 2008 |

*Minister: Kitty Ussher, Parliamentary Under Secretary*

| *Official engagement* | *Date* |
|---|---|
| Financial Inclusion Task force | 21 October 2008 |
| Social Housing and Worklessness | 23 October 2008 |
| SMI | 29 October 2008 |

*Minister: Jonathan Shaw, Minister for Disabled People*

| *Official engagement* | *Date* |
|---|---|
| Welfare Reform Green Paper Visit-Edinburgh International Conference Centre | 9 October 2008 |
| RBLI | 10 October 2008 |
| Welfare Reform Consultation—Mental Health, Westminster Mind | 15 October 2008 |
| Dering Employment Services, 96 Park lane | 21 October 2008 |
| University of Greenwich AT Medway | 22 October 2008 |
| Disability and Paralympics Summit | 30 October 2008 |

*Minister: Lord Bill McKenzie, Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Lords*

| *Official engagement* | *Date* |
|---|---|
| Social Market Foundation Mental Health Seminar | 8 October 2008 |
| Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Awards | 8 October 2008 |
| HSE Worker involvement in health and safety conference | 14 October 2008 |
| Fit for Work Seminar, Workplace Potential Limited | 15 October 2008 |
| In and out of work project launch | 16 October 2008 |
| Quarry Product Association Annual Awards | 18 October 2008 |
| Visit to RoSPA Learning about safety centre | 18 October 2008 |
| HSE Working Together conference | 20 October 2008 |
| Fitch Ratings Insurance Roadshow | 23 October 2008 |
| Visit to Oil and Gas UK | 24 October 2008 |
| GlaxoSmithKline Enterprise for Health conference | 30 October 2008 |

## Departmental Pensions

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229522]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The current numbers of Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies' staff who are members of the Principal Civil Service Pensions Scheme are as follows:

| *Scheme* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Classic | 84,010 | 72.78 |
| *(b)* Classic Plus | 2,516 | 2.18 |
| *(c)* Nuvos | 4,263 | 3.69 |
| *(d)* Premium | 21,017 | 18.21 |

## Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy in 2007-08. [228098]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department for Work and Pensions has incurred expenditure in 2007-08 on the following individual areas:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Entertainment | 50 |
| *(b)* Advertising and promotion | 9,179 |
| *(c)* Public relations consultancy | 1,097 |
| Total expenditure | 10,326 |

All expenditure on entertainment, which falls within the classification 'Hospitality' is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

## Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its Executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [226804]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Over a period of four years, April 2004 to March 2008, the Department for Work and Pensions has, on average, recruited 8,200 new employees per year. The bulk of the new employees are recruited by Jobcentre Plus on behalf of both itself and other parts of the Department. The Department during the same period recruited, on average, 75 new employees per year into either the senior civil service, or into specialist or professional roles. In respect of these recruitments, the Department operates a framework agreement under which five suppliers have been selected to provide recruitment consultancy services. The suppliers are Hays, Capita, Assessment and Development Ltd., PricewaterhouseCoopers and Water for Fish.

The Department is also able to draw on a number of other suppliers from a framework agreement operated by the Cabinet Office for senior civil service recruitment. The suppliers in question are Rockpools, Moloney Search, Strategic Dimensions, Gatenby Sanderson, Egon Zehnder, Saxton Bampfylde Hever, Veredus, Hays, Penna, Whitehead Mann, Hoggart Bowers and Odgers Ray and Berndtson.

The amount spent on recruitment consultants are given as follows. Information for 20003-04 and 2004-05 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 1,036,114 |
| 2006-07 | 1,107,158 |
| 2007-08 | 1,102,979 |

The aforementioned figures include the cost of recruitment advertising where that has been procured by the consultants concerned. Information on other recruitment advertising could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the initial traffic light status of each project in his Department and its agencies which has been the subject of a gateway review was. [226197]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Gateway reports, including the findings and status, are conducted on a confidential basis for senior responsible owners (SROs). We do not make this information routinely public.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has considered changing its 084 telephone advice lines to 03 numbers; and if he will make a statement. [236167]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Our ambition is to provide our customers with straight forward and low cost access to our services, and our approach to the use of telephony numbers is based on that principle.

We have considered whether it would be better for our customers to switch to the use of 03xx but we believe that the use of 0800 and 0845 continues to provide the solution which is, on balance, most advantageous to our customers as a whole.

### Deprivation Indicators

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the index of deprivation is in each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales. [234938]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

The following tables list the codes for the least and most deprived lower super output areas in the principal seaside towns in England, on the overall measure of multiple deprivation and across the seven domains of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007. Information on deprivation in Welsh towns can be obtained from the Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Directorate.

| | | *IMD* | | *Income* | | *Employment* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Town* | *LA name* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* |
| Blackpool | Blackpool | E01012721 | E01012718 | E01012721 | E01012717 | E01012721 | E01012717 |
| Bognor Regis | Arun | E01031456 | E01031383 | E01031429 | E01031412 | E01031456 | E01031392 |
| Bournemouth | Bournemouth | E01015282 | E01015315 | E01015282 | E01015319 | E01015282 | E01015319 |
| Bridlington | East Riding of Yorkshire | E01012948 | E01013093 | E01012946 | E01013088 | E01012944 | E01013012 |
| Brighton | Brighton and Hove | E01016947 | E01016984 | E01016865 | E01016984 | E01016942 | E01016899 |
| Burnham-on-Sea | Sedgemoor | E01029106 | E01029104 | E01029106 | E01029128 | E01029112 | E01029128 |
| Clacton | Tendring | E01021988 | E01022005 | E01021988 | E01022013 | E01021988 | E01022013 |
| Dawlish/Teignmouth | Teignbridge | E01020272 | E01020239 | E01020272 | E01020242 | E01020228 | E01020242 |
| Deal | Dover | E01024240 | E01024233 | E01024240 | E01024233 | E01024199 | E01024238 |
| Eastbourne | Eastbourne | E01020912 | E01020933 | E01020923 | E01020946 | E01020911 | E01020933 |
| Exmouth | East Devon | E01019914 | E01019931 | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019914 | E01019964 |
| Falmouth | Carrick | E01018841 | E01018848 | E01018841 | E01018816 | E01018841 | E01018827 |
| Folkestone/Hythe | Shepway | E01024504 | E01024523 | E01024507 | E01024523 | E01024506 | E01024519 |
| Great Yarmouth | Great Yarmouth | E01026625 | E01026587 | E01026625 | E01026587 | E01026625 | E01026587 |
| Hastings/Bexhill | Hastings | E01020972 | E01020970 | E01020972 | E01020970 | E01020972 | E01020987 |
| Ilfracombe | North Devon | E01020112 | E01020090 | E01020103 | E01020133 | E01020112 | E01020133 |
| Isle of Wight | Isle of Wight | E01017332 | E01017352 | E01017345 | E01017293 | E01017336 | E01017302 |
| Lowestoft | Waveney | E01030258 | E01030284 | E01030258 | E01030288 | E01030258 | E01030292 |
| Minehead | West Somerset | E01029344 | E01029331 | E01029344 | E01029342 | E01029344 | E01029338 |
| Morecambe/Heysham | Lancaster | E01025110 | E01025146 | E01025156 | E01025105 | E01025110 | E01025105 |
| Newquay | Restormel | E01019056 | E01019017 | E01019056 | E01019017 | E01019033 | E01019016 |
| Penzance | Penwith | E01018997 | E01018985 | E01018997 | E01019011 | E01018997 | E01019011 |
| Scarborough | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027844 | E01027874 | E01027855 | E01027847 | E01027857 |
| Sidmouth | East Devon | E01019914 | E01019931 | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019914 | E01019964 |
| Skegness | East Lindsey | E01026093 | E01026063 | E01026083 | E01026063 | E01026093 | E01026061 |
| Southend-on-Sea | Southend-on-Sea | E01015842 | E01015908 | E01015842 | E01015914 | E01015842 | E01015830 |
| Southport | Sefton | E01007007 | E01006985 | E01007007 | E01006991 | E01007007 | E01006985 |
| St. Ives | East Dorset | E01020393 | E01020377 | E01020393 | E01020377 | E01020394 | E01020409 |
| St. Ives | Penwith | E01018997 | E01018985 | E01018997 | E01019011 | E01018997 | E01019011 |
| Swanage | Purbeck | E01020489 | E01020470 | E01020472 | E01020470 | E01020485 | E01020470 |
| Thanet | Thanet | E01024678 | E01024708 | E01024678 | E01024650 | E01024678 | E01024689 |
| Torbay | Torbay | E01015217 | E01015208 | E01015257 | E01015208 | E01015217 | E01015251 |
| Weston-super-Mare | North Somerset | E01014831 | E01014798 | E01014831 | E01014793 | E01014801 | E01014791 |
| Weymouth | Weymouth and Portland | E01020554 | E01020558 | E01020552 | E01020559 | E01020554 | E01020558 |

| | | IMD | | Income | | Employment | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Town | LA name | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA |
| Whitby | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027844 | E01027874 | E01027855 | E01027847 | E01027857 |
| Whitley Bay | North Tyneside | E01008485 | E01008523 | E01008485 | E01008563 | E01008485 | E01008548 |
| Whitstable/Herne Bay | Canterbury | E01024080 | E01024056 | E01024061 | E01024051 | E01024080 | E01024051 |
| Worthing | Worthing | E01031819 | E01031824 | E01031819 | E01031824 | E01031811 | E01031824 |

| | | Health & Disability | | Education, Skills & Training | | Barriers to Housing & Services | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Town | LA name | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA |
| Blackpool | Blackpool | E01012721 | E01012718 | E01012720 | E01012722 | E01012704 | E01012725 |
| Bognor Regis | Arun | E01031456 | E01031389 | E01031429 | E01031416 | E01031392 | E01031464 |
| Bournemouth | Bournemouth | E01015282 | E01015319 | E01015313 | E01015344 | E01015370 | E01015335 |
| Bridlington | East Riding of Yorkshire | E01012948 | E01013088 | E01013002 | E01013070 | E01012981 | E01012999 |
| Brighton | Brighton and Hove | E01016942 | E01016983 | E01016915 | E01017001 | E01016899 | E01016961 |
| Burnham-on-Sea | Sedgemoor | E01029132 | E01029128 | E01029106 | E01029147 | E01029147 | E01029127 |
| Clacton | Tendring | E01022025 | E01021978 | E01021988 | E01021987 | E01021974 | E01022035 |
| Dawlish/Teignmouth | Teignbridge | E01020228 | E01020194 | E01020212 | E01020274 | E01020259 | E01020265 |
| Deal | Dover | E01024215 | E01024233 | E01024240 | E01024211 | E01024249 | E01024221 |
| Eastbourne | Eastbourne | E01020920 | E01020860 | E01020923 | E01020946 | E01020958 | E01020939 |
| Exmouth | East Devon | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019938 | E01019948 |
| Falmouth | Carrick | E01018841 | E01018816 | E01018841 | E01018816 | E01018850 | E01018848 |
| Folkestone/Hythe | Shepway | E01024506 | E01024490 | E01024498 | E01024523 | E01024549 | E01024512 |
| Great Yarmouth | Great Yarmouth | E01026625 | E01026587 | E01026619 | E01026611 | E01026609 | E01026639 |
| Hastings/Bexhill | Hastings | E01020989 | E01020970 | E01020972 | E01020970 | E01020970 | E01021013 |
| Ilfracombe | North Devon | E01020112 | E01020127 | E01020103 | E01020128 | E01020100 | E01020105 |
| Isle of Wight | Isle of Wight | E01017336 | E01017351 | E01017332 | E01017316 | E01017297 | E01017344 |
| Lowestoft | Waveney | E01030258 | E01030237 | E01030277 | E01030224 | E01030285 | E01030288 |
| Minehead | West Somerset | E01029344 | E01029338 | E01029344 | E01029335 | E01029338 | E01029332 |
| Morecambe/Heysham | Lancaster | E01025110 | E01025105 | E01025156 | E01025103 | E01025132 | E01025098 |
| Newquay | Restormel | E01019041 | E01019017 | E01019055 | E01019017 | E01019060 | E01019072 |
| Penzance | Penwith | E01018997 | E01018985 | E01018997 | E01019011 | E01019006 | E01018993 |
| Scarborough | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027814 | E01027874 | E01027855 | E01027857 | E01027871 |
| Sidmouth | East Devon | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019938 | E01019948 |
| Skegness | East Lindsey | E01026073 | E01026098 | E01026083 | E01026119 | E01026082 | E01026054 |
| Southend-on-Sea | Southend-on-Sea | E01015842 | E01015908 | E01015842 | E01015908 | E01015827 | E01015910 |
| Southport | Sefton | E01007009 | E01006985 | E01007019 | E01006974 | E01007038 | E01007102 |
| St. Ives | East Dorset | E01020393 | E01020415 | E01020393 | E01020380 | E01020396 | E01020426 |
| St. Ives | Penwith | E01018997 | E01018985 | E01018997 | E01019011 | E01019006 | E01018993 |
| Swanage | Purbeck | E01020485 | E01020470 | E01020471 | E01020470 | E01020490 | E01020492 |
| Thanet | Thanet | E01024676 | E01024635 | E01024682 | E01024642 | E01024703 | E01024655 |
| Torbay | Torbay | E01015217 | E01015208 | E01015266 | E01015271 | E01015190 | E01015211 |
| Weston-super-Mare | North Somerset | E01014832 | E01014850 | E01014831 | E01014766 | E01014766 | E01014816 |
| Weymouth | Weymouth and Portland | E01020554 | E01020560 | E01020552 | E01020558 | E01020569 | E01020588 |
| Whitby | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027814 | E01027874 | E01027855 | E01027857 | E01027871 |
| Whitley Bay | North Tyneside | E01008545 | E01008546 | E01008484 | E01008563 | E01008480 | E01008546 |
| Whitstable/Herne Bay | Canterbury | E01024092 | E01024056 | E01024047 | E01024131 | E01024054 | E01024115 |
| Worthing | Worthing | E01031790 | E01031824 | E01031819 | E01031803 | E01031832 | E01031797 |

| | | Crime & Disorder | | Living Environment | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Town | LA name | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA |
| Blackpool | Blackpool | E01012736 | E01012662 | E01012673 | E01012722 |
| Bognor Regis | Arun | E01031454 | E01031458 | E01031427 | E01031383 |
| Bournemouth | Bournemouth | E01015367 | E01015315 | E01015279 | E01015315 |
| Bridlington | East Riding of Yorkshire | E01013000 | E01013122 | E01012948 | E01012939 |
| Brighton | Brighton and Hove | E01016952 | E01016998 | E01016952 | E01017008 |
| Burnham-on-Sea | Sedgemoor | E01029098 | E01029103 | E01029095 | E01029115 |
| Clacton | Tendring | E01021988 | E01022012 | E01021988 | E01022004 |
| Dawlish/Teignmouth | Teignbridge | E01020269 | E01020193 | E01020224 | E01020215 |
| Deal | Dover | E01024241 | E01024213 | E01024215 | E01024256 |
| Eastbourne | Eastbourne | E01020912 | E01020948 | E01020912 | E01020926 |

| Town | LA name | Crime & Disorder: Most deprived LSOA | Crime & Disorder: Least deprived LSOA | Living Environment: Most deprived LSOA | Living Environment: Least deprived LSOA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Exmouth | East Devon | E01019918 | E01019897 | E01019916 | E01019905 |
| Falmouth | Carrick | E01018809 | E01018827 | E01018836 | E01018813 |
| Folkestone/Hythe | Shepway | E01024504 | E01024536 | E01024504 | E01024542 |
| Great Yarmouth | Great Yarmouth | E01026626 | E01026629 | E01026626 | E01026582 |
| Hastings/Bexhill | Hastings | E01020979 | E01020971 | E01020984 | E01020995 |
| Ilfracombe | North Devon | E01020113 | E01020107 | E01020112 | E01020085 |
| Isle of Wight | Isle of Wight | E01017336 | E01017298 | E01017340 | E01017352 |
| Lowestoft | Waveney | E01030258 | E01030245 | E01030250 | E01030239 |
| Minehead | West Somerset | E01029330 | E01029327 | E01029338 | E01029331 |
| Morecambe/Heysham | Lancaster | E01025139 | E01025160 | E01025117 | E01025158 |
| Newquay | Restormel | E01019029 | E01019045 | E01019056 | E01019018 |
| Penzance | Penwith | E01018999 | E01018975 | E01019012 | E01018983 |
| Scarborough | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027834 | E01027804 | E01027855 |
| Sidmouth | East Devon | E01019918 | E01019897 | E01019916 | E01019905 |
| Skegness | East Lindsey | E01026069 | E01026098 | E01026093 | E01026085 |
| Southend-on-Sea | Southend-on-Sea | E01015841 | E01015866 | E01015852 | E01015885 |
| Southport | Sefton | E01007051 | E01007093 | E01007003 | E01006991 |
| St. Ives | East Dorset | E01020392 | E01020378 | E01020396 | E01020374 |
| St. Ives | Penwith | E01018999 | E01018975 | E01019012 | E01018983 |
| Swanage | Purbeck | E01020472 | E01020491 | E01020490 | E01020470 |
| Thanet | Thanet | E01024676 | E01024644 | E01024676 | E01024637 |
| Torbay | Torbay | E01015267 | E01015251 | E01015231 | E01015226 |
| Weston-super-Mare | North Somerset | E01014801 | E01014793 | E01014802 | E01014793 |
| Weymouth | Weymouth and Portland | E01020554 | E01020559 | E01020554 | E01020560 |
| Whitby | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027834 | E01027804 | E01027855 |
| Whitley Bay | North Tyneside | E01008584 | E01008518 | E01008572 | E01008551 |
| Whitstable/Herne Bay | Canterbury | E01024080 | E01024054 | E01024080 | E01024056 |
| Worthing | Worthing | E01031787 | E01031804 | E01031810 | E01031820 |

## Disability Living Allowance: Sight Impaired

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people with a visual impairment are receiving *(a)* the lower rate and *(b)* the higher rate of the mobility component of the disability living allowance; [229459]

(2) how many people with a visual impairment have received the *(a)* lower rate and *(b)* higher rate of the mobility component of the disability living allowance in the last 12 months. [229460]

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* blind and *(b)* partially sighted people received the mobility component of disability living allowance (i) at the higher rate and (ii) at the lower rate in each year since 1997. [229501]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It is not possible to breakdown the available data into blind and partially sighted people.

The available information is in the table.

*Disability Living Allowance claimants with a main disabling condition of blindness: Great Britain*

| As at February each year | Higher rate mobility component | Lower rate mobility component |
|---|---|---|
| 2008 | 7,800 | 58,000 |
| 2007 | 7,600 | 56,600 |
| 2006 | 7,500 | 55,000 |
| 2005 | 7,300 | 54,200 |
| 2004 | 7,500 | 52,700 |

*Disability Living Allowance claimants with a main disabling condition of blindness: Great Britain*

| As at February each year | Higher rate mobility component | Lower rate mobility component |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 7,600 | 51,200 |
| 2002 | 7,000 | 50,300 |
| 2001 | 6,200 | 48,900 |
| 2000 | 6,000 | 47,500 |
| 1999 | 6,100 | 45,600 |
| 1998 | 5,900 | 43,800 |
| 1997 | 5,800 | 41,400 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Where the claimant is eligible for both care and mobility components, the disabling condition associated with the mobility component is shown here. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.
4. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to Disability Living Allowance. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are collected only for administrative purposes.
5. Caseload figures are given as at February for each year.
6. Figures are published on the Nomis website at www.nomisweb.co.uk.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample.

Although the preferred data source for benefit statistics is 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, the 5 per cent. sample data has been used in this case because it provides some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of Disability Living Allowance claimants.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* blind and *(b)* partially sighted people living in Southend West constituency received the mobility component of disability living allowance (i) at the higher rate and (ii) at the lower rate (A) in each year since 1997 and (B) at the latest date for which information is available. [229502]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It is not possible to breakdown the available data into blind and partially sighted people.

The available information is in the table.

*Disability living allowance claimants with a main disabling condition of blindness by mobility component: Southend West parliamentary constituency*

| *Year ending* | *Higher rate mobility component* | *Lower rate mobility component* |
|---|---|---|
| February 2008 | | 60 |
| February 2007 | | 60 |
| February 2006 | | 60 |
| February 2005 | | 60 |
| February 2004 | | 70 |
| February 2003 | | 70 |
| May 2002 | | 50 |

'.' = Nil or negligible

*Notes:*

1. Although the 5 per cent. sample data would normally be used to produce tables on DLA disabling condition as it contains more complete information on disabling condition, in this case the 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study has been used. This is because for a small subset of the caseload such as those with one specific disabling condition in one parliamentary constituency, the sampling variation associated with figures produced from the 5 per cent. sample data would be such as to make the results unreliable.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures are only available from 2002.
4. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
5. Where the claimant is eligible for both care and mobility components, the disabling condition associated with the mobility component is shown here. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.
6. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to disability living allowance. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.
7. Figures are published on the Nomis website at www.nomisweb.co.uk.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will review the adequacy of the eligibility criteria for the mobility component of the disability living allowance with regard to people with visual impairments; [229821]

(2) what factors were taken into account by his Department when it was decided not to provide £30 million of funding to allow visually impaired people to claim the higher rate of mobility component of the disability living allowance. [229823]

**Jonathan Shaw:** All Government spending is subject to competing priorities. We have had very constructive discussions with the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and others on their proposal that we extend the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance to children and working age people with severe visual impairments. We understand the need to look at this important change to the arrangements for the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance. I look forward to working with RNIB to see how we could take this forward.

## Employee Assistance Programme

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of his Department's Employee Assistance Programme has been in each year since its inception; and how much has been spent on *(a)* central administration of the programme, *(b)* counsellors delivering the programme and *(c)* services supplied by accredited counsellors not employed directly by his Department. [236116]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Employee Assistance programme is a wide-ranging service designed to provide advice, guidance and support on a range of issues. This includes counselling.

The Department for Work and Pensions does not employ any counsellors. All counsellors delivering the programme are employed by the contractor. All their costs are included in the figures in the following table:

£

| *Contract year* | *Annual EAP costs* | *Central administration costs* |
|---|---|---|
| July 2005 to June 2006 | 2,770,561 | 28,054 |
| July 2006 to June 2007 | 2,723,682 | 28,929 |
| July 2007 to June 2008 | 2,488,235 | 29,656 |

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many face to face meetings his Department's Employee Assistance Programme has had in each year since its inception; with how many departmental staff; and if he will make a statement. [236117]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information is as follows

| *July to June each year* | *Number of staff to receive face to face counselling* | *Number of meetings undertaken* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 3,234 | 17,198 |
| 2006-07 | 3,323 | 18,445 |
| 2007-08 | 3,495 | 19,725 |

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many requests for services provided by his Department's Employee Assistance Programme were received *(a)* in total, *(b)* from jobcentre plus staff and *(c)* from each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [236119]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The current Employee Assistance Programme contract was awarded in July 2005. Information prior to that date could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| | | | Non-departmental bodies public[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| July to June each year | DWP total | Jobcentre Plus | Health and Safety Executive | The Pensions Regulator | The Pension Protection Fund |
| 2005-06 | 6,924 | 4,467 | 0 | 0 | 0[2] |
| 2006-07 | 5,148 | 3,344 | 104 | 5 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 5,192 | 3,463 | 137 | 8 | 2 |
| Total | 17,301 | 11,274 | 241 | 13 | 2 |

[1] These are the only non-departmental public bodies within the Department's responsibility covered by the Employee Assistance Programme contract
[2] Not covered by the contract in 2005-06

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the reasons for staff requests for services offered by his Department's Employee Assistance Programme are recorded. [236120]

**Jonathan Shaw:** All reasons for requests for services are recorded and reported in anonymous form to the Department's contract management team by the Employee Assistance Programme.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many medical practitioners have received training for the examination of claimants of employment and support allowance. [236730]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Atos Healthcare employs health care professionals to carry out medical examinations as part of the work capability assessment element of employment and support allowance. As of week ending 7 November 2008, there are one 123 health care professionals fully trained for the examination of claimants of employment and support allowance with others at various stages of their training programmes.

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department expects to issue guidance to medical practitioners in relation to examinations of claimants of employment and support allowance. [236731]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Health care professionals employed by Atos Healthcare carry out examinations on employment and support allowance customers from 27 October 2008. Guidance relating to examination of claimants of employment and support allowance has been issued to Atos health care professionals from 3 October 2008.

We have also undertaken a range of communication activities to ensure other health care professionals are aware of employment and support allowance and the new processes. These include direct mail to GPs, articles in various professional editorials, employment and support allowance web page and sponsored web links.

### Employment Schemes

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the demand for work-focused interviews in each of the next 12 months in each Jobcentre Plus *(a)* district and *(b)* region, broken down by benefit claimed. [235347]

**Mr. McNulty:** No such estimate has been made.

### Employment: Disabled

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* is planning to take to develop a cross-governmental national strategy on employment retention for disabled people, as set out in the Independent Living Strategy document; and which departments are involved in its production. [234847]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DWP along with the Office for Disability Issues will lead the development of a cross-government national strategy aimed at enabling people to remain in employment when they acquire an impairment or long-term health condition, or when an existing impairment or condition worsens/fluctuates. The Independent Living Strategy sets out a timetable of 2008-10 for the development of the strategy. Work to take this commitment forward will start in the new year.

### Flexible New Deal

**John Penrose:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the future budget for Flexible New Deal in the event of future increases in unemployment. [234507]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Department for Work and Pensions published its CSR 2007 three-year plan in February 2008. Copies are available in the Library. Any adjustments to that plan including, for example, potential future increases in unemployment are the subject of ongoing discussion between Department for Work and Pensions and Treasury Ministers.

The Department has been planning for the impact of higher levels of jobseeker's allowance claims in the coming months and is developing plans right across its areas of responsibility to assess and manage the impact of an economic downturn.

### Housing Benefit

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidelines his Department has issued on direct payment of housing benefit to landlords in respect of claimants who are *(a)* mentally ill and *(b)* vulnerable; and what measures are in place to monitor the standards of accommodation offered in such cases. [235187]

**Kitty Ussher:** For information about the direct payment of housing benefit, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the right hon. Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith) on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 861-62W.

Information about standards of accommodation provided by local authorities is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 911W, on housing benefit, how many days on average each of the 10 local authorities which took the *(a)* most and *(b)* least time to process new housing benefit claims in 2007-08 took. [235944]

**Kitty Ussher:** The available information is in the following tables:

*Average time taken in calendar days to process new claims for housing benefit in 2007-08, 10 local authorities taking least time*

| *Local authority* | *Days* |
|---|---|
| St Albans | 5 |
| South Norfolk | 11 |
| Maidstone | 11 |
| Crawley | 12 |
| Tendring | 14 |
| South Lanarkshire | 14 |
| Fenland | 14 |
| Sedgemoor | 14 |
| Chiltern | 15 |
| Cannock Chase | 15 |

*Average time taken in calendar days to process new claims for housing benefit in 2007-08, 10 local authorities taking most time*

| *Local authority* | *Days* |
|---|---|
| Weymouth and Portland | 41 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 42 |
| Hounslow | 44 |
| Blyth Valley | 44 |
| Blackpool | 44 |
| Ealing | 45 |
| East Devon | 48 |
| Rother | 49 |
| Luton | 62 |
| Isle of Anglesey | 74 |

*Note*

Claim processing performance data are supplied to DWP by local authorities and are un-audited. Where no data have been received for a particular quarter the average annual performance has been estimated from available data.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the socio-economic background of those on incapacity benefit who are *(a)* actively seeking work and *(b)* not actively seeking work in the principal seaside towns in comparison to those such groups (i) nationally and (ii) locally; and if he will make a statement. [235532]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It would not be possible to make such an assessment as information on those on incapacity benefit who are, and who are not, actively seeking work is not available.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the average level of educational qualification of *(a)* incapacity benefit claimants and *(b)* the long-term unemployed resident in the principal seaside towns in England and Wales in comparison to such claimants (i) nationally and (ii) in neighbouring communities; and if he will make a statement. [235534]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information on the average qualifications of incapacity benefit claimants and the long-term unemployed is not available.

### Incapacity Benefit: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people on incapacity benefit who have recently moved into the principal seaside towns; and if he will make a statement. [235198]

**Jonathan Shaw:** No such estimate has been made.

### Income Support: Mortgages

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what interest rate he assumes in determining assistance to mortgage holders receiving income support; and if he will make a statement. [235462]

**Kitty Ussher:** From December 2004, the standard interest rate used to calculate support for mortgage interest payments in income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance and state pension credit was changed to respond to changes in the Bank of England base rate. The standard interest rate is the Bank of England base rate plus an additional 1.58 per cent. This is more representative, transparent, easier to understand and easier to administer than the previous method, which was based upon an average of building society interest rates. The additional 1.58 per cent. recognises the fact that lenders' interest rates are set at a higher rate than the base rate and to ensure that no-one lost out when the method of calculation changed.

As with all parts of the benefits system, we keep this under review.

### Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if, following the recent consultation in relation to the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit scheme, he will consider the merits of holding a further consultation on the new scheme relating to lump sum payments for those suffering from mesothelioma resulting from exposure to asbestos at work; [227442]

(2) what conclusions have been drawn from the recent consultation on the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit scheme, on the merits of an extension of the period within which claims must be made after injury occurs in the light of the long gestation periods of some work-related illnesses such as mesothelioma; [227443]

(3) what conclusions have been drawn from the recent consultation on the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit scheme with regard to benefits being awarded to those individuals who have retired from work or moved onto new employment and who later suffer disability as a result of injury at work; [227444]

(4) what conclusions have been drawn from the recent consultation on the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit scheme in relation to those suffering from mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos at work. [227445]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 16 October 2008]*: We have asked questions about the possible reform of the current Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit scheme, which includes those suffering from mesothelioma, in the consultation document, "No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility" Cm7363. The consultation exercise ends on 22 October 2008. When the consultation has ended we will carefully consider the views that people have expressed before publishing a summary of the responses and our response.

### Jobseeker's Allowance

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed jobseeker's allowance for a period of *(a)* between six and 12 months, *(b)* between 12 and 24 months and *(c)* more than 24 months in each month in each of the last three years, broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [232152]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Disqualification

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claiming jobseeker's allowance were sanctioned in each of the last 60 months; and for what reasons. [226167]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Employment

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants have been *(a)* referred and *(b)* sanctioned for not accepting a reasonable job offer in each of the last five years. [223248]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 10 September 2008]*: The available information is in the table.

*Percentage of varied length jobseeker's allowance referrals, sanctioned for refusal of employment, 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2008 as a proportion of all jobseeker's allowance claims*

*Percentage*

| | *Refusal of employment* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Year ending (April to March)* | *Referrals* | *Varied sanctions* |
| 2003-04 | 2.0 | 0.7 |
| 2004-05 | 1.8 | 0.6 |
| 2005-06 | 1.1 | 0.4 |
| 2006-07 | 0.4 | 0.2 |

*Percentage of varied length jobseeker's allowance referrals, sanctioned for refusal of employment, 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2008 as a proportion of all jobseeker's allowance claims*

*Percentage*

| | *Refusal of employment* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Year ending (April to March)* | *Referrals* | *Varied sanctions* |
| 2007-08 | 0.8 | 0.4 |

*Note:*
Individuals may have had more than one referral or more than one sanction applied against them and therefore be counted more than once, similarly individuals can have more than one jobseeker's allowance claim during the year.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Jobseeker's Allowance Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

During the period in question, the decline in decisions to apply sanctions for refusing employment coincides with an increase in decisions to apply sanctions to those who have either not done enough to find work or who are unreasonably restricting their availability for work.

### Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he is taking to simplify the application form for pensioners wishing to claim pension credit; [232975]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to simplify the application *(a)* form and *(b)* process for (i) pension credit and (ii) other benefits to which pensioners are entitled; and if he will make a statement. [234030]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The pension credit application process has been simplified to make it easier to apply. Customers no longer need to sign and return their pension credit forms as applications can be made entirely over the telephone.

A further simplification has been introduced this November which enables claims to housing benefit and council tax benefit to be made over the telephone with the pension credit application and forwarded directly to the local authority without the need for a signature.

On completion of the application, customers are issued with a statement of details informing them of all the details used by the Pension, Disability and Carers Service in processing the application.

In February 2007 an additional question was introduced into the pension credit application process to identify customers with caring responsibilities which results in the customer being invited, where appropriate, to claim carer's allowance using a new, shortened, claim pack specifically designed for people of pension age.

These changes represent a significant improvement to the claim process and will enhance the overall customer experience for thousands of pensioners.

While the new method of applying by telephone is being promoted, customers can still request a clerical pension credit application form if they wish and will be sent an application pack. However, by answering a few simple questions, the application form can now be tailored to match their personal circumstances and will contain only the relevant questions to complete. Customer letters are also now available in Welsh and/or large print formats and are issued automatically, ensuring the customer receives the same speed of service as a customer requesting an English language standard print letter.

A number of partnership organisations such as Age Concern, North East Pensioners Association (NEPA) and Better Government for Older People (BGOP) were involved in the redesign process and provided input into the final products which were subject to scrutiny by the Social Security Advisory Committee.

The Pension, Disability and Carers Service continues to promote the take up of all pensioner benefits, entitlements and services through a range of marketing activities. Campaign activity in 2008-09 to promote the take up of pension credit has utilised direct mail, local partnership activity and regional radio, press and outdoor advertising.

### Powers of Entry

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many powers of entry have been *(a)* introduced and *(b)* abolished through legislation sponsored by his Department since 1997. [228159]

**Mr. McNulty:** Since 1997, the Department for Work and Pensions has introduced five powers of entry. Since 1997, it has abolished two powers of entry.

The five powers of entry created are as follows:

(i) Social Security Administration Act 1992, s.109C (inserted by Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000, s.67);

(ii) Social Security Administration Act 1992, s.121A (inserted by Social Security Act 1998, came into force 1999);

(iii) Child Support Act 1991, s.15(4) (inserted by Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000, s.14, came into force 31 January 2001);

(iv) Pensions Act 2004, s.73, and

(v) Pensions Act 2004, s.192.

The two powers of entry abolished were:

(i) Pensions Act 1995, s.99, and

(ii) the provisions of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 which were repealed when s.109C of that same Act (see point (i) of the powers created, above) came into force.

### Social Security Benefits: EC Enlargement

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 431W, on welfare state: EU enlargement, what progress has been made on the review of EEA nationals' access to benefits; and when he expects the report to be published. [236203]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The review of EEA nationals' access to benefits has been completed and the results are currently being considered. We expect to announce our conclusions in the new year.

### Social Security Benefits: Economic Situation

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely change in his Department's expenditure in the next 12 months on benefits paid to families resulting from the economic downturn; and if he will make a statement. [228244]

**Mr. McNulty:** We have been planning for the impact of higher levels of jobseeker's allowance claims in the coming months, but do not forecast the future level of unemployment. The published benefit forecasts use the Treasury's budget planning assumption for claimant unemployment. Benefit forecasts include benefits going to families, but only explicitly identify families where this is a relevant factor in determining the amount of benefit payable.

New forecasts taking into account recent economic developments will be published at the pre-Budget report (PBR).

### Social Security Benefits: Fraud

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people called the Benefit Fraud hotline in each of the last 12 months; how many of those calls were followed up with an investigation; and how many successful prosecutions for benefit fraud there have been over the same period. [234765]

**Mr. McNulty:** Every call to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline is examined by the Department. Where there is enough evidence the case is then passed to either the fraud Investigation Service for investigation or to our compliance teams in Jobcentres, who will scrutinise the relevant benefit claim and make adjustments to entitlements. Prosecutions take on average around nine months from investigation to the court case so many of the referrals this year are still under investigation with a view to determining whether a prosecution is in the public interest.

Available information is set out in the following table.

| *Month* | *Number of calls to National Benefit Fraud Hotline* | *Referred to FIS (Intelligence) for further development* | *Referred for criminal investigation* | *Referred for customer compliance investigation* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| November 2007 | 23,364 | 2,648 | 5,455 | 3,083 |
| December 2007 | 10,948 | 3,394 | 1,711 | 3,985 |
| January 2008 | 26,516 | 4,553 | 2,630 | 5,238 |
| February 2008 | 21,236 | 3,334 | 2,843 | 6,517 |
| March 2008 | 18,890 | 973 | 2,250 | 6,114 |
| April 2008 | 18,482 | 4,764 | 3,613 | 5,659 |
| May 2008 | 21,346 | 6,974 | 3,085 | 5,683 |
| June 2008 | 18,737 | 7,678 | 3,037 | 5,366 |
| July 2008 | 24,935 | 9,142 | 3,746 | 6,536 |
| August 2008 | 17,400 | 8,095 | 3,101 | 5,289 |
| September 2008 | 18,709 | 4,995 | 3,220 | 5,141 |

| Month | Number of calls to National Benefit Fraud Hotline | Referred to FIS (Intelligence) for further development | Referred for criminal investigation | Referred for customer compliance investigation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| October 2008 | 21,884 | 7,179 | 3,827 | 4,392 |

*Notes:*
1. Count for number of investigations includes both FIBS and FRAIMS data as final roll out was in February 2008.
2. Number of investigations is generated from the number of referrals/incidents accepted for investigation (those which result in a case being opened)
3. Figures represent GB only (do not include NI).

*Source:*
FIBS and FRAIMS

### Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether the provision of additional flexibilities in the Social Security (Lone Parents and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008 for those lone parents who face circumstances that need special consideration will include those who home educate out of necessity rather than choice; [234618]

(2) what provision has been made in the Social Security (Lone Parents and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008 for those lone parents who home educate their children out of necessity rather than choice; what estimate he has made of the number of children who are home educated out of *(a)* necessity and *(b)* choice; and if he will make a statement. [234619]

**Kitty Ussher:** The proposed Regulation changes will not apply to lone parents who: are in receipt of Carer's Allowance; have a child for whom they are receiving the middle or higher rate care component of Disability Living Allowance; foster children. These lone parents will be exempt and continue to be eligible for Income Support.

Lone parents in these circumstances who are also home educators are included in this group. Those lone parents who do not qualify for exemption and are capable of work will have to claim Jobseeker's Allowance, where they will be required to actively seek and be available for work of at least 16 hours a week.

However, it is recognised that lone parents who home educate may face unique and varied circumstances. Therefore we are ensuring that Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisers will have the appropriate training and guidance to deal with home educators when they make a claim for Jobseeker's Allowance. This will include making use of the proposed additional flexibilities to the Jobseeker's Allowance regime where the individual circumstances of home educators make this necessary. In addition home educators, like all other lone parents, will not be penalised if they have good cause for not taking up a job and the availability and suitability of childcare will be central to such a decision.

As there is no requirement for parents to register as home educators there are no official statistics on the number of children who are being home educated. Therefore, it is not possible to provide any breakdown of lone parents who home educate whether through necessity or choice. Research carried out by York Consulting in 2006 estimated that around 20,000 children from all types of families were then registered with their local authority as being educated at home. We recognise that the figure could be substantially higher.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of Jobcentre Plus's capacity to implement the reforms outlined in the Social Security (Lone Parents and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008; and if he will make a statement. [234620]

**Mr. McNulty:** We have made a comprehensive assessment of Jobcentre Plus's capacity to implement the changes and are satisfied that the plans Jobcentre Plus has in place will enable the organisation to manage the change. Plans include: additional resources to manage the move of lone parents from Income Support on to other benefits; supporting lone parents in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance; communicating with staff; and learning and development for staff.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures he has put in place to ensure Jobcentre Plus considers individual circumstances on a case by case basis, with particular reference to cases of lone parents seeking special consideration under the Social Security (Lone Parents and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008. [234621]

**Mr. McNulty:** Lone parents impacted by these changes will be invited to an interview, six weeks before they are due to lose their income support, where they will be provided with specific advice and support to move into work or claim another benefit. Those who subsequently claim jobseekers allowance will have a further meeting with an adviser to agree a Jobseekers Agreement, which sets out the sort of work they will look for, their hours of availability and when they need to attend the Jobcentre to confirm they have been available for and actively seeking work. At this meeting the individual circumstances of each lone parent will be considered. Those who claim employment and support allowance will have a series of six work-focused interviews to help them focus on what work they are able to do.

### Unemployed

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* incapacity benefit claimants and *(b)* long-term unemployed who are actively seeking work; and if he will make a statement. [235197]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information on the number of incapacity benefit claimants who are actively seeking work is not available.

It is a requirement for all claimants of jobseeker's allowance to be available for and actively seeking work.

At October 2008, 96,160 people had been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for over 52 weeks.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer Question 228496, on carers, tabled on 15 October 2008. [235624]

**James Purnell** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1254W.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Finance

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average income was of farms in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each of the last 10 years. [235510]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* Farm income figures are not available for the Ribble Valley. The following table shows average farm business income per farm in (a) Lancashire and (b) England for 2003-04 to 2007-08, the years for which it can be calculated. To provide a longer time series the earlier income measure of net farm income, which adjusts all farms to a tenanted basis, is shown for the last 10 years.

*£/farm*

| | *Average net farm income* | | *Average farm business income* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *March/ February years* | *Lancashire* | *England* | *Lancashire* | *England* |
| 1998-99 | 8,600 | 8,600 | n/a | n/a |
| 1999-2000 | 6,600 | 6,600 | n/a | n/a |
| 2000-01 | 18,600 | 18,600 | n/a | n/a |
| 2001-02 | 23,600 | 23,600 | n/a | n/a |
| 2002-03 | 19,800 | 19,800 | n/a | n/a |
| 2003-04 | 25,500 | 25,500 | 30,500 | 36,800 |
| 2004-05 | 15,500 | 15,500 | 24,000 | 28,300 |
| 2005-06 | 13,900 | 13,900 | 21,200 | 28,600 |
| 2006-07 | 20,100 | 20,100 | 28,500 | 34,400 |
| 2007-08 | 27,700 | 27,700 | 35,200 | 48,100 |

*Source:*
Farm Business Survey

Net farm income is defined as the return to the principal farmer and spouse for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant type capital of the business.

Farm business income represents the financial return to all unpaid labour (farmers and spouses, directors[1], non-principal partners and their spouses and family workers) and on all their capital invested in the farm business, including land and buildings.

[1] Paid directors are treated in the same way as unpaid labour, i.e. their wages are not deducted in the derivation of FBI.

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* lowest, *(b)* highest, *(c)* median and *(d)* mean time taken to process claims made under the 2007 Single Payment Scheme was. [234101]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* While some preliminary checks on claims under the Single Payments Scheme (SPS) can be completed in advance, the full range of processing checks can only be undertaken once all applications have been received following the closure of the SPS application window on 9 June. The regulatory payment window then opens on 1 December and during 2007 RPA made the first payments to farmers on 10th December. This period between 9 June and 10 December therefore represents the shortest period within which applications were processed to completion during the 2007 SPS scheme year.

Each SPS case is individual and validated as soon as possible. Some will take longer than others, for example if they involve businesses that transfer land and entitlements every year, or have energy crops which require confirmation of processing before payment can be made, and which may not become available until February or March. There are still a number of 2007 payments outstanding for legal reasons, predominantly involving the settlement of probate.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* lowest, *(b)* highest, *(c)* median and *(d)* mean monetary value of claims under the 2007 Single Payment Scheme was. [234406]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The lowest, highest, median and mean values of the 2007 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) Payments are set out in the following table:

| | *£* |
|---|---|
| Lowest | 0.01 |
| Highest | 2,191,054.026 |
| Median | 4,593.99 |
| Mean | 13,920.94 |

The lowest value is a result of a non compliance penalty.

These figures are subject to change as we still continue to make 2007 SPS payments.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single farm payment claims under 250 euros he expects to receive in respect of the years *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010, *(d)* 2011 and *(e)* 2012. [234408]

**Jane Kennedy:** The number of single payment scheme (SPS) claims under 250 euros for the SPS years 2008 to 2012 will depend on the number of claims submitted and fully validated within that payment category.

### Animal Welfare: Codes of Practice

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on the consultation process on new codes of practice on the welfare of *(a)* cats, *(b)* dogs and *(c)* equines. [234769]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 11 November 2008]*: The total cost of DEFRA's consultation exercise on the three codes of practice is estimated to be in the region of £10,000. This covers pay and administration costs.

The consultation runs until 31 December 2008 and comments on the draft codes are invited.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on research for the consultation on *(a)* The Code of Practice for the Welfare of Cats, *(b)* The Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs and *(c)* The Code of Practice for the Welfare of Equines. [234784]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 11 November 2008]*: No 'research' as such was done. The draft codes were prepared drawing on contributions from representatives of non-government organisations and others.

### Badgers

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many badger re-location licences have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* rejected by each of his Department's offices in each of the last three years. [225434]

**Jane Kennedy:** In England, Natural England delivers licensing under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

There have been no licences issued by Natural England to re-locate badgers in the last three years.

Although some applicants choose to specify what action they wish to take in their licence application, the actual licensed action is often different following careful discussion with Natural England of the circumstances of the case and the available management options. For this reason, statistical records relating to the applicants' initial proposed solutions are not kept.

### Bats: Rabies

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the existence of rabies in the live bat population; and if he will make a statement. [234771]

**Jane Kennedy:** European bat lyssaviruses (EBLVs) 1 and 2, commonly referred to as bat rabies, are two strains of rabies-related lyssaviruses found in bats across northern Europe. Since 1986 DEFRA has tested over 9,000 dead bats for EBLV and to date only eight infections with EBLV type 2 have been confirmed in bats in the UK.

Combined data from studies undertaken in 2003-2006, indicate that the overall prevalence of antibodies to EBLV-2 in Daubenton's bats in England is estimated to be about 2 per cent. The presence of antibodies indicates that they have been exposed to the rabies virus at some time during their lives.

### Batteries: Recycling

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tons of batteries were recycled in each of the last 10 years. [231942]

**Jane Kennedy:** Detailed information is not held centrally. As estimated from the impact assessment (carried out in 2007 as part of the consultation exercise for the transposition of the Batteries Directive) 900 tonnes of portable batteries are recycled. There are no figures available with regard to portable batteries for preceding years.

In terms of automotive and industrial batteries, estimates are that 150,000 tonnes are recycled annually.

### Bees: Disease Control

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to licensing alternative treatments of the varroa mite available in the European Union. [234785]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 11 November 2008]*: Veterinary surgeons currently have the authority to import and administer veterinary medicines which are authorised in another member state under the prescribing cascade. In addition, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) within DEFRA has proposed a change to the EU regulations on the cascade to allow nationally qualified bee experts to decide on the use of medicines in bees, in place of veterinarians.

In the meantime, the VMD has allowed a product authorised elsewhere in the EU to control varroosis to be imported and used in the UK under the VMD's Special Import Scheme. VMD has also contacted the French authorities to establish if a mutual recognition procedure could be applied so that this product could be quickly authorised in the UK.

The VMD have negotiated with a manufacturer to agree an extension to their application to authorise a bee product for the control of varroa in other member states to include the UK.

### Bees: Diseases

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of bee colonies lost in winter 2007-08 to the varroa mite and its associated virus. [234586]

**Jane Kennedy:** No such estimate into the losses directly attributable to the varroa mite or the viruses associated with it has been made. However, investigations into colony losses show these are mainly attributable to the poor weather, especially during last summer. This is accompanied by poor husbandry, which often includes to failure to feed bees when they lack nutrition and failure to take appropriate action against the varroa mite.

### Bees: Research

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government have spent on research into bee health in each of the last five years; and what plans he has for expenditure on such research in future years. [234587]

**Jane Kennedy:** The following list shows the funding allocated by DEFRA for honey bee health research. This includes funding for specific honey bee health projects and elements of other funded research which benefits honey bee health.

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 273.1 |
| 2004-05 | 282.1 |
| 2005-06 | 254.4 |
| 2006-07 | 302.5 |
| 2007-08 | 321.2 |

Future research priorities are addressed in the draft Bee Health Strategy which is expected to be published early in 2009. Commissioned research will be considered in the light of priorities identified in the agreed strategy and the recommendations made by the NAO following its study into the work of DEFRA in safeguarding the health of honey bees.

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the outcome was of research undertaken into bee health by Brenda Ball and others at Rothamsted Research Institute; and what steps he is taking to enable this research to continue. [234588]

**Jane Kennedy:** Results of completed research projects undertaken by Rothamsted Research have regularly been published in scientific literature and articles associated with that work may have helped increase beekeeper awareness of bee health issues.

Future research priorities are addressed in the draft Bee Health Strategy which is expected to be published early in 2009. Commissioned research will be considered in the light of priorities identified in the agreed strategy and the recommendations made by the National Audit Office following its study into the work of DEFRA in safeguarding the health of honey bees.

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the outcome was of his consultation on his Department's draft bee health strategy; and when he will announce policy decisions following the consultation. [234589]

**Jane Kennedy:** The consultation on the draft bee health strategy closed on 29 August 2008.

The National Audit Office (NAO) are carrying out a study into the work of DEFRA in safeguarding the health of honey bees and their report is expected to be published in January. DEFRA's response to the Strategy consultation will need to take into consideration any recommendations from the NAO.

## Bluetongue Disease

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the risk of the BTV1 strain of bluetongue reaching the UK from France; and if he will make a statement. [234851]

**Jane Kennedy:** France has confirmed 3,408 cases of BTV-1 during 2008. These cases are predominantly contained within the BTV-1 and 8 restricted zone in south-west France. The first case in northern France (Brittany) was confirmed on 28 October 2008 and the departments of Finistère and Morbihan in the Brittany region were subsequently declared as a further restricted zone for BTV-1 and 8.

DEFRA remains alert to the spread of BTV-1 through France and monitors the risk carefully. In addition to the movement controls on animals from BTV-1 zones on the continent, implemented under EU legislation, DEFRA continues to conduct post-import tests on all animals imported from any area in continental Europe, for all Bluetongue serotypes. This means that all types of Bluetongue can be detected through routine testing.

DEFRA has an agreed policy for controlling incursions of any new serotypes under the existing Bluetongue control strategy, published last year, and are working with experts and vaccine manufacturers to review preparedness for incursions of any serotype of Bluetongue.

DEFRA also continues to urge the livestock industry to consider the risks and check the health and vaccination status of animals when sourcing any animals, from within the UK or abroad.

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of livestock have been vaccinated against bluetongue in *(a)* East Anglia, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* the North of England. [234852]

**Jane Kennedy:** Vaccination against bluetongue in England and Wales is voluntary. Vaccine is delivered through existing veterinary medicine supply chains, an approach agreed with the livestock industry to ensure the simple, rapid roll-out of vaccine to protect animals earlier this year. Because the approach to vaccination is voluntary, no definitive figures can be provided on the numbers of livestock actually vaccinated.

Vaccine was rolled out incrementally as it became available from the manufacturers in 2008, beginning with the south-east in May, and gradually westward and northward throughout the summer, until vaccine was available to the counties in northern England in September.

However, to date, sales data from the supply chain suggest the overall uptake of vaccine across the whole of England is around 60 per cent. Sales data indicate that uptake in *(a)* East Anglia may be in the region of 80 per cent. or above, *(b)* in the south-west may be slightly lower than this, and *(c)* in the north of England may be less than 40 per cent.

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many unused doses of bluetongue vaccine there are in England; and what their value is. [234855]

**Jane Kennedy:** Out of 28 million doses purchased by DEFRA, approximately 12 million doses of Bluetongue serotype 8 vaccine remain in the supply chain (i.e. are not yet sold to veterinary practices). The value of this unsold vaccine is approximately £5,011,713.

DEFRA are working with the farming industry and supply chain to plan for the use of existing stocks of vaccine to vaccinate animals ahead of the 2009 risk period.

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the decision to set up the Bovine TB Eradication Group was taken; and when the group's title was agreed. [236222]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Secretary of State made clear in July that he wanted to put in place arrangements to enable Government and industry to work together to make progress on bovine TB in cattle in England. The Bovine TB Eradication Group, which was announced on 3 November, will do just that.

The remit of the group was developed with the English cattle industry and the group's title was finalised during October.

### Coastal Areas: Environment Protection

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what sea defence projects have been deferred for more than 12 months in the last five years. [228250]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for South-East Cambridgeshire (Mr. Paice) on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 614W.

### Compost: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the consultation on revised waste exemptions from environmental permitting, whether charities will be charged to have permits for compost heaps. [233407]

**Jane Kennedy:** Charities operating composting plants must currently either do so under an environmental permit or an exemption from the need for a permit registered with the Environment Agency.

All operators of permitted operations are subject to fees and charges.

No decisions have yet been made on whether to introduce charging for some or all registered exempt waste operations. The Government have no intention of allowing changes that might discourage composting activity, by charities, schools or any other organisations.

### Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of employees in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours per week. [233826]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA has in place a process to allow employees to apply to work flexibly in line with recent legislation. Flexible working incorporates a wide variety of working patterns and includes:

part-time working;

job-sharing;

compressed hours;

staggered hours;

term-time working.

As at 30 September, 9.6 per cent. staff in the core Department worked part-time. Information on other types of flexible working is not held centrally and could be provided only by incurring disproportionate cost. Many requests for flexible working may be made informally between managers and staff and therefore will not be formally recorded.

No specific data are held by the Department on the precise extent of home working by staff. Anecdotal evidence suggests that home working is on the increase due to the promotion of flexible working.

### Departmental Waste Disposal

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many pieces of redundant electrical and electronic equipment was *(a)* recycled, *(b)* destroyed and *(c)* disposed by other means by his Department in each of the last five years. [231414]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 29 October 2008]:* DEFRA's contract for electrical and electronic equipment is outsourced to IBM. IBM's third-party supplier, Northern Realisations Ltd., provides a service fully compliant with the Waste Electronic and Electrical and Energy Regulations (WEEE) and Reduction of Hazardous Waste directives.

The following table provides a breakdown of the information held by Northern Realisations Ltd. relating to DEFRA.

| | *Total (all equipment types)* | *Schools*[1] | *Sale*[2] | *Reclamation*[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Y/e September 2008 | 8,794 | 3,665 | 2,317 | 812 |
| Y/e September 2007 | 3,130 | 1,373 | 1,057 | 700 |
| Y/e September 2006 | 4,353 | 3,136 | 825 | 392 |
| Y/e September 2005 | 7,161 | 4,763 | 1,899 | 499 |
| Y/e September 2004 | 7,556 | 5,007 | 2,024 | 525 |
| Total items | 30,994 | 17,944 | 8,122 | 2,928 |

[1] Supplied to UK schools and charities under Microsoft Authorised Refurbisher Project.
[2] Remarketed commercially for re-use.
[3] Channelled into materials reclamation (Recycling). Average recovery rate on materials reclamation—78 per cent.

Source:
Northern Realisations—20 October 2008

## Dogs: Animal Welfare

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 22 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 361-2W, when the Minister of State plans to meet representatives of the Kennel Club and the Dogs Trust. [233121]

**Jane Kennedy:** Meetings with both organisations will take place shortly.

## Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers waste collection authorities have to restrict *(a)* the size of a bin provided to a household and *(b)* the number of bins provided in circumstances where a householder is prepared to pay for an additional bin to be provided; and what changes the provisions in the Climate Change Bill amending the Environmental Protection Act 1990, if enacted, are expected to make to existing practices. [224619]

**Jane Kennedy:** Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) allows waste collection authorities to determine arrangements for the collection of household waste, including requiring occupiers to place waste for collection in receptacles of a specified size . They must do this by way of a section 46 notice, usually in the form of a leaflet, issued to residents.

The authority's choice of the type and number of receptacles provided will depend on the collection methodology it is employing and its view on the capacity of the receptacles required by households, based on its experience of waste collection in the area.

If a resident is fulfilling the requirements of the section 46 notice, by separating out recyclates and placing them in the correct receptacles and yet still generates too much residual waste to fit in the receptacle provided for residual waste, the authority may make arrangements with the household for a larger or additional receptacle to be used.

A waste collection authority must collect all household waste presented in the manner it has specified in the section 46 notice. Provisions in the Climate Change Bill do not alter this duty.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what amount of household waste per person was *(a)* recycled and *(b)* not recycled or composted in each of the last 20 years. [234493]

**Jane Kennedy:** The following table shows the amounts of household waste recycled or composted and household waste not recycled or composted by English local authorities. Prior to 1995-96 estimates are only available for 1983-84,1991-92 and 1993-94.

*Kilograms per person per year*

| | *Waste recycled/composted* | *Waste not recycled/composted* |
|---|---|---|
| 1983-84 | 3 | 394 |
| 1991-92 | 11 | 417 |
| 1993-94 | 15 | 430 |
| 1995-96 | 29 | 421 |
| 1996-97 | 35 | 430 |
| 1997-98 | 39 | 440 |
| 1998-99 | 44 | 439 |
| 1999-2000 | 52 | 453 |
| 2000-01 | 57 | 453 |
| 2001-02 | 65 | 452 |
| 2002-03 | 75 | 445 |
| 2003-04 | 91 | 420 |
| 2004-05 | 115 | 397 |
| 2005-06 | 135 | 370 |
| 2006-07 | 157 | 351 |
| 2007-08 | 171 | 324 |

*Source:*
DEFRA's Municipal Waste Management Survey from 1995-96, earlier estimates from CIPFA stats.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what schemes relating to UK household waste prevention have been funded by the EU Interreg programme. [235066]

**Jane Kennedy:** We are aware of three schemes relating to UK household waste prevention that have been funded by the EU Interreg programme:

1. Rethinking Rubbish: Tackling our Waste issues together;
2. Community Challenge: Take Part, Make a Difference; and
3. Waste in Action.

The schemes are part of the Franco-British Interreg IIIA 2000-06 and the 4A (Manche) programmes.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the report commissioned by the Waste and Resources Action Programme from Eunomia entitled Managing Biowastes from Households in the UK: Applying Life-cycle Thinking in the Framework of Cost-benefit Analysis. [235092]

**Jane Kennedy:** This report is publicly available on WRAP's website at:

www.wrap.org.uk

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance the Waste and Resources Action Programme has issued to local authorities on the operation of weekly collections of residual household waste. [235131]

**Jane Kennedy:** No such guidance has been issued by the Waste and Resources Action Programme.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on co-mingling in the collection of household recycling and the use of materials recycling facilities. [235135]

**Jane Kennedy:** How waste is collected and sorted affects the end markets for which it is suited and the value it will achieve. Both kerbside sorted collections and the commingled collection of materials for sorting at materials recycling facilities (MRFs) have roles to

play in the appropriate circumstances and are capable of producing materials of a satisfactory quality if properly managed.

The Government believe local authorities are better placed to make decisions on the waste management strategy for their area, and that they should be as well informed as possible when making decisions.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information is collated *(a)* locally, *(b)* centrally and *(c)* by the Environment Agency on the processing, destinations and locations of household rubbish collected for recycling. [235136]

**Jane Kennedy:** Local authorities are required to report data on municipal waste to WasteDataFlow. This includes details of the amounts of waste collected and the location to which this waste is sent for reprocessing or disposal.

The Environment Agency have access to information reported through WasteDataFlow by local authorities and they monitor and audit this as part of their duties under the landfill allowance trading scheme.

Facilities licensed under waste permits are also required to report to the Environment Agency on the amounts of waste they manage, by type of waste.

### Domestic Wastes

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 746W, on Waste and Resources Action Programme, (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the remit and specification for the public affairs work undertaken by Chelgate Ltd.; and what public policy makers and opinion formers, outside established stakeholders, the company has been tasked with reaching; [232589]

(2) who the established stakeholder groups referred to in the Answer are. [232590]

**Jane Kennedy:** WRAP's remit is to promote resource efficiency. This involves helping individuals, businesses and other organisations to reduce waste, recycle materials and find effective end markets for them.

These activities are of wide public and political interest, and the remit given to Chelgate Ltd. was to help WRAP communicate with parliamentarians and local authority leaders to inform them about progress being made, opportunities for further progress, and some of the innovative approaches WRAP has developed successfully in recent years.

The established stakeholder groups referred to in the answer given to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait), 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 746W, are the organizations and individuals that WRAP works with in order to fulfil its remit, including DEFRA and the devolved Governments, the waste industry, local authorities, and the construction, manufacturing and retail sectors.

### Environment Agency: EA Geomatics

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Environment Agency receives from commercial work undertaken by EA Geomatics. [231311]

**Jane Kennedy:** Environment Agency annual accounts 2007-08 indicate that £348,000 was received from the commercial work undertaken by the Geomatics Group.

### Fly Tipping: Chelmsford

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidents of fly-tipping there were in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* the Chelmsford local authority area in each of the last five years; and how many people were prosecuted in each year for such offences. [232776]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 4 November 2008]:* The number of fly-tipping incidents and enforcement actions taken are not recorded at parliamentary ward level.

The number of incidents of fly-tipping recorded on the Flycapture database by the borough of Chelmsford and the number of prosecutions taken by the authority against fly-tippers are only available for the last four years.

| | *Number of incidents* | *Number of prosecutions* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 1,048 | 1 |
| 2005-06 | 517 | 2 |
| 2006-07 | 596 | 2 |
| 2007-08 | 561 | 1 |

Prosecution action would only be taken as a last resort or against particularly serious cases, as there are several other types of enforcement activity that can be taken. Warning letters, serving of statutory notices, fixed penalty notices and formal cautions are also available to local authorities to use against fly-tippers.

### Fly-tipping

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fly-tipping offences were recorded by Flycapture in 2007-08; at what cost to local authorities; and what proportion of those offences related to household waste. [235075]

**Jane Kennedy:** Local authorities recorded 1.28 million incidents of fly-tipping on the Flycapture database as having occurred in 2007-08, these range from fly-tipped single black bags to 'significant multiple loads'. 60 per cent. of these incidents were recorded as relating to household waste.

The estimated cost of clearing these incidents was £73.8 million. This does not always constitute a direct cost to taxpayers as some authorities have framework contracts in place which include the clearance of fly-tipped material.

More detailed information on the data recorded on the Flycapture database is available on the DEFRA website.

### Landfill

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much waste was disposed of in landfill sites in each of the last 20 years. [234492]

**Jane Kennedy:** The amount of waste disposed of in landfills in England in years for which data are available is shown in the following table. Prior to 1998-99 national data were not compiled, and until 2005 estimates of total deposits were made every other financial year.

*Total landfill deposits in England*

| | *Thousand tonnes* |
|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 74,676 |
| 2000-01 | 79,923 |
| 2002-03 | 75,671 |
| 2004-05 | 68,942 |
| 2005 | 67,889 |
| 2006 | 64,937 |

*Source:*
Environment Agency

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether residual waste collected from businesses by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* private contractors is subject to the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme. [235009]

**Jane Kennedy:** Waste from business premises collected by a local authority, or by a private contractor operating on behalf of the local authority, will be subject to the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the likelihood of meeting the 2013 landfill diversion target; and if he will make a statement; [235094]

(2) what assessment he has made of progress by the United Kingdom towards the 2013 landfill diversion target; and if he will make a statement. [235139]

**Jane Kennedy:** England is making good progress towards meeting its share of the UK's landfill diversion targets set in the EU landfill directive. The 2013 target remains challenging, but achievable.

The Devolved Administrations are responsible for delivering their proportion of the UK targets, and are best placed to make assessments of progress made in their respective areas.

**Maps: Environment Agency**

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the area of *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales has been mapped by the Environment Agency using light detection and ranging technology. [231308]

**Jane Kennedy:** 51 per cent. of the total area of England and 66 per cent. of the total area of Wales has been mapped using light detection and ranging.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Environment Agency spent on using light detection and ranging technology to prepare flood maps in *(a)* each region of England and *(b)* Wales in each of the last three years. [231309]

**Jane Kennedy:** Environment Agency expenditure on light detection and ranging surveys for flood mapping is as follows:

| Region | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | £000<br>2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Anglian | 412 | 414 | 445 |
| Midlands | 126 | 287 | 153 |
| North East | 158 | 638 | 106 |
| North West | 48 | 136 | 218 |
| Southern | 50 | 226 | 35 |
| South West | 113 | 125 | 284 |
| Thames | 31 | 259 | 262 |
| Wales | 31 | 150 | 131 |
| National programme (£ million) | 2 | n/a | n/a |

**Milk: Prices**

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what forecast he has made of trends in the future price of milk; and whether he has assessed the likely effects of falling prices in Northern Ireland. [233872]

**Jane Kennedy:** Farmgate milk prices are determined by a number of factors, including the time of year; exchange rates; prices of dairy commodities prices on world and community markets; supply and demand; the value of the product mix; and for some contracts, production costs are taken into account.

With production in its seasonal trough, farmgate prices are likely to have reached the peak of this cycle. As production increases towards the spring, farmgate prices will fall. How far and fast they will fall will depend on the adjustments needed to the downside of the commodity cycle. Prices for products such as butter and milk powders are currently falling on EU and world markets. The global economic downturn is also likely to have an impact on dairy commodity prices and demand. In time, this will feed through to farmgate prices. However, because of exchange rates and the large liquid milk market in Great Britain, the full effects of the downturn in commodity markets are unlikely to be fed through into farmgate prices.

The exception is Northern Ireland, which is more reliant on the trade in commodity products than the rest of the UK. Northern Irish producers are therefore the first to benefit from increasing commodity prices and the first to experience falling farmgate prices as commodity prices weaken.

Looking to the longer term, prices will recover as demand increases. However, farmgate prices are likely to become more volatile in future as the market is further deregulated.

**Oil: Waste Management**

**Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the Answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 178W, on oil: waste management, what measures are in place to give priority to the regeneration of waste oil above its combustion; [232287]

(2) what assessment he has made of the implications of the European Court of Justice ruling in Case No. C-424/02, European Commission v United Kingdom for the UK's management of waste oil; and if he will make a statement. [232288]

**Jane Kennedy:** The European Court of Justice in its judgment of 15 July 2004 in case C-424/02 found that the UK had failed to take the measures necessary to give priority to the processing of waste oils by regeneration to fulfil the requirement in the Waste Oils Directive (75/439/EEC as amended). However, since that time a revised Waste Framework Directive (WFD) has been developed which repeals the Waste Oils Directive, and includes a revised waste hierarchy. The text of the revised WFD was adopted by the Environment Council of Ministers on 20 October 2008, and following its publication in the *Official Journal*, the UK and other member states will have two years to transpose its requirements.

**Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the rate of duty to apply to waste derived fuel oil from 1 November on the achievement of complete recovery of waste oil to produce product equivalent fuel. [232290]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government have considered the effects of the rate of duty on the management of waste oil as a whole.

In applying for a renewal of the derogation on waste oil reused as fuel, the Government were concerned about the impact of ending the derogation at a time when the future of the waste oil market was uncertain. This was due to the introduction of the EC Waste Incineration Directive and the review of the EC Waste Framework Directive. It was also felt that the benefits to be gained from ending the derogation would be disproportionate to the compliance and administrative costs involved.

The UK is required to impose duty on waste oils reused as fuel and the duty rate to be applied is consistent with the relevant EU Directive.

The Government's assessment of the revenue and administrative cost implications is set out in the "Impact Assessment of the implementation of the Energy Products Directive (EPD) on the use of waste oils reused as fuel", published on 20 February 2008.

### Recycling

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether materials for recycling collected from municipal *(a)* litter bins and *(b)* recycling bins will count toward targets for domestic recycling. [235117]

**Jane Kennedy:** Materials collected for recycling from municipal litter bins and recycling bins by, or on behalf of, a local authority will count towards its household recycling targets.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has provided on recycling in an office environment. [235141]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 752W.

### Waste and Resources Action Programme: Manpower

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many press, communications and marketing staff are employed by the Waste and Resources Action Programme. [232801]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Waste and Resources Action Programme employs a staff of 26 working on press, communications and marketing. Five staff work in the press team, four staff supporting its websites, 10 marketing officers, three people on the Love Food Hate Waste campaign and three on its Recycle Now campaign. These staff are led by a Director of Communications.

### Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will remove from registered charities any liability to pay waste charges under the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992. [233703]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 6 November 2008]*: DEFRA is currently considering whether Schedule 2 of the Controlled Waste Regulations is due for review. Any such review would consider the position of charities in relation to this legislation.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 757W, on waste disposal: fees and charges, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Flycapture Enforcement Course module on the issuing of fixed penalty notices for waste offences. [235114]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, Deptford (Joan Ruddock) on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 858W.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the selection or designation of the pilot authorities for pilot waste incentive schemes for the collection of household waste will be subject to parliamentary scrutiny. [235147]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government will select pilot areas on the basis of the criteria set out in the guidance on application and designation.

### Waste Disposal: Fines

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the maximum fixed penalty fine is that can be levied by a waste collection authority against a household for a waste disposal offence. [235133]

**Jane Kennedy:** The maximum fixed penalty fine that can be levied by a waste collection authority for a breach of section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 is £110.

### Waste Disposal: Offices

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 751-53W, on waste disposal: offices, what advice or guidance has been provided to firms in relation to removing or reducing the number of residual waste bins in office environments. [232592]

**Jane Kennedy:** The DEFRA funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) does not make any specific comments on reducing or removing residual waste bins in offices. WRAP does suggest putting recycling bins where material arises, eg positioning paper recycling bins near photocopiers. WRAP also recommends that bins are clearly labelled by material types.

### Waste Management

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates his Department's Advisory Group on Joint Waste Authorities has met to date; and what the membership of the group is. [235072]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Advisory Group on Joint Waste Authorities met on 12 November 2007, 9 January 2008, 13 February 2008, 30 April 2008, 29 July 2008 and 17 September 2008.

The membership of the Advisory Group consists of individuals from organisations and local authorities with experience of joint working and improving efficiency in provision of local authority waste services, who provide DEFRA with knowledge and expertise.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has issued on the replacement by waste collection authorities of stolen waste receptacles for household waste. [235073]

**Jane Kennedy:** No such guidance has been issued by either DEFRA or the Waste and Resources Action Programme.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the report commissioned for his Department entitled Municipal Waste Management Strategies and the Land Use Planning System for Waste in England - A Report to DEFRA and ODPM. [235090]

**Jane Kennedy:** I am arranging for a copy of the Department's report entitled Municipal Waste Management Strategies and the Land Use Planning System for Waste in England - A Report to DEFRA and ODPM to be placed in the Library.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Environment Agency and *(c)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has provided support to local authority schemes for recruiting volunteers to monitor local environmental quality. [235116]

**Jane Kennedy:** DEFRA part-funds ENCAMS (Environmental Campaigns) who provide advice and can offer training on how community groups can help to clean up their local areas and link with others interested in improving local environmental quality, for example through the 'Big Tidy Up' campaign. Local authorities have a statutory requirement to monitor and report on the cleanliness of their area but community groups may be able to assist authorities in fulfilling this obligation.

The Environment Agency and WRAP have not provided any support.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations his Department has received on making joint waste authorities precepting authorities. [235134]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government did not consult on this specifically and our position remains that Joint Waste Authorities will not have precepting powers. Precepting was raised by a number of respondents to the recent consultation on draft regulations and guidance for proposals for Joint Waste Authorities. In addition the issue has been raised by stakeholders as part of wider informal discussions.

### Water Supply

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North East Hertfordshire of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1998-9W, on water supply, what the titles are of the research reports and studies undertaken by the Environment Agency on household water use. [235003]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I have been asked to reply.

As set out in my previous answer there are a series of studies that have been undertaken by various different organisations, including the Environment Agency, into water consumption in the UK. Some of these studies are in the public domain, others, which include commercially sensitive data, are not. Environment Agency reports include; "The Environment Agency's advice to Ministers on the final water resources plans submitted by water companies as part of the 2004 periodic review". This was published July 2004 and available to download from;

http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEHO0704BLUV-e-e.pdf?lang=_e

In developing the water consumption levels set out in the Code for Sustainable Homes, the Building Research Establishment (BRE) also used information and data that were published in Environment Agency's report titled "Assessing the cost of compliance with the code for sustainable homes".

This was published January 2007 and available to download from;

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/scho0107bltree_1746081.pdf

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Arctic

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent research he has evaluated on the volume of Arctic ice. [233616]

**Joan Ruddock:** Recent and current research and monitoring studies have identified further losses in both the thickness and extent of Arctic ice.

*Sea ice*

Last month, scientists from University College London reported that the thickness of Arctic sea ice was significantly lower (by an average of 10 per cent.) during the winter of 2007-08 than during the previous five winters, indicating that the total volume of sea ice has decreased significantly. Though based only on satellite data (which are not ideal for measuring sea ice thickness), this result confirms previous evidence of decreasing sea ice thickness over the past three decades from U.S. and U.K. submarine sonar measurements.

Satellite monitoring since 1979 also shows there has been a long-term decline in the extent of summer Arctic sea ice and this decline has accelerated over the last decade. The summer minimum in 2008 was slightly greater than the record low in 2007, but was still the second lowest year on record, despite relatively cool temperatures this year. The latest generation of climate models developed by the Met Office Hadley Centre, under its joint DECC and MOD-funded Integrated Climate Programme, appears to capture the recent trend well and indicates that this decline will continue over coming years.

*Greenland Ice Sheet*

UK researchers have been using satellite data and other observations to monitor changes in the Greenland Ice Sheet. The longer term results show that the total ice mass has decreased over the past few decades and recent observations indicate that the duration and total area of surface melting on the ice sheet was higher during summer 2007 than during any other summer since records began in 1973. This year, there has been significant loss of ice from Petermann and Jakobshavn Isbrae glaciers. Continuing ice sheet loss has major implications for sea levels rise and DECC is working with UK researchers to understand and model ice sheet dynamics better, to improve estimates of where the Greenland ice sheet 'tipping point' might be in relation to global temperature increase.

### British Energy: EDF

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value of the contract between the Government and UBS Limited for advice provided in regard of the sale of British Energy to EDF was. [231241]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** It would not be appropriate to disclose the value of the contract between the Government and UBS for their advice in relation to the potential sale of British Energy as the contract remains open pending completion of the deal, and the information is commercially confidential.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value of the contract between the Nuclear Liabilities Fund and Lazard and Co for advice provided in regard of the sale of British Energy to EDF was. [231242]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The value of the contract between the NLF and Lazard and Co. for advice provided with regard to the sale of British Energy is a matter for the NLF Trustees, and I have been advised by them that they consider the information to be commercially confidential.

### Carbon Emissions

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to place a limit on the use of credits generated through the Kyoto mechanisms for emissions reduction. [234399]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government have tabled an amendment to the Climate Change Bill which would require a limit to be set on the purchase of credits for each budgetary period in secondary legislation, subject to the affirmative procedure, and taking into account the Committee on Climate Change's advice on the appropriate balance between action at domestic, European and international level, for each carbon budget.

The European Commission has made proposals on how access to project credits should be limited in its legislative package on Climate and Energy. The current proposal is that, on the basis of sharing a 20 per cent. EU reduction target, member states have an annual project credit allowance in the years 2013-20 equal to 3 per cent. of their non-emissions trading scheme (ETS) emissions in 2005. In the EU ETS, and again for a 20 per cent. reduction target, no new access to project credits is envisaged for phase III (2013-20) of the scheme.

For a 30 per cent. target, the Commission's proposal allows for half the additional reduction to be met through project credits in both the EU ETS and the sectors of the economy not covered by the EU ETS.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of efficiency measures installed under the *(a)* first and *(b)* second phase of the energy efficiency commitment which were installed in rural areas. [234713]

**Joan Ruddock:** Under each phase of the Energy Efficiency Commitment, Ofgem, who regulate the scheme for the Government, were only required to monitor energy suppliers' activity across Great Britain as a whole. Data are not collected by region or any other local area.

### Carbon Emissions Reduction Target

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of efficiency measures installed under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target which were installed in rural areas. [234714]

**Joan Ruddock:** Under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target programme, Ofgem, who regulate the scheme for

the Government, is only required to monitor energy suppliers' activity across Great Britain as a whole. Data are not collected by region or any other local area.

### Carbon Emissions: Construction

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many energy efficiency measures were installed in England under the *(a)* first and *(b)* second phase of the Energy Efficiency Commitment in each (i) Government Office region, (ii) local authority and (iii) constituency. [234712]

**Joan Ruddock:** Ofgem's report 'A Review of the Energy Efficiency Commitment 2002-2005', published in August 2005, states that 66,923,178 measures were installed in England over this three-year period. Included within this figure were 1,945,749 cavity wall and loft insulation measures, plus 39,737,570 compact florescent lamps (CFLs)—energy efficient light bulbs.

Ofgem's report 'A Review of the Energy Efficiency Commitment 2005-2008', published in August 2008, states that 163,277,782 measures were installed in England over this three-year period. Included within this figure were 3,324,545 cavity wall and loft insulation measures, plus 101,876,023 CFLs.

Under the Energy Efficiency Commitment, Ofgem, who regulated the schemes for the Government, were only required to monitor energy suppliers' activity across Great Britain as a whole and data were not collected by region or any other local area.

### Carbon Emissions: Housing

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many energy efficiency measures have been installed under the *(a)* Warm Front and *(b)* Home Energy Efficiency schemes in each (i) Government Office region, (ii) local authority area and (iii) constituency. [234688]

**Joan Ruddock:** As fuel poverty is now a devolved matter, the answer refers only to measures installed in England through the Warm Front scheme.

A spreadsheet illustrating the number of measures delivered through the Warm Front scheme, by scheme year for the last three full years (2005-08) split by (i) Government Office region, (ii) local authority area and (iii) constituency has been placed in the House Libraries.

### Carbon Emissions: International Cooperation

**Sir John Stanley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will list in descending order of magnitude the percentage contribution that each county, including the UK, is making to global carbon dioxide emissions. [234973]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* A table produced by the World Resources Institute listing the latest data available for global carbon dioxide emissions in 2004 has been placed in the House Libraries. The figures are listed as both percentages and thousand metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent and are listed by country in order of the magnitude of its contribution to the global total as requested.

The latest figure for total global carbon dioxide emissions in 2004 is approaching 30 billion metric tonnes of carbon dioxide (27,251,186 thousand metric tonnes).

The United States is the greatest contributor to global carbon dioxide emissions in 2004, being responsible for over 20 per cent. of the global total. The UK is ranked 7th overall for its contribution to global carbon dioxide emissions in 2004 with just over 2 per cent. of the global total.

### Climate Change: Public Appointments

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress the Government have made in appointing a new Chair of the Committee on Climate Change; and when he expects an appointment to be announced. [234281]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* The recruitment process is well under way but at present we do not have a specific date for making an announcement.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what buildings are occupied by his Department; and what other buildings his Department plans to use. [229118]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** DECC has just announced that it intends to move all of its London staff into 3 Whitehall Place. Currently staff are working in 1 Victoria Street, Ergon House and 3 Whitehall Place.

### Departmental Marketing

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226521]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform was previously responsible for energy policy. It commissioned press advertising in the financial year 2007-08 from COI to raise awareness of the consultation on the future of nuclear power in the UK. This involved placing advertisements in major national newspapers.

Cost effectiveness was assessed by the potential audience size reached, calculated by the circulation of each newspaper and the discount on advertising rates achieved by COI against standard rate card costs.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what costs have been incurred in creating his Department's brand identity. [228254]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department has spent approximately £18,000 to date on branding, including temporary signage and letterhead to identify the building and correspondence from the Department in its early weeks, as well as developing the Department's long term brand identity.

### Departmental Older Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years who work in his Department were recruited in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of staff recruited in that year who work in his Department. [228757]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change was created recently and as yet information on final staff numbers are not available and have not been agreed. This information will be released as soon as possible.

### Departmental Pensions

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many civil servants working in his Department and its agencies have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229554]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** It is not the Department's policy to disclose pension information for civil servants other than Board Members whose details will be shown in the Remuneration Report in annual Resource Accounts. A copy of the DECC Resource Accounts will be placed in the Libraries of the House when they are published.

### Fuel Poverty

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the implications of the recent High Court judgment are for his Department's statutory duty to end fuel poverty for vulnerable households by 2010 and for all households by 2016. [234626]

**Joan Ruddock:** Tackling fuel poverty remains a priority for the Government. Since 2000, the Government have spent £20 billion on fuel poverty benefits and programmes. Significant spending will continue.

The UK Government remain committed to the eradication of fuel poverty in vulnerable households as far as reasonably practicable by 2010 with the overall aim that as far as reasonably practicable no household in the UK should live in fuel poverty by 2016.

Despite the considerable resources already committed to tackling fuel poverty, recent rises in energy prices have made the challenge of tackling fuel poverty more difficult. Therefore, while the current mix of fuel poverty measures will not eradicate fuel poverty in all vulnerable households by 2010, the package announced 11 September underlines the Government's commitment to do all that is reasonably practicable to ensure that those households, and others, do not live in fuel poverty.

The recent judicial review concerned the Government's statutory duty to do all that is reasonably practicable to eradicate fuel poverty in England in vulnerable households by 2010 and in all households by 2016. The Government remain committed to that duty.

### Warm Front Scheme

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget for the Warm Front scheme *(a)* is in the current financial year and *(b)* will be in each of the next five financial years. [234401]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 11 November 2008]:* The Warm Front budget for the current financial year is set at approximately £345 million.

The budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are approximately £274 million and £250 million respectively.

At present, no budget has been set beyond this period.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many pensioners aged below 70 have participated in the Warm Front scheme in each of the last five years. [234403]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 11 November 2008]:* The following table illustrates, by scheme year from 2005-06, the number of households assisted by Warm Front where the customer was aged 60 to 69 at the point of application.

Prior to 2005 the scheme was administered by two scheme managers. The data retained by the present agency are not sufficient to provide the data for the 2004-05 period to the necessary level of detail.

| *Scheme year* | *Eligible customer aged 60 to 69* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 27,441 |
| 2006-07 | 59,555 |
| 2007-08 | 63,733 |
| 2008-09 (to 31 October) | 25,269 |

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Arms Trade: Democratic Republic Of Congo

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what equipment on the military list has been sold or transferred to *(a)* the Democratic Republic of Congo and *(b)* Rwanda in each of the last three years. [235358]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* The Government publish detailed information on export licences issued, refused and revoked, by destination, including the overall value and a summary of the items covered by these licences, in its annual and quarterly reports on strategic export controls.

The Government's Annual Reports, published since 1997, and quarterly reports, published since 2004, are available from the House of Commons Library and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/export-controls

### Broadband

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing a universal service obligation for broadband provision; and if he will make a statement. [229370]

**Ian Pearson:** The European Commission is currently consulting member states as part of the European Union's periodical review on the scope of universal service in electronic communications networks and services. The question of whether broadband should be included under a universal service obligation (USO) forms part of this process. The European Commission recently published a Communication in which they concluded that there was not a case currently for introducing a USO in respect of broadband but that this was an important issue that needs to be kept under review, and about which there needs to be a debate.

### Broadband: Rural Areas

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the provision of broadband in rural areas. [229371]

**Ian Pearson:** On 17 October the Government announced that "The Digital Britain Report" will develop a comprehensive strategy to further the UK's digital economy and society. Part of this work on broadband development will involve examining options for maximising participation and levels of service across the UK.

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations his Department has received on provision of broadband in rural areas in the last 12 months. [229372]

**Ian Pearson:** In the last 12 months, this Department has received many representations in the form of inquiries and questions from the public and fellow Members of Parliament on broadband in rural areas. The focus of them has been on issues such as impact on businesses, rural economic activity caused by problems around broadband supply, lack of competition and speed of broadband.

### Coal Fired Power Stations: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will require all new coal plants to capture at least 90 per cent. of their carbon dioxide emissions by 2020 if they are to continue operating. [223985]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I have been asked to reply.

The EU emissions trading scheme sits at the heart of our strategy for reducing emissions from the power sector. All power plants have to operate within the cap on emissions set by the EU ETS and we are actively supporting current proposals to tighten the cap year on year to 2020 and beyond, setting us on a pathway to achieve our 2020 and longer term emission goals.

Although the separate processes involved in CCS—capture, transport and storage—have been proven on an individual basis over many years, the application of the full chain of CCS technology on a commercial-scale power station has not yet been demonstrated. Until the operation of the full chain of CCS in conjunction with a power station has been proven, it would not be prudent to require new coal plants to be fitted with CCS or to set a date by which this would be required. The urgency for demonstrating the foil chain of CCS is why the UK Government are supporting one of the world's first commercial-scale demonstration projects.

### Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost to UK industry of implementing the EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive to date. [234838]

**Ian Pearson:** These data are not available. However, the estimated costs of implementing the waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive were set out in the final regulatory impact assessment which was published when the WEEE regulations were laid before Parliament on 12 December 2006.

### Energy: Companies

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information the Government has on the level of profit of gas and electricity energy companies arising from activities in the UK in the last five years; and how much profit was made by such companies in each of those years. [223729]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I have been asked to reply.

Information on the profits of energy companies operating in the UK can be obtained from the published financial statements of these companies.

In addition, a further source of information is the Value Added Scoreboard:

www.innovation.gov.uk/value_added/

published annually by DIUS and BERR (and previously by DTI), lists operating profit for the largest UK-based energy firms, including UK subsidiaries of non-UK firms. This information is compiled from company accounts.

### Exports: Israel

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will put in place procedures to record the export of products to illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory separately from those relating to Israel. [229938]

**Ian Pearson:** We have no reason to believe that strategically controlled products have been exported to illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory in contravention of the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria.

### Financial Services: EU Action

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of the provisions of EU Directive 2006/49/EC in relation to mark to market, with particular reference to annex VII. [235939]

**Ian Pearson:** On 15 October 2008 the European Commission adopted amendments to EFRS 39 and IFRS 7, with the unanimous support of member states. These amendments ensured that EU companies have the same flexibility as their American competitors to reclassify assets held-for-trading into the held-to-maturity category. The current financial crisis justifies the use of reclassification by companies. In these circumstances, financial institutions in the EU would no longer have to reflect market fluctuation in their financial statements for these kinds of assets. These changes will apply as from the third quarter of 2008.

### Oil Companies

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* statistics and *(b)* other information his Department holds on the financial performance of oil and petroleum companies arising from activities in the UK in the last five years. [223998]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Department conducts no surveys on petroleum companies' financial performance which is not in the public domain.

Twice a year the Department conducts a survey of UK upstream operators which provides information on income and expenditure relating to the oil and gas fields they operate. It also collects information on their exploration expenditure. The information is collated and aggregated data are published at:

https://www.og.berr.gov.uk/information/bb_updates/appendices/Appendix7.htm

The published data for the last five years are in the following tables.

The Department also requires certain types of applications for the Secretary of State's consent, e.g. for consent to petroleum field development plans, to be supported by evidence that the company or companies concerned has sufficient financial resources to meet the expenses and liabilities consequent on or related to that project.

*Income from and expenditure on UK continental shelf exploration, development and operating activities*

*£ million*

| | *Income* | | | | | *Expenses* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Oil sales* | *NGL sales* | *Gas sales* | *Other income*[1] | *Total income* | *Operating costs* | *Of which: decommissioning costs* | *Other expenses*[2] | *Total expenses* | *Gross operating surplus*[3] |
| 2003 | 13,365 | 1,105 | 7,554 | 1,538 | 23,562 | 4,496 | n/a | 8 | 4,504 | 19,058 |
| 2004 | 13,477 | 1,266 | 7,476 | 1,178 | 23,397 | 4,664 | 148 | 87 | 4,751 | 18,646 |
| 2005 | 16,656 | 1,681 | 9,021 | 1,451 | 28,809 | 5,113 | 412 | 128 | 5,241 | 23,568 |
| 2006 | 17,935 | 1,910 | 11,741 | 1,658 | 33,244 | 5,597 | 144 | 252 | 5,849 | 27,394 |
| 2007 | 18,979 | 1,749 | 9,377 | 1,814 | 31,920 | 6,007 | 163 | 230 | 6,237 | 25,683 |

| | *Capital expenditure* | | | | *Prices* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *E&A*[4] *(£ million)* | *Of which: Seismic (£ million)* | *Investment other than E&A (£ million)* | *Total (£ million)* | *Average oil price (£/tonne)* | *Average gas price (p/therm)* | *GDP deflator (2003=100)* |
| 2003 | 334 | 42 | 3,412 | 3,746 | 130.0 | 17.4 | 100.0 |
| 2004 | 396 | 87 | 3,302 | 3,698 | 154.0 | 21.0 | 102.6 |
| 2005 | 460 | 34 | 4,371 | 4,831 | 215.8 | 27.8 | 104.9 |
| 2006 | 773 | 99 | 5,656 | 6,429 | 257.5 | 38.2 | 107.7 |
| 2007 | 1,090 | 56 | 5,303 | 6,393 | 269.8 | 31.9 | 110.8 |

[1] Revenues from pipelines and terminals, and other revenues of operators and production licensees.
[2] Other costs of operators and production licensees not attributable to oil or gas fields.
[3] Gross operating surplus = total income less total expenses.
[4] E&A costs include exploration and the cost of appraisal wells drilled prior to development approval.
*Note:*
The figures exclude change in stocks and book value of stocks.

### Trade: Commonwealth

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions have taken place between his Department and Commonwealth governments to encourage intra-Commonwealth trade. [229386]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department has many discussions with Governments of Commonwealth countries in support of the Department's key objective of delivering free and fair trade. These have included in the past three months discussions with the New Zealand high commissioner and Trade Minister, the Jamaican Minister for Commerce and Investment, Jamaica Trade and Invest, the Sri Lankan Minister for Commerce, the Commonwealth Business Council the UK/Caribbean Forum and the Cameroonian Prime Minister.

### Waste Disposal: EU Law

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory

Reform how many and what tonnage of waste products were *(a)* recycled and *(b)* sent for energy recovery under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive in the first compliance period, broken down by region. [235464]

**Ian Pearson:** The level of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) which is treated and reprocessed on behalf of UK producers is only recorded at a national level. During the first compliance period (1 July to 31 December 2007), 184,334.13 tonnes of WEEE was separately collected, sent for treatment, recovery and recycling or re-used as whole appliances.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to question 232194, tabled by the hon. Member for Woking on 28 October 2008, on branded golf balls. [236049]

**Mr. McFadden:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1128W.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the standard tour of duty is for personnel sent to Afghanistan; and how much decompression time is provided at the end of each tour. [236208]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has employees operating in both Kabul and in the Helmand region of Afghanistan. The standard tour length for employees posted to Kabul is one year and for Helmand it is six months. Employees may be offered the option of extending their tour by up to a further one year in Kabul and six months in Helmand.

At the end of their posting employees who have served one year in Afghanistan must take a minimum of four weeks annual leave (accumulated while at post) to ensure an acceptable decompression period before taking up their next posting. Employees who have served for 18 months should take a minimum of five weeks, and those who have been in country for two years should take a minimum of six weeks.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian assistance the Government are providing to citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo. [235374]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is one of the largest and most active humanitarian donors in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). A recent additional £5 million contribution for the crisis in North Kivu brings our total contribution in 2008 to £42 million. We are also engaged with humanitarian contacts, not least as current chair of the Good Humanitarian Donorship Group in DRC, to help assess the situation, co-ordinate donors and ensure that together donors respond to priority needs.

Following a request from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Department for International Development (DFID) is organising relief flights with plastic sheeting, blankets, water purification tablets and buckets for immediate distribution to those in need. DFID funded partners are able to get some assistance to those displaced and in need in and around Goma and some of the secure outlying areas. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP) and non-governmental partners such as Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), Merlin and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) have been providing immediate relief aid such as emergency food, health, shelter and non-food items.

### Departmental ICT

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each year since 1997. [234095]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Central accounting records detailing write-off and lost information are held by the Department for International Development (DFID) for up to seven years. On this basis we have detailed property lost or stolen since financial year 2001-02. Information is provided in the following table.

All DFID laptops have secure encryption technology and no data have been put at risk. All losses and thefts are investigated by our Business Solutions Division and Security section for breach of security practice.

| *Type* | *Classification* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Memory sticks (a) | Lost (i) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Stolen (ii) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Laptop computers (b) | Lost (i) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 03 |
| | Stolen (ii) | 3 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 36 |
| Desk Top Computers (c) | Lost (i) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Stolen (ii) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hard Drives (d) | Lost (i) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Stolen (ii) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mobile phones (e) | Lost (i) | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 10 |

| Type | Classification | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Stolen (iii) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 18 |

### Departmental Older Workers

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people recruited by his Department in 2007-08 were aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years; and what percentage this represented of the number of new recruits in each case. [235242]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 109-10W to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson).

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [226497]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) does not currently publish information about size of suppliers as this does not fully reflect the number and size of businesses engaged in supplying to Government. We do not discriminate by size of business because many SMEs can be found within larger supply chains. Alongside speeding up Government payment we are also looking to lead contractors to pass on the benefits to smaller suppliers in their supply chains.

The proportion of invoices for all goods and services paid within 30 days of receipt by DFID in 2007-08 was 94.5 per cent.

I welcome the statement by the Prime Minister at Prime Minister's Questions on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 268-9 and will ensure that DFID works towards making payment of all invoices as soon as possible and within 10 days.

### Developing Countries: Education

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of out-of-school disabled children in developing countries. [236733]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UK Government are spending £8.5 billion over the period 2006-07—2015-16 in support of education in developing countries. This will help support partner countries' plans, policies and programmes to ensure that children, including those with disabilities, benefit from quality education. We are working with partners to ensure inclusive education strategies are integral to these plans and specifically that access to education by children with special needs is addressed.

The Department for International Development's (DFID) policy in support of the disadvantaged is laid out in the paper "Reducing poverty by tackling social exclusion". The paper is available in the House Library and on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/social-exclusion.pdf

and recognises that certain groups of children including girls, are more likely to be excluded from school on basis of caste, ethnicity, religion or disability and that children with special needs constitute a significant group that is denied education.

### Development Aid: Conferences

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's objectives are for the Financing for Development Conference in Doha; what Ministerial and official level representation there will be from his Department as part of the British delegation to the summit; what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Prime Minister and *(b)* Chancellor of the Exchequer about this summit; and if he will make a statement. [234962]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) wishes to see the Doha Conference reconfirm the commitment of developed, emerging and developing countries, originally expressed in 2002 at Monterrey, to work together to meet the challenges of financing for development and to meet the Millennium Development Goals. In support of this, developed countries should reaffirm that, despite current economic difficulties, they will meet their aid commitments and will work with developing countries to help them respond to current challenges.

I will represent the UK Government at the conference, accompanied by a small delegation of officials from my Department.

There is considerable ongoing co-ordination across Whitehall in preparation for the conference, with regular engagement from all relevant Departments.

### Iraq and Afghanistan: Armed Conflict

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what instructions his Department gave to its staff in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan during 2005 on (i) the use of and (ii) travelling in Snatch Land Rovers; and when those instructions were issued. [235466]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) does not comment on specific issues of staff security overseas.

### Overseas Aid: Expenditure

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of remittances and *(b)* monetary value of remittances sent from the UK to each recipient developing country in each of the last three years. [234961]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Estimates of total personal remittance flows from the UK are included in the UK Balance of Payments "Pink Book", table 5.1, within the published series for "other receipts of and payments by households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH)". This is available online:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/Pink Book_2008_final.pdf

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has estimated that remittances comprise at least 75 per cent. of the series published in the Pink Book for total payments and receipts by households and NPISH. The estimates for remittances from the UK, excluding the NPISH element, are given in the following table for each of the last three years. However, the ONS stresses that these estimates are highly uncertain. DFID is working closely with the ONS and multilateral partners to improve the data on remittances.

*Total personal remittances from the UK 2005-07*

| | *Remittances (£ billion)* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 3.7 |
| 2006 | 3.9 |
| 2007 | 4.1 |

According to DFID funded research, the five largest recipients of remittances from the UK to developing countries are India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Jamaica and Ghana. On average, black and minority ethnic (BME) households send remittances three and a half times a year, although this varies by ethnic group. DFID recognises the positive impact that these money transfers can make on people's lives in developing countries, and has an active agenda to improve the developmental impact of remittances, seeking to help make remittances cheaper, safer and more accessible. Further information on DFID funded research into remittances is available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Pubs/files/ukremittancesurvey.pdf

## Performance Appraisal

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235219]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Guidance on performance management arrangements for the senior civil service (SCS) is issued annually by the Cabinet Office. Currently there are four performance groups with Performance Group 4 being used for the Bottom 5 to 10 per cent. of performers. People in this group should not receive a bonus and have action taken to address under performance or ongoing poor performance, including the drawing up of a Performance Improvement Plan.

For performance during the reporting year 2007-08, 10 DFID senior civil servants were rated under Performance Group 4.

For staff below the SCS, DFID operates a three tier performance management system the lowest tier being allocated to those who are "Most In Need of Development". This rating is used for the poorest performers and those who have contributed least.

For performance during the reporting year 2007-08, 73 members of staff below the SCS received a "Most In Need of Development" rating.

## Programme Development Fund

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many applications were made to *(a)* the Programme Development Fund and *(b)* the Travel Bursary Fund in each of the last five years; how many successful applications were made to each in each year; and what the (i) value, (ii) destination, (iii) purpose and (iv) outcome was of each award made. [232823]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) provides funding to the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) to run a scheme to raise development awareness via the broadcast media. The scheme includes a Programme Development Fund (PDF) and a Travel Bursary Fund (TBF). The number of applications to the two funds in each of the last five years, and the number of successful applications with their value, destination and outcome is given in the following table.

*Programme Development Fund*

| *Year* | *Applications[1]* | *Awards given* | *Value[2] (£)* | *Destination of successful awards* | *Outcome of awards given* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 42 | 16 | 1,030-8,000 | 3 India, 1 Zambia, 3 Sudan (Darfur), 3 Pan developing world, 1 Ethiopia, 1 Caribbean, 1 Kashmir, 1 Nepal, 1 South Africa, 1 Sierra Leone, 1 Sri Lanka, 2 projects reflected development issues and asylum seekers in the UK. | 12 programmes/series have been broadcast to date including a major children's TV series and two multiple award winning documentaries. Others remain in development/production. |
| 2005 | 50 | 11 | 9,400-10,000 | 1 Angola, 1 Congo, 1 Brazil, 1 Mongolia, 2 Caribbean, 1 South Africa, 1 India, 1 Uganda and two global developing world. | 4 programmes have been broadcast to date. One had multiple media outputs including a major theatrical (cinema release). Others remain in development/ production. |
| 2006 | 29 | 15 | 2,500-10,000 | 2 India, 1 Cuba, 1 Uganda, 1 Rwanda, 1 Haiti, 1 west Africa, 1 Latin America, 1 global developing world, 1 Nigeria, 1 former Soviet Union, 1 Ascension Island 1 Afghanistan, 1 Iraq, 1 Palestine. | 4 programmes/series have been broadcast to date. 1 other has been screened at festivals. Others remain in development/production. 1 has had extensive theatrical release. |

*Programme Development Fund*

| *Year* | *Applications*[1] | *Awards given* | *Value*[2] *(£)* | *Destination of successful awards* | *Outcome of awards given* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 57 | 9 | 1,000-10,000 | 2 East Africa, 2 South Africa, 2 India, 1 Ethiopia, 1 Iraq, 1 Bhutan, 1 Mozambique, 1 former Soviet Union, 1 Iran, 1 Belize, 1 Laos/Cambodia, 1 Burkina Faso, 1 Ukraine, 1 Brazil. | 2 programmes have been broadcast. Others remain in development/ production, including one multiple award wining film that has also had extensive theatrical release. |
| 2008 | 57 | 9 | 5,000-10,000 | 1 Kenya, 1 global developing world, 1 China/Africa, 1 Pakistan, 1 global/ aboriginal, 1 Lebanon, 1 Afghanistan, 1 Zambia, 1 East Africa. | 1 is due for screening. Others remain in development/production. |

*Travel Bursary Fund*

| *Year* | *Applications*[4] *and awards given* | *Value*[2] *(£)* | *Destination of Successful Awards* | *Outcome of Awards Given* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | Awards made to 12 bursars from 9 formal applications. | 5,000-10,000 | 6 India, 1 Caribbean, 2 Tanzania, 1 pan Africa, 1 Ghana, 1 Uganda. | 6 bursars achieved multiple media outputs, TV broadcasts plus online and radio and print for UK regional audiences, major coverage for the 'Africa Lives' on the BBC was developed by independent producers, 1 major documentary is currently in development/production, and research/ development for the series 'Africa school' was successful. |
| 2005 | Awards made to 17 bursars from 11 applications. | 1,120-10,000 | 2 Lesotho, 6 East Africa, 1 Cuba, 3 Nigeria, 1 The Gambia, 2 India, 1 Iran and Middle East. | 14 bursars achieved multiple media outputs including a week long TV series plus radio and online for audiences in the east midlands about Uganda, major television and radio coverage of Lesotho for Wales and research/ development l for he series 'Indian School'. |
| 2006 | Awards made to 17 bursars from 11 applications. | 2,610-10,000 | 3 Sierra Leone, 1 Ethiopia, 1 Latin America, 1 Swaziland, 2 Burma, 2 Bangladesh, 4 India (inc. 2 x Indian producers to UK), 2 Kenya, 1 Afghanistan. | 10 bursars have already achieved multiple media outputs including 1 major documentary for broadcast in December 2008. Work of 2 bursars was broadcast on radio plus also press coverage and multi-media coverage and exhibitions throughout Cardiff and south Wales. 15 producers have work in production or commissioned. |
| 2007 | Awards made to 23 bursars from 17 applications. | 210-10,000 | 8 Indian sub-continent, 1 Thailand (Burma), 1 Ghana, 2 China, 1 to S. Korea, 3 Latin America, 6 East Africa, 1 South African producer to UK, 1 DRC/Sierra Leone. | 22 bursars have received either multiple media outputs (TV programmes, radio, online, photographic exhibitions, press articles) or firm commissions for the same. Many programmes and media outputs contributed to coverage of the 60th anniversary of Indian Independence. Other outputs ranged from a major documentary due for release in 2009 on Burmese refugees living in Thai camps and their relocation to the UK, slash and burn culture in Latin America, poverty and its effects in Haiti and health care in east Africa. |
| 2008 | Awards made to 11 bursars from 10 applications. | 2,000-10,000 | 3 India, 1 Latin America, 2 Malawi, 1 Haiti, 1 Afghanistan, 1 Bulgaria. 4 African producers came to the UK. | One series of shorts has already been broadcast, one series of shorts produced for broadcast in January 2009. All others are in production/development as would be expected with recent awards. |

[1] Applications to the PDF are made annually. All applications which are eligible for the funding are short-listed and evaluated. Only the short-listed applications are shown here.
[2] Awards from the PDF were up to a maximum of £8,000 in 2004, and £10,000 from 2005. The range of values of awards made is shown' here, not the value
[3] To date.
[4] Applications to the TBF can be made at any time. Inquiries to the TBF are received in very large numbers, usually by phone or email, and are not logged. The scheme staff work with all potential applicants to help them develop their ideas until peragrinal applicants are ready to submit a formal application. Only formal applications are shown here.
[5] TBF awards are up to a maximum of £10,000.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Audit Commission

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what reserves the Audit Commission holds; for what purpose the reserves are held; what the Commission's policy is on the management of its reserves; and if she will make a statement. [234424]

**John Healey:** This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

*Letter from Steve Bundred, dated November 2008:*

Parliamentary Question on what reserves the Audit Commission holds; for what purpose the reserves are held; and what the Commission's policy is on the management of its reserves

Your Parliamentary Question on what reserves the Audit Commission holds; for what purpose the reserves are held; and what the Commission's policy is on the management of its reserves has been passed to me for reply.

The Audit Commission is a public corporation primarily funded by fees paid by audited and inspected bodies (AIBs). The Commission holds revenue reserves to fund working capital and meet expenditure in unforeseen and exceptional circumstances.

The Commission's financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2008 show a revenue reserve of £28.152 million.

The Commission's policy on the management of its reserves is to manage its cash in such a way as to avoid exceptional fees, or the need to borrow for revenue purposes. In addition, our policy is to invest our reserves with institutions with a credit rating of at least F1, subject to a maximum of £5 million with any institution.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

### Council Housing: Rents

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average change in rents set by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords was in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09; and in which year she expects the rents set by each category of landlord to converge. [234369]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We cannot control actual rent increases by local authorities, we can only set guideline rents which they can choose to follow or not.

Average actual rent increases for local authorities in 2007-08 were 6.2 per cent. which equates to £3.56 per week, and for 2008-09 are 4.5 per cent. or £2.72 per week. These figures are based on un-audited housing subsidy claim forms submitted by local authorities to the Department.

Average increases in registered social landlord rents in 2007-08 were 4.9 per cent. which equates to an average increase of £3.27 per week. These figures are based on the Housing Corporation's latest annual Regulatory Statistical Return (March 2008). The increase in rents for 2008-09 will not be known until the March 2009 Regulatory Statistical Return is available.

We remain committed to the principle of rent restructuring, and forecast future falls in RPI should allow convergence to be achieved within a reasonable timeframe.

### Deprivation Indicators

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest level is for education, skills and training average achievement at lower super output level in each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales in descending order, giving the name of the lower super output area affected. [235544]

**John Healey:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him today (PQs 234939, 234950, 234944, 234943,234938, 234941 and 234942).

### Fire Services

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the FireGuard project board meeting of 27 October 2008. [236067]

**Mr. Khan:** The FireGuard project is led by the Chief Fire Officers Association, and not by Communities and Local Government.

### Home Ownership Incentive Schemes

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets her Department has adopted for take-up rates of *(a)* shared ownership and *(b)* shared equity products. [236093]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We remain committed to the delivery of affordable housing. Our aspiration is to help 75,000 households into home ownership through our shared ownership and shared equity schemes by the end of 2010-11. We have not set individual targets for our products to ensure flexibility within the programme in light of current market conditions.

### Homelessness

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for a main homelessness duty were *(a)* accepted and *(b)* not accepted in each local authority area in each of the previous five years, broken down by the applicant's (i) age, (ii) ethnicity, (iii) priority need category and (iv) reason for loss of last settled home. [234668]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected include all decisions made on applications by eligible applicants, and the number of applicants accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). These households are known as 'accepted' households.

Data on accepted households are collected by age-band, ethnicity, priority need category and reason for loss of last settled home. A table showing data for the last five years, as reported by local authorities, has been placed in the Library. There are only three years of data for age-band as this was only collected from financial year 2005-06 onwards.

Data on households not accepted as owed a main duty are collected by ethnicity, but not the other variables requested. A table showing acceptances by reason for non-acceptance, by ethnicity, as reported by local authorities, has been placed in the Library.

### Homelessness: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* homeless people and *(b)* rough sleepers there were in the London Borough of Enfield in each year since 1997. [235445]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as

eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Summary tables showing the total number of households (a) accepted as owed a main homelessness duty and (b) in temporary accommodation, from 1997-98 to 2007-08, and (c) rough sleeper estimates from 1998 to 2007, for Enfield local authority, are as follows:

*Table A: Number of households accepted[1] as owed a main homelessness duty during the year, 1997-98 to 2007-08—Enfield local authority*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 743 |
| 1998-99 | 754 |
| 1999-2000 | 793 |
| 2000-01 | 1,007 |
| 2001-02 | 1,143 |
| 2002-03 | 1,186 |
| 2003-04 | 1,085 |
| 2004-05 | [2] |
| 2005-06 | 852 |
| 2006-07 | 768 |
| 2007-08 | 595 |

[1] Households eligible under homelessness legislation, found to be unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category, and consequently owed a main homelessness duty.
[2] Denotes data not reported.

*Table B: Number of households in temporary accommodation[1], March 1998 to March 2008—Enfield local authority*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 1,435 |
| 1998-99 | 1,743 |
| 1999-2000 | 2,087 |
| 2000-01 | 2,289 |
| 2001-02 | 2,392 |
| 2002-03 | 2,678 |
| 2003-04 | 2,963 |
| 2004-05 | [2] |
| 2005-06 | 3,292 |
| 2006-07 | 3,277 |
| 2007-08 | 3,196 |

[1] Households who have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty, those for which inquiries into whether they are owed the duty are pending, and those who were found to be intentionally homeless but are being accommodated for a reasonable period by the LA. It excludes households designated as 'homeless at home', that have remained in their existing accommodation and have the same rights to suitable accommodation as those in temporary accommodation arranged by the authority.
[2] Denotes data not reported.

*Table C: Number of rough sleepers (persons), 1998 to 2007 (mid-year estimates[1])—Enfield local authority*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 0 |
| 1999 | 14 |
| 2000 | 7 |
| 2001 | 0 |
| 2002 | 0 |
| 2003 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 |
| 2005 | 0 |
| 2006 | 0 |
| 2007 | 0 |
| 2008 | 0 |

[1] Estimates based on a combination of recent street counts in those areas where there is a known or suspected rough sleeping problem and of estimates made by local authorities, as reported on their HSSA returns to CLG in June of each year.

## Housing: Construction

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new build homes constructed by registered social landlords were sold *(a)* outright and *(b)* under Home Buy and other schemes in each year since 1997. [234930]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The first table shows the number of new affordable homes in England that were sold outright via the right to acquire scheme, or under homebuy or other shared ownership and shared equity schemes, by registered social landlords each year since 1997-98. The second table shows the number of homes sold outright though the right to buy and preserved right to buy schemes by registered social landlords.

*Number of homes sold outright under the right to acquire or under homebuy and other schemes by registered social landlords*

| | Outright sales—right to acquire | Homebuy and other sales[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 0 | 6,520 |
| 1998-99 | 0 | 5,810 |
| 1999-2000 | 0 | 3,150 |
| 2000-01 | 20 | 2,550 |
| 2001-02 | 40 | 2,210 |
| 2002-03 | 110 | 2,320 |
| 2003-04 | 240 | 3,620 |
| 2004-05 | 410 | 5,860 |
| 2005-06 | 470 | 8,700 |
| 2006-07 | 570 | 11,020 |
| 2007-08 | 540 | 15,040 |

[1] Includes some outright sales through social homebuy.
*Source:*
Housing Corporation Investment Management System (IMS).

Figures showing the number of registered social landlord right to buy and preserved right to buy sales are shown in the following table. The Housing Corporation 'IMS' does not report on outright sales which do not involve grant, such as right to buy sales and preserved right to buy sales, so these figures are shown in an additional table because they are from a different data source.

*Number of homes sold outright through the right to buy or preserved right to buy schemes by registered social landlords*

| | Outright RSL right to buy and preserved right to buy sales |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 4,500 |
| 1998-99 | 4,410 |
| 1999-2000 | 7,250 |
| 2000-01 | 7,100 |
| 2001-02 | 8,220 |
| 2002-03 | 10,470 |
| 2003-04 | 14,530 |
| 2004-05 | 8,670 |
| 2005-06 | 6,360 |
| 2006-07 | 4,840 |
| 2007-08 | 3,150 |

The figures show total sales of registered social landlords homes; they cannot be broken down according to whether the properties sold were new build or acquisitions.
*Source:*
Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR) submitted by RSLs to Housing Corporation.

### Housing: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council homes have been improved to the decent homes standard in the London Borough of Enfield in each year since 1997. [235443]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information specific to the number of homes which have been improved to the Decent Homes Standard is not collected by the Department. However, the Department collects statistics on non-decent social sector local authority (LA) homes through the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) annual return.

These data are published by Communities and Local Government and can be obtained from the Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/localauthorityhousing/dataforms/357553/databyregion/

*Number of local authority owned non-decent stock by year*

| *Enfield* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 5,138 |
| 2001-02 | 4,195 |
| 2002-03 | 3,938 |
| 2003-04 | 3,710 |
| 2004-05 | 3,242 |
| 2005-06 | 3,099 |
| 2006-07 | 2,864 |

*Notes:*
1. The BPSA is a non-statutory collection from local authorities. Figures are as reported.
2. 2007-08 data not yet available

*Source:*
Local authority figures from the Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA) as at 1 April each year. The collection commenced in 2001.

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable new homes have been built in Enfield North constituency in each year since 1997. [235444]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information on affordable homes by constituency is not available. The following table shows the number of new affordable homes built in Enfield local authority for each year from 1997-98. The figures include new build social rent and intermediate affordable housing; they exclude affordable housing acquisitions.

*New affordable homes built in Enfield local authority*

| | *New affordable homes built* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 90 |
| 1998-99 | 100 |
| 1999-2000 | 80 |
| 2000-01 | 210 |
| 2001-02 | 450 |
| 2002-03 | 310 |
| 2003-04 | 220 |
| 2004-05 | 240 |
| 2005-06 | 240 |
| 2006-07 | 330 |

*Sources:*
Housing Corporation Investment Management System, and returns from local authorities to Communities and Local Government.

Not all affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. In 2006-07, an additional 160 affordable homes in Enfield local authority were provided by acquisitions which are not included in the figure above.

### Housing: Floods

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria she will apply in terms of building on a flood plain in her consideration of the South West Regional Spatial Strategy. [235872]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Secretary of State will take account of all relevant evidence that has come forward throughout the preparation of the regional spatial strategy (RSS), including the strategic flood risk assessment and any new evidence included in responses to the consultation on the RSS proposed changes. The proposed changes have also been subject to sustainability appraisal which has taken detailed account of the regional flood risk assessment while all such evidence will be considered against the Government's policy set out in Planning Policy Statement 25.

### Local Government Services

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times her Department and its predecessors have used the powers of the Secretary of State to take over local authority services under the Local Government Act 1999. [236752]

**Hazel Blears:** This Department has used powers available to the Secretary of State under the Local Government Act 1999 to take over local authority services on two occasions. Hull was subject to a Direction in November 2003 following a second adverse corporate governance inspection. Hackney was subject to Directions issued in September 2001 and January 2002.

### Local Government: Procurement

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest ranking on the barrier to housing and services domain on the index of multiple deprivation is of each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales in descending order and giving the name of each lower super output area included. [235535]

**John Healey:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him today (PQs 234939,234950, 234944, 234943, 234938, 234941 and 234942).

### Multiple Occupation: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses of multiple occupation are *(a)* registered and *(b)* not registered in each of the 37 principal seaside towns in England. [235253]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### Non-domestic Rates

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from local businesses on the effect on payable rates of installing shutters, security cameras and other security measures. [234863]

**John Healey:** I am not aware of any recent representations to Ministers on this subject.

### Non-domestic Rates: Business

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how long the Valuation Office took on average to decide a new rateable value for a business in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [236529]

**John Healey:** For cases involving normal updating of the rating lists in England and Wales—involving of the order of 250,000 cases per year—the average elapsed times in number of working days were as follows:

| | *Days* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* 2005-06 | 22 |
| *(b)* 2006-07 | 17 |
| *(c)* 2007-08 | 11 |

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Treasury on the Valuation Office's ability to increase business rates; and if she will make a statement. [236620]

**John Healey:** None. The VOA has a statutory duty to compile and maintain accurate rating lists. Alterations to the rateable value of non-domestic properties are notified to the relevant billing authority who reassess liability for business rates and issue bills to ratepayers.

I and my officials have however been in discussions with Treasury Ministers and officials over the position of businesses as a result of the VOA's Ports reviews.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Business

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what powers are available to the Valuation Office to make retrospective decisions on business rates for more than two past years; [236527]

(2) what authority the Valuation Office has to make its decisions retrospective. [236528]

**John Healey:** Valuation officers are required to maintain accurate rating lists. When they become aware a change is needed, they must make the alteration and also specify the date from which the change should be effective for rates charging purposes. The date of the change is governed by (legislative) regulations. Where the correction is to insert a property which existed on or before 1 April 2005, into the list, these require the alteration to be made from the start of the rating list, currently 1 April 2005. Valuation officers do not legally have discretion on the effective date.

### Regional Development Agencies

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable for the designation of regional development agencies as regional planning bodies is; and whether additional legislation will be required to effect this change. [236178]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The consultation on the Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration included proposals to give regional development agencies responsibility for regional planning. We intend to publish our response to that consultation shortly.

### Regional Loans Partnerships

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Government Offices for the Regions have given to regional loans partnerships; and how many such partnerships exist. [230666]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** £10.2 billion has been allocated by my Department for 2008-11 for regional housing capital programmes including those which address the condition of private sector housing stock. Of this almost £2 billion is for improvements and regeneration to the existing stock (both local authority owned and private sector). We have issued guidance to Regional Assemblies which asks them to continue to prioritise those most in need with the expectation that packages of assistance including grants, loans, and equity release schemes are made available to individual homeowners.

Any loans scheme receiving public funding should have the long-term objective of becoming self-financing. Schemes should not necessarily operate within a single government office geographical region but should build on existing good practice, and have regional or sub-regional coverage.

The regions are at various stages of developing equity release and loan products.

### Sleeping Rough: Cornwall

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were recorded as sleeping rough in Cornwall in each year since 1979. [235193]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Annual rough sleeping figures have been collected since 1998 and are shown in the following table. These show the significant reductions in rough sleeping over the past 10 years.

*Number of rough sleepers in Cornwall based on rough sleeper counts by individual local authorities*

| | *District council* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Caradon* | *Carrick* | *Kerrier* | *North Cornwall* | *Penwith* | *Restormel* | *Total for Cornwall* |
| 1998 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 17 | 10 | 36 |
| 1999 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 17 | 10 | 36 |
| 2000 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 17 |
| 2001 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 11 |

*Number of rough sleepers in Cornwall based on rough sleeper counts by individual local authorities*

| | *District council* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Caradon* | *Carrick* | *Kerrier* | *North Cornwall* | *Penwith* | *Restormel* | *Total for Cornwall* |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 11 |
| 2006 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| 2007 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2008 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

## Social Housing Grants

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to allow councils to apply for social housing grants. [234331]

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many councils have applied for funding to buy vacant properties for local housing purposes in the last six months; and whether funding has been made available to local authorities on the same basis as to registered social landlords. [234282]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I refer the hon. Members to our 2 September 2008 statement on the package of measures responding to housing market conditions which confirmed that the social housing grant would be opened up to all stock-owning local authorities as well as local authorities with arms length management organisations. We are working with the Housing Corporation on the practicalities and the timetable for delivering this. No local authorities have applied for funding so far.

We have also introduced other measures to create incentives for councils to build and acquire new homes. S313 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 provides that councils can keep the full rental income from new council homes (including newly built and newly acquired properties). We also intend to make changes to the capital regulations, in order to allow councils to keep the full receipts from new council homes. We expect to consult shortly on the use of S313 power and the capital receipts regulations which aim to enable councils to benefit in full from rental income or sales receipts from properties that have been built or acquired since this planned change to these rules.

## Social Services: Haringey

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what inspections the Audit Commission has undertaken of Haringey Council's social services department since 2000. [236670]

**Hazel Blears:** The chief executive of the Audit Commission has today written to the hon. Member explaining that although responsibility for inspecting social services lies primarily with other inspectorates, the Commission was represented on the Joint Area Review of children's services in Haringey that reported in October 2006. The findings of the Joint Area Review were reflected in the Commission's corporate assessment of Haringey council, also published in 2006.

# DEFENCE

## Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many attacks there were by insurgents against British armed forces in Helmand province in Afghanistan in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [227974]

**Mr. Hutton:** The number of direct engagements (regardless of the instigator) involving the international security assistance force (ISAF) and insurgents in Helmand province for the last three years are as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 736 |
| 2007 | 2,213 |
| 2008 (as of 15 October) | 1,475 |

ISAF forces operating in Helmand come from a number of different nations, which often operate closely alongside each other. These forces also operate very closely alongside Afghan Army and police units. Without undertaking a detailed assessment of each engagement, it is not possible precisely to define in every case whether an attack was aimed at UK forces, at our ISAF partners, or against Afghan units. Data are therefore collected on the number of incidents involving ISAF forces in Helmand without attempting to identify the nationality of the forces actually being attacked. The environment also makes it extremely difficult precisely to distinguish between incidents initiated by insurgent forces and those initiated by ISAF.

These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment.

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 622W, on Afghanistan, what his reasons were for not stating which of Helmand's districts are under the control of the International Security Assistance Force, the Afghan National Security Forces and the Government of Afghanistan. [231822]

**Mr. Hutton** *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* The Government of Afghanistan, Afghan national security forces and the international security assistance force maintain a significant presence across Helmand Province as referred to in my answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 622W.

Counter-insurgency operations, like our operation in Afghanistan, are more complex in nature than traditional warfare. Control of territory is not simple to define in a situation with no easily identifiable front-line.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Snatch Land Rovers are in use in Helmand province; and how many have been written off in Afghanistan in the last three years. [234054]

**Mr. Hutton** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Lynx and *(b)* Gazelle helicopters are deployed in Afghanistan. [234394]

**Mr. Hutton:** There are currently no Gazelle helicopters deployed in Afghanistan. I am withholding detailed information on the number of Lynx helicopters deployed to Afghanistan as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of the ordinance expended by UK armed forces in Afghanistan was in 2007-08. [235171]

**Mr. Hutton:** We do not keep information specific to the cost of ordnance. In the year 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 expenditure in Afghanistan on Guided Weapons, Missiles and Bombs was £57 million and expenditure on Armament Stores, which included small arms ammunition and shells, was £121 million.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the anticipated cost of urgent operational requirements for the Tornado aircraft in order to meet theatre entry requirements for Afghanistan. [235904]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The anticipated cost of urgent operational requirements for Tornado to meet theatre entry requirements for Afghanistan is up to £40 million.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Harrier aircraft is due to be withdrawn from Afghanistan. [235905]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** As announced by the then Secretary of State on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 677-78, the Harrier force is due to be withdrawn from Afghanistan by spring 2009.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* pilots and *(b)* ground crew of each trade are deployed in support of Harrier aircraft in Afghanistan. [235982]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There are 12 pilots and 86 ground crew deployed. The breakdown of ground crew personnel is detailed in the following table.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *Aircraft engineering personnel* | |
| Aircraft Maintenance Mechanic | 42 |
| *Other ground personnel* | |
| Avionics (including Weapons) | 16 |
| Mechanics | 19 |
| Engineering Officer | 1 |
| Survival Equipment | 2 |
| Administration | 1 |
| Operations | 4 |
| Intelligence | 1 |

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* air crew and *(b)* ground crew personnel will be deployed in support of the Tornado aircraft due to replace Harriers in Afghanistan. [235983]

**Mr. Hutton:** It is planned that 24 aircrew and 122 ground crew will be deployed.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on urgent operational requirements for the Harrier force in Afghanistan. [236001]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** A maximum of £42 million has been approved for spend on urgent operational requirements for the Harrier force in Afghanistan.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Harrier force has been deployed continuously on operations since the start of Operation Telic. [236002]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Harrier force has never been deployed on Operation Telic. However, Harrier aircraft have been deployed continuously on Operation Herrick since September 2004.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what effect the participation of Harriers on Operation Herrick has had on their out-of-service date. [236003]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** None. The Harrier out of service date remains 2018.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours per week on average Harriers have flown *(a)* on Operation Herrick and *(b)* on peace time training in the latest period for which figures are available. [236004]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Figures for the hours flown by Harrier aircraft are collated on a monthly basis. The flying statistics, for the last three months for which figures are available are detailed in the following table:

| | | *Hours* |
|---|---|---|
| *Months* | *Operation Herrick* | *Peacetime training* |
| August 2008 | 505 | 535 |
| September 2008 | 410 | 885 |
| October 2008 | 520 | 705 |

*Note:*
Figures have been rounded to the nearest five hours.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Tornado aircraft would be required to undertake the close air support being provided by Harriers in Afghanistan. [236005]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** 8 Tornado aircraft will replace the 8 Harrier aircraft deployed in Afghanistan.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the Harrier force is being withdrawn from Afghanistan. [236194]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** As announced by the then Secretary of State on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 677-78, the Harrier force has been continuously operational in Afghanistan since November 2004 and has proven time and again its value in defending the lives of our troops, our allies and those they are there to protect. Mindful of the strain that this extended deployment has put upon the crews, their families and the wider role of Joint Force Harrier we have decided to withdraw the Harriers from Afghanistan and replace them with an equivalent force of Tornado GR4s.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost additional to that of normal peacetime flying tasks of *(a)* continuing to sustain eight Harrier GR9 aircraft on Operation Herrick and *(b)* deploying and sustaining eight Tornado GR4 aircraft on Operation Herrick. [236548]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The financial costs for continuing to sustain eight Harrier GR9 on Operation Herrick are estimated to be £30 million p.a. This cost includes, for example, fuel, forward and depth maintenance, associated equipment support and is based on current levels of activity. The costs associated with sustaining eight Tornado GR4 on Operation Herrick are estimated to be £31 million p.a. on an equivalent basis. The cost of deploying Tornado GR4 to Operation Herrick is up to £40 million.

Normal peacetime flying is reduced commensurate with the amount of flying conducted on the deployed operation.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the aircraft performance differences between Harrier and Tornado experienced during their deployment in Afghanistan over the summer months. [236549]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Tornado aircraft have yet to deploy to Afghanistan.

### Armed Forces: Blood Transfusions

**Mr. Laxton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent advice the Surgeon General has received on adopting pathogen inactivation for treating blood products for UK armed forces. [229596]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** As I explained in my answer on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 120W, the majority of blood products used on deployed operations overseas by the Defence Medical Services is supplied by the UK National Blood Services, who also supply the NHS hospitals where service personnel are treated in the UK. The Surgeon General has received advice that current pathogen inactivation technology is not suitable for use in deployed UK operational facilities. He will continue to monitor developments in this area, including the practices adopted by our allies and the future review of pathogen inactivation that will be undertaken by the UK Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs.

### Armed Forces: Death

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps in cases of a death where a significant event analysis in primary care has been completed according to instructions outlined in Director General of Army Medical Services Policy Letter 62/03 are taken to make that analysis available to *(a)* the commanding officer of the deceased, *(b)* the service inquiry and *(c)* HM Coroner. [236163]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Commanding Officer receives limited medical information about an individual where this is justified in order to protect the patient, in accordance with the Director General of Army Medical Services Policy Letter 62-03.

Once an individual has been designated at risk of suicide, he/she is placed on the unit Suicide Vulnerability Risk Management (SVRM) Register. A care assessment plan is also completed by the Commanding Officer. The Commanding Officer would therefore be aware of actions taken in primary care prior to a death.

A service inquiry and HM Coroner may request and be provided with the medical information necessary for them to complete their investigations.

### Armed Forces: Fire Services

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what resources his Department would make available in the event of a firefighters' strike. [236787]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1440W.

### Armed Forces: Pensions

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what pension is payable to a soldier who retired after 22 years in the British Army on 30 April 1997 as a sergeant in *(a)* a Gurkha regiment and *(b)* a regiment recruited in the UK. [233766]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The comparison requested is not possible as, under the then Gurkha Terms and Conditions of Service, a Gurkha sergeant would not serve beyond the 18 year point. He would have been awarded a pension under the Gurkha Pension Scheme, payable straight away, while his regular Army counterpart would have been awarded a preserved pension under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 (AFPS 75) payable at age 60. Assuming that both individuals were aged 40 when they left, the ex-Gurkha sergeant would have received 20 years pension before his regular Army counterpart was entitled to receive his pension benefits.

I should mention that under the new Gurkha Terms and Conditions of Service, all sergeants transferred to the same engagement as British personnel which means that they, too, could potentially serve to the 22 year point, with pension benefits under either AFPS 75 or AFPS 05, depending on which they chose.

### Armed Forces: Resignations

**Christopher Fraser:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officers left the armed forces from *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force in each year from 1997 to 2007. [236456]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The following table shows the number of officers who left the armed forces in each financial year from 1997-98 to 2007-08:

*Officer outflow to civilian life from UK Regular Forces*

| | *All Services* | *Naval Service* | *Army* | *RAF* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 2,280 | 620 | 1,040 | 620 |
| 1998-99 | 2,490 | 540 | 1,290 | 660 |
| 1999-2000 | 2,290 | 570 | 1,120 | 600 |
| 2000-01 | 2,290 | 480 | 1,150 | 660 |
| 2001-02 | 2,300 | 530 | 1,090 | 670 |
| 2002-03 | 2,070 | 510 | 980 | 580 |
| 2003-04 | 2,040 | 470 | 950 | 620 |
| 2004-05 | 2,310 | 510 | 1,100 | 700 |
| 2005-06 | 2,290 | 520 | 1,070 | 700 |
| 2006-07 | 2,680[1] | 500[1] | 1,330[1] | 850 |
| 2007-08 | 2,820[1] | 580[1] | 1,490[1] | 760[1] |

[1] Denotes provisional. Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System, all Naval Service and Army flow statistics for financial year 2006-07 and 2007-08 and all RAF flow statistics for financial year 2007-08 are provisional and subject to review.

*Notes:*

1. Figures show outflow from UK Regular Forces including recalled reservists on release and outflow to the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment. The Royal Irish Regiment disbanded on 31 March 2008.
2. UK Regular Forces includes all trained and untrained personnel. Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve personnel, and mobilised reservists are excluded.

Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

### Armed Forces: Self-mutilation

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many revisions have been made to the Royal Military Police document Guidelines for Commanding Officers following an Incident of Self Harm since 2003; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of these guidelines. [236170]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Royal Military Police Guidelines for Commanding Officers following an incident of self harm were withdrawn following the publication on 20 July 2006 of Army General and Administrative Instructions Chapter 110—The Suicide Vulnerability Risk Management (SVRM) Policy, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. They had not been revised prior to this.

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what rank the military chain of command receives information from the Army Medical Service chain of command communicating confidential medical information on service personnel considered at risk of self-harm. [236186]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Disclosure guidelines for medical officers are set out in Policy Letter 62-03 (Army Suicide Prevention Policy: Guidelines for Medical Officers—Confidentiality and Consent) by the Director General of Army Medical Services. This states that, 'limited medical disclosure to the Commanding Officer may be justified to protect the patient'. A commanding officer would typically be of Lieutenant Colonel rank.

I will place a copy of Policy Letter 62-03 in the Library of the House.

### Armed Forces: Suicide

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of document AGAI 110 on suicide vulnerability risk management. [236165]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Yes, I will place a copy of Volume 3, Chapter 110 of the Army General Administrative Instruction (AGAI) which contains the Army Suicide Vulnerability Risk Management (SVRM) policy in the Library of the House.

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many case histories the Army Suicide Prevention Group has considered in each year since its inception; and what reports the Group has produced; [236171]

(2) on what date the Army Suicide Prevention Group examined the papers relating to the death of Lance Corporal Derek McGregor in Catterick barracks in 2003; and what recommendations the Group made following this examination. [236173]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Army Suicide Prevention Working Group (ASPWG) does not examine or make recommendations or produce reports on individual cases.

The ASPWG has three main functions:

to shape the Army's self harm and suicide prevention policies and procedures;

to promote awareness of self-harm and suicide prevention by developing training and educational programmes throughout the Army;

and audit the delivery, application and effectiveness of self harm and suicide preventative measures.

### Armed Forces: Vehicles

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many vehicles of each type in the armed forces are able to transport fuel; what the capacity of each is; and how many of each type of vehicle are *(a)* in service and *(b)* fit for purpose. [214342]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Details of the MOD bulk fuel carrying capabilities which are currently in service and fit for purpose are set out in the following table. Fit for purpose has been defined as being those vehicles which are capable of being used in whatever capacity they are required for.

| *Vehicle type* | *In service* | *Fit for purpose* | *Capacity (Litres)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Combat Support Tanker (Fuel) (CST(F)) | 218 | 218 | 20,000 |
| Combat Support Tanker Tactical Aircraft Refueller (CST TAR) | 82 | 82 | 15,000 |
| 32,000 Litre Fuel Tanker (TTF) | 54 | 54 | 32,000 |
| Unit Bulk Refuelling Equipment (UBRE)[1] | 425 | 425 | 2,100 |
| | | | 4,200 |
| | | | 6,300 |
| Unit Support Tanker (UST) | 102 | 102 | 7,000 |
| Pennman Fuel Flatrack | 10 | 10 | 10,000 |
| Truck Tanker Ground Fuel | 19 | 15 | 5,000 |
| Truck Tanker Ground Fuel, Bulk Carrier | 1 | 0 | 18,200 |
| Small Capacity Aircraft Refueller | 29 | 29 | 5,000 |
| Small Capacity Aircraft Refueller | 14 | 10 | 9,000 |
| Large Capacity Aircraft Refueller | 35 | 30 | 18,200 |
| Large Capacity Aircraft Refueller | 111 | 92 | 20,000 |
| Trailer Tanker | 6 | 1 | 18,200 |
| Large Capacity Aircraft Refueller Trailer | 63 | 47 | 24,000 |
| Out of Area Refueller | 55 | 39 | 20,000 |
| Truck Fuel Servicing | 39 | 39 | 5,000 |

[1] The unit bulk refuelling equipment is carried by 4 tonne or 8 tonne cargo vehicles, which can carry two or three modules respectively, of 2,100 litres per module.

**Mr. Dhanda:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons are for the time taken to develop protective equipment for service vehicles. [236199]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The time taken is dependent on the nature of the threat being addressed and the frequency with which the threat changes. Contributory factors include the level of technological complexity of the protective equipment and the difficulty of integrating the solution onto the base vehicle.

### Astute Class Submarines

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated *(a)* completion and *(b)* in-service date is for each of the planned Astute-class submarines. [235628]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The MOD currently plans to procure seven Astute submarines. Four submarines are on contract, and in various stages of production at BAE Systems Submarine Solutions facilities at Barrow-in-Furness.

The planned in-service-dates for HMS Astute, the First of Class, Ambush, Artful and Audacious are subject to continuing detailed review by MOD, BAE Systems and other key stakeholders.

### AWE Aldermaston

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the management consortium of the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston, AWEML, has played in responding to the improvement notice served by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive on 3 April 2008. [235575]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Through its contract with the Ministry of Defence, AWEML is responsible for the safety of operations at AWE sites. This it discharges through its subsidiary, AWE plc, which holds the necessary Nuclear Site Licences and discharge authorisations issued by the external regulators. AWEML provides strategic guidance and direction to AWE plc, particularly in respect of safety and compliance with the regulatory regime. The AWEML board includes an independent safety director, who is engaged specifically to help ensure the correct emphasis and priorities are brought to bear on safety matters at AWE.

With regard to the Improvement Notice issued on 3 April 2008, AWEML scrutinised and endorsed the plan agreed between AWE plc and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate in response to the issues raised. The AWEML board will be closely monitoring AWE plc's progress to ensure that the plan is achieved.

### Ballistic Missile Defence

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the UK's role in the American missile defence programme is; and if he will make a statement. [235988]

**Mr. Hutton:** The UK provides support to the US missile defence programme by allowing both early warning information from the radar at RAF Fylingdales, and early warning satellite data via a satellite downlink at RAF Menwith Hill, to be routed into the US missile defence command and control system. The UK also has a well-established missile defence technical co-operation programme with the US.

### Colombia: Armed Forces

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has provided military training to personnel of the 14th Brigade of the Colombian army; and if he will make a statement. [235630]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 99W to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak (Lynne Jones).

## Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Oral Answer to the urgent question from the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorkshire, of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 121-30, on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), what military contingencies are being considered for the deployment of UK armed forces personnel to DRC. [234138]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* We are carrying out contingency planning across a range of scenarios relating to the Congo.

We will consider all requests for additional support from the United Nations, but large scale deployments are unlikely in view of our operational commitments elsewhere.

## Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost is of maintaining his Department's website for the 2007-08 financial year; and what the forecast costs for maintaining websites within his responsibility are in the 2008-09 financial year. [232804]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Ministry of Defence and armed forces collectively maintain four corporate websites. Identified direct expenditure on running these in the financial year 2007-2008 was as follows:

| *Website* | *URL* | *FY 2007-08 (£)* | *Forecast of costs FY 2008-09[1] (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| MOD Corporate website[2] | www.mod.uk | 325,600 | 330,000 |
| Royal Navy[3] | www.royalnavy.mod.uk | 283,000 | 283,000 |
| British Army[4] | www.army.mod.uk | 150,000 | 100,000 |
| Royal Air Force[5] | www.raf.mod.uk | 155,000 | 140,000 |

[1] Forecast costs for 2008-09 are based on the best available information.
[2] Figures include staff costs, hosting, licences and maintenance contracts.
[3] Costs of site maintenance, staff costs and hosting the RN site.
[4] Figures reflect hosting, licences, development costs and for FY 2007-08 site re-launch activities. Staff costs are not included as these are shared. Both figures are inclusive of VAT.
[5] Maintenance figures only not including the cost of building new areas on the site or update projects.

The following are the websites for which MOD is responsible, based on an update to the Central Office of Information on 29 Aug 2008.

| *Website* | *URL* | *Forecast of costs FY 2008-09[1] (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Acquisition Operating Framework | www.aof.mod.uk | [1]95,000 |
| Admiralty Leisure | www.admiraltyleisure.co.uk | [2]— |
| Army Fit | www.armyfit.mod.uk | n/a |
| Army Online | www.armyonline.mod.uk | n/a |
| British Army Jobs | www.armyjobs.mod.uk | n/a |
| British Forces Post Office | www.bfpo.mod.uk | 2,905 |
| Camouflage | www.camouflage.mod.uk | n/a |
| Chief Scientific Advisor | www.science.mod.uk | 16,800 |
| Competition of Ideas | www.ideas.mod.uk | [2]— |
| Grand Challenge | www.challenge.mod.uk | [2]— |
| Counter Terrorism Centre | www.ctcentre.mod.uk | n/a |
| DCSA Catalogue (now ICS Catalogue) | www.dcsacat.mod.uk | |
| | (www.icscat.mod.uk) | [3]750 |
| Defence Academy | www.defac.ac.uk | 17,250 |
| Defence Analytical Services Agency | www.dasa.mod.uk | [4]21,600 |
| Defence Dynamics | www.defencedynamics.mod.uk | 13,000 |
| Defence Engineering and Science Group | www.desg.mod.uk | 360 |
| Defence Estates | www.defence-estates.mod.uk | [2]— |
| Defence Export Services Organisation | www.deso.mod.uk | n/a |
| Defence Image Database | www.defenceimagedatabase.mod.uk | n/a |
| Defence Science and Technology Laboratory | www.dstl.gov.uk | n/a |
| Defence Support Group | www.dsg.mod.uk | 40,000 |
| Disposal Services Authority | www.edisposals.com | 257,810 |
| Met Office | www.metoffice.gov.uk | 655,348 |
| MOD Procurement Portal | www.contract.mod.uk | n/a |
| National Army Museum (NAM) | www.national-army-museum.ac.uk | n/a |
| National Employer Advisory Board | www.sabre.mod.uk | n/a |
| Service Children's Education | www.sceschools.com/new | n/a |
| Service Personnel and Veterans Agency | www.veterans-uk.info | 32,483 |
| Soldier | www.soldier.mod.uk | n/a |
| UK Defence Standardisation | www.dstan.mod.uk | 15,000 |
| UK Hydrographic Office | www.ukho.gov.uk | 197,568 |

| *Website* | *URL* | *Forecast of costs FY 2008-09[1] (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Admiralty charts and publications | www.nmwebsearch.com | [illegible] |
| Schools – Defence Dynamics | www.schools.defencedynamics.mod.uk | [illegible] |

n/a = not available
[1] Includes intranet costs
[2] Included in costs for UKHO
[3] Now incorporated into www.science.mod.uk
[4] Does not include staff costs
[5] Included in costs for www.mod.uk + £110 per year for dial-up costs
[6] Now incorporated into www.defencedynamics.mod.uk
[7] Defence Support Group (DSG) was born of the merger of ABRO and DARA on 1 April 2008. (The annualised cost of maintaining the site is estimated at £40,000).

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for which Government websites his Department is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [235035]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The information is provided in the following table:

| *Website* | *URL* | *Cost FY 2007-08 (£)* | *Visitors* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acquisition Operating Framework | www.aof.mod.uk | n/a | 3.376 million page requests for FY 2008-09 to date |
| Admiralty Leisure | www.admiralty-leisure.co.uk | Included in cost for UKHO | 75,656 October 2007 to October 2008 |
| Army Fit | www.armyfit.mod.uk | n/a | 2,128,812 (page views) |
| Army Online | www.armyonline.mod.uk | n/a | n/a |
| British Army | www.army.mod.uk | £150,000 | 8,472,991 |
| British Army Jobs | www.armyjobs.mod.uk | £266,749 | 27,978,203 (page views) |
| British Forces Post Office | www.bfpo.mod.uk | £3,295 | n/a |
| Camouflage | www.camouflage.mod.uk | n/a | 859,146 (page views) |
| Chief Scientific Adviser | www.science.mod.uk | [3] | n/a |
| Competition of Ideas | www.ideas.mod.uk | £42,000 | n/a |
| Grand Challenge | www.challenge.mod.uk | £2,000 | n/a |
| Counter Terrorism Centre | www.ctcentre.mod.uk | n/a | 17,123 (over last 12 months) |
| DCSA Catalogue (now ICS Catalogue) | www.dcsacat.mod.uk (www.icscat.mod.uk) | £881.90 (does not include staff costs)[4] | 80,000 page requests for the one page where a 'hit counter' is installed |
| Defence Academy | www.defac.ac.uk | £17,250 (31 October 2007 to November 2008) | 1,020,128 |
| Defence Analytical Services Agency | www.dasa.mod.uk | £21,600 (does not include staff costs) | 22,693 (August to October 2008) |
| Defence Dynamics[6] | www.defencedynamics.mod.uk | £22,000 (1 October 2007 to 31 March 2008) | 1,549,220 (number of 'hits' 1 October 2007 to 31 March 2008) |
| Defence Engineering and Science Group | www.desg.mod.uk | £360 | 78,000 |
| Defence Estates | www.defence-estates.mod.uk | Included in costs for www.mod.uk | Site averages 2,000 hits per day since September |
| Defence Export Services Organisation | www.deso.mod.uk | n/a | n/a |
| Defence Image Database | www.defenceimagedatabase.mod.uk | n/a | n/a |
| Defence Science and Technology Laboratory | www.dstl.mod.uk | n/a | 624,611 (over last 12 months) |
| Defence Support Group[7] | www.dsg.mod.uk | £23,333 April to October 2008 | 25,329 April to October 2008 |
| Disposal Services Authority | www.edisposals.com | £255,810 | 183,241 |
| Met Office | www.metoffice.gov.uk | £569,278 | 232,938,512 (page views) |
| Ministry of Defence | www.mod.uk | £325,600 | 4,336,104 |
| MOD Procurement Portal | www.contracts.mod.uk | n/a | n/a |
| National Army Museum (NAM) | www.national-army-museum.ac.uk | n/a | n/a |
| National Employer Advisory Board | www.sabre.mod.uk | £28,975 (staff costs not included) | 65,669 |
| RAF | www.raf.mod.uk | £155,000 | 6,216,030 |
| Royal Navy | www.royalnavy.mod.uk | £283,000 | 4,369,726 |
| Service Children's Education | www.scuschools.com/mew | £2,000 | 10,360,831 (This is number of 'hits' for November 2007 to October 2008) |
| Service Personnel and Veterans Agency | www.veterans-uk.info | £31,736 | 606,135 |
| Soldier | www.soldier.mod.uk | n/a | n/a |
| UK Defence Standardisation | www.dstan.mod.uk | £3,600 (1 January to 31 May 2008) | 84,193 (1 January to 31 May 2008) |
| UK Hydrographic Office | www.ukho.gov.uk | £197,568 FY 2008-09 | 373,077 October 2007 to October 2008 |

| Website | URL | Cost FY 2007-08 (£) | Visitors |
|---|---|---|---|
| Admiralty charts and publications | www.mwebsearch.com | Included in cost for UKHO | 48,191 October 2007 to October 2008 |
| Schools - Defence Dynamics | www.schools.defencedynamics.mod.uk | n/a | n/a |

n/a = Not available
[1] Not applicable.
[2] The Defence Dynamics site launched in October 2007; figures provided are from 1 October 2007 to 31 March 2008 and do not include the cost of the original site build or the cost of producing lessons to be displayed on the site as these are not considered to be site 'maintenance' expenses.
[3] Defence Support Group (DSG) was born of the merger of ABRO and DARA on 1 April 2008. (The annualised cost of maintaining the site is estimated at £40,000)

### EC Defence Policy

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his French counterpart on the creation of *(a)* a separate EU military headquarters and *(b)* a European rapid reaction force. [234219]

**Mr. Hutton:** I have had no discussions with my French counterpart on either of these points.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the UK's share of the approved budget for EUFOR Tchad/CAR is according to the EU's Special Committee ATHENA; and how much had been paid as of 10 November 2008. [235433]

**Mr. Hutton:** The UK's share of the approved budget for EUFOR Tchad/CAR according to the EU's ATHENA financing mechanism, is 17.14 per cent.; as of 10 November 2008 the UK has paid £13.9 million.

### EU Carrier Group

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on participation in the EU Carrier Group; which *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Fisheries Protection Squadron vessels he expects to participate in the Group's activities; and if he will make a statement. [235563]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** My right hon. Friend, Baroness Taylor, the Minister, with responsibility for international defence and security with responsibility attended the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 10 November where she signed the declaration of intent to establish a European Carrier Group Interoperability Initiative on behalf of the UK.

This is a high level declaration of intent aiming to increase interoperability between countries operating aircraft carriers or with naval vessels able to support carrier operations. There is no intention to create a standing carrier group and as such no standing commitment of either Royal Navy or fishery protection vessels is envisaged.

### Ex-servicemen: Mental Health

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will include a mental health assessment in discharge medical reports for retiring servicemen and women. [233653]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** A discharge medical assessment is undertaken 90 days prior to discharge. This detailed examination is undertaken by a doctor and the results are recorded on an F Med 1 form. The F Med 1 contains a specific assessment of the mental capacity and emotional stability of the individual. A re-assessment is carried out at seven days prior to discharge to ensure there have been no changes.

A summary of each individual's medical history whilst in the armed forces, including the results of the discharge medical, is contained in an F Med 133 form which is given to the individual to pass on to their civilian GP. The F Med 133 also contains information on how the GP can gain access to the individual's complete service medical records if required.

### Frigates

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answers of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1632W and 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 677-78W, when the decision was taken to extend the service life of the Type 22 and Type 23 Frigates; how much such an extension to their service lives will cost; and if he will make a statement. [235645]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* Adjustments either to extend or shorten the assumed service lives of the Royal Navy's Type 22 and Type 23 Frigates have been made in several recent planning rounds. In most cases the financial impact of these adjustments has fallen beyond the planning period in question and hence the net cost or saving to the defence budget has not been estimated in any detail.

### Gulf of Aden: Piracy

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment his Department has made of the risks to UK-flagged merchant vessels from piracy in the Gulf of Aden. [235645]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Government's stance on piracy has moved to a more proactive stance where Royal Navy units are conducting counter-piracy missions through Combined Task Force 150, NATO and the forthcoming EU mission. Advice and guidance to UK-flagged merchant ships is issued by the Department for Transport. We continue actively to monitor the situation through our units in the region, the UK Maritime Trade Organisation in Dubai and the UK Maritime Component Command Headquarters in Bahrain.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether representatives of Her Majesty's Armed Forces have held meetings with Jaish-al-Mahdi independently of the Iraqi government during 2008; [236122]

(2) pursuant to the Answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 304W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, whether the discussions with representatives of Jaish-al-Mahdi included the matter of prisoner release. [236210]

**Mr. Hutton:** In 2007, with the full knowledge and support of our Coalition partners and the Iraqi

Government, UK forces conducted a dialogue with a range of militia leaders in Basra, including Jaish al-Mahdi. All discussions between UK forces and unreconciled groups have been conducted as part of the shared reconciliation strategy of the Coalition and the Government of Iraq and this national reconciliation strategy includes a scheme for prisoner release. Across Iraq, dialogue continues between the Coalition, the Government of Iraq and unreconciled groups.

### Military Aircraft

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the technical ground abort rate was for *(a)* Harrier and *(b)* Tornado aircraft in (i) operational and (ii) non-operational environments in each of the last five years. [236195]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long it takes to scramble the *(a)* Harrier GR9 and *(b)* Tornado GR4 from the time of requirement to the notification of the aircraft, when those aircraft are held on GCAS alert. [236550]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The International Security Assistance (ISAF) requirements for Ground Close Air Support (GCAS) alert are met by both aircraft. I am withholding details of the time it takes to scramble these aircraft, as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what offensive and defensive capabilities the Harrier GR9 has additional to those held by the Tornado GR4; and when the Tornado GR4 will be fitted with these capabilities. [236551]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There are no significant differences in the offensive and defensive capabilities provided by the two aircraft. Like Harrier, the Tornados deploying to Afghanistan will be equipped with theatre specific enhancements. These are being taken forward urgently for the planned deployment next year.

### Military Attachés

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* expenditure on and *(b)* number of defence attachés was in each year since 2003. [234921]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The expenditure on attachés for each year since 2003 is shown in Table 1. Individual attaché costs cannot be disaggregated from the overall budget dating back to 2003 as the associated support costs are given as an overall total for the Defence attaché budget. These additional costs include support staff, travel and subsistence, medical and dental costs and provision for the cost of living allowance for each country.

The number of attachés for each year since 2003 is shown in Table 2.

*Table 1*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 30.049 |
| 2004-05 | 30.791 |
| 2005-06 | 31.030 |
| 2006-07 | 29.573 |
| 2007-08 | 29.307 |

*Notes:*
1. The Defence Section in Afghanistan opened in November 2007. There are no costs available from that date as the Defence Section is funded through operational funds which cannot be disaggregated from the overall budget.
2. These costs include estimated costs for personnel funded by the single service funds which cannot be disaggregated from their overall budgets.
3. Final costs for financial year 2008-09 will not be available until after 31 March 2009.
4. All the costs in the table exclude pre-post preparation training costs that fall to the single service budgets; these are assessed to be in the order of £8.7 million at FY 2007-08 prices.
5. All the costs in the table are at their respective financial year prices.

*Table 2*

| Country | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Afghanistan[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Albania | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Algeria[2] | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Angola | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Argentina | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Australia | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Austria[3] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Bahrain | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Bangladesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Belgium | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Barbados[3] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Brazil[3] | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Brunei[3] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Bulgaria | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Canada | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Chile[3] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| China[3] | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Colombia[3] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Congo, Democratic Republic of[3] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Croatia | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

Table 2

| Country | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cyprus | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Czech Republic | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Denmark | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Egypt | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Ethiopia[2] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Finland[2] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| France | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Georgia[2] | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Germany[2] | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Ghana[2] | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Greece | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Guatemala | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Hungary | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| India[2] | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Indonesia[2] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Iraq | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Ireland | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Israel | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Italy[2] | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Jamaica[2] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Japan | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Jordan | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Kazakhstan[2] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Kenya[2] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Korea | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Kuwait | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Latvia | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lebanon | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Lithuania | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Macedonia | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Malaysia[2] | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Morocco[2] | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Nepal[2] | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Netherlands[2] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| New Zealand[2] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Nigeria | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Norway | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Oman | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Pakistan[2] | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Philippines | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Poland | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Portugal[2] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Qatar | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Romania[2] | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Russia[2] | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Serbia[3] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sierra Leone[2] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Singapore | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Slovakia | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Slovenia | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Africa[2] | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Spain | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Sri Lanka | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sudan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sweden | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Switzerland | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Syria | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Thailand | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Turkey | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Uganda[2] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Ukraine | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| United Arab Emirates | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| United States of America | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| UK Mission to UN New York | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

*Table 2*

| *Country* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Uzbekistan | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Venezuela | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yemen | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Zimbabwe[4] | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Totals | 129 | 125 | 127 | 124 | 119 | 105 |

*Notes:*
1. Correct figures as at 7 November 2008.
2 Attachés that are funded by operational funds or the Single Services.
3 These attachés have non-residential accreditation responsibilities in other countries.
4 These countries' attachés are resident in London.
5 Two Senior advisers (the Defence and Military Adviser and the Naval and Air Adviser) are supported by an Assistant Defence Adviser.
6 Two Senior advisors (the Defence and Military Adviser and the Naval and Air Adviser) are supported by an Assistant Defence Adviser. An additional adviser is now at post in the role of Assistant Military Adviser.

### Military Police

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions the Royal Military Police has activated a Home Office Large Major Enquiry System Major Incident Room since Her Majesty's Inspectorate's recommendation of April 2006. [236155]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Royal Military Police have activated the Home Office Large Major Inquiry System once during an investigation into the death of Lance Corporal Alipate Naitaukei Tuisawau in Germany in 2007.

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the Royal Military Police major crime case review policy published in the Provost Manual in October 2006; and if he will place a copy of the policy in the Library. [236156]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Police criminal case reviews are conducted to identify and develop opportunities to progress an investigation; to act as a form of quality assurance in relation to the content and process of an investigation; and to identify, develop and disseminate good investigative practice. The Royal Military Police's (RMP) Review Policy for Serious Criminal Investigations and Critical Incidents explains why, when, how and by whom the RMP's review process will be conducted. The Review Policy was published on 1 November 2006 and I will place a copy in the Library of the House.

### Nuclear Submarines

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in what year each successor submarine for the next generation of the nuclear deterrent is planned to enter service. [235626]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** As previously stated, the first of the new class of submarines is forecast to enter service in around 2024. Also, as explained in the December 2006 White Paper 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent', a final decision on the number of submarines that will be procured will be made when we know more about their detailed design. That decision will determine the timetable for entry into service of further submarines.

### Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the effects on the *(a)* size, *(b)* force structure, *(c)* manning and *(d)* annual flying task of the Harrier force which would result from committing the Tornado GR4 Force to the Operation Herrick and Operation Telic theatres concurrently. [236547]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There are currently no plans to alter the size, force structure, manning and annual flying task of the Harrier Force as the result of the concurrent deployment of the Tornado GR4 Force to Operation Herrick and Operation Telic.

### Piracy

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Royal Navy spent on activities to counter piracy in each of the last five years. [235846]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Counter piracy is conducted as part of routine Royal Navy Maritime Security tasking on a continuous basis. It is not currently recorded as a discreet activity.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps he has taken to ensure that UK-flagged merchant vessels are protected from piracy. [235847]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Government's stance on piracy has recently been reviewed. This has resulted in a move to a more proactive posture whereby Royal Navy (RN) units in the region will actively seek out pirates, and we have issued them with more robust guidance to deal with any pirates encountered. The RN will contribute to counter-piracy operations through three international efforts.

The UK is already engaged in efforts to combat acts of piracy off Somalia, through the Combined Task Force (CTF) 150, which has established a Maritime Security Patrol Area (MSPA) in the Gulf of Aden. CTF 150 units in this area, including RN vessels, are actively conducting operations to counter de-stabilising activities primarily aimed at deterring and disrupting acts of piracy against merchant vessels of all nations.

Standing NATO Maritime Group 2, including attached RN units, has also deployed to the region with a mandate which allows it to conduct counter-piracy operations from mid-October. NATO is considering the ways in which this mandate can be implemented including the escorting of World Food Programme shipping into port in Mogadishu.

We have also supported EU planning for a counter-piracy naval operation off the coast of Somalia, and on 14 October the EU Political and Security Committee decided to accept the offer made by the UK to provide the Operation Commander (Rear Admiral Phil Jones) and the Operation HQ (the Multinational Headquarters at Northwood). On 10 November EU Foreign and Defence Ministers met at the General Affairs and External Relations Council and agreed a joint action to set up the operation. A separate decision is expected in December to launch the operation. The UK offer is subject to sufficient forces being generated for an operation likely to begin in December.

### RAF Welford

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how long the interim complement of the Ministry of Defence Police Agency will be stationed at RAF Welford. [236361]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Ministry of Defence Police will not be withdrawn from RAF Welford until the necessary security enhancements have been put in place at the base by the United States visiting force. This includes removing munitions that are currently stored in the open.

Officials are monitoring the situation and are in close contact with the United States visiting force.

### Snatch Land Rovers

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* financial and *(b)* EU regulatory factors were considered when deciding to use Snatch Land Rovers; and whether alternative US-produced vehicles were assessed against the same criteria. [235308]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The decision to deploy Snatch Land Rovers on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan took into account a range of factors, including the nature of the mission and the theatre specific threats at the time. Given that these vehicles were already available in our inventory, no EU regulatory or "financial factors" applied. As my right hon. Friend, the Defence Secretary's written statement on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 28-30WS made clear, senior operational commanders were clear that they need a vehicle of the size, weight and profile of Snatch Land Rover, capable of transporting men, to fulfil their tasks in theatre.

We have set in train a programme to carry out a series of modifications to enhance Snatch's mobility and protection. This effectively generates a new variant, Snatch Vixen, which will offer the highest levels of protection for its size and weight class.

### Snatch Vixen

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the unladen weight is of *(a)* the Snatch Vixen and *(b)* each of its variants. [235469]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** I am withholding the information requested, as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

### Submarines: Safety

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the safety of fire suppressant gas used in Royal Navy submarines. [235632]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** All materials introduced to Royal Navy (RN) submarines, including fire suppressant gases, are subject to a rigorous and robust toxicity assessment process.

The design of RN submarine systems is such that any leak would be quickly detected and emergency actions taken, including the use of back up breathing systems, before the atmosphere within the submarine became un-breathable.

The fire suppressant gases used in RN submarines are halon 1301, carbon dioxide and nitrogen. The quantities of halon and carbon dioxide held onboard are such that, even if the total volume is discharged into the submarine atmosphere, it remains safe to breathe. Nitrogen is not a toxic gas, but has the potential to asphyxiate if there is sufficient volume. The risks associated with nitrogen have, however, been assessed against the safeguards in system design and mitigating procedures, and are as low as reasonably practicable.

### Trafalgar Class Submarines

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in what year the final Trafalgar-class submarine will go out of service. [235625]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** On present plans, which are routinely updated as required, the last Trafalgar class submarine to be withdrawn from service will be HMS Triumph in 2022.

### Turks and Caicos Islands: Hurricanes and Tornadoes

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* nature and *(b)* duration of the assistance provided by Royal Navy vessels to the Turks and Caicos Islands was in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike. [235580]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Royal Navy vessels HMS Iron Duke and RFA Wave Ruler provided humanitarian assistance to Turks and Caicos in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike for a period of five days. Teams from both vessels were ashore during this period helping repair infrastructure. At the same time, assets from HMS Iron Duke and Wave Ruler undertook a damage assessment of the islands as well as transporting fuel, water and supplies to some outlying islands.

### Warships

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what work has been carried out continuously to record the gapping of ships; [235423]

(2) how many ships have experienced gapping during the last 12 months; and what *(a)* ships and *(b)* percentages were involved. [235424]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Detailed statistics of manpower gapping for individual Royal Navy ships are not recorded centrally. Manning levels of ships are adjusted according to their task. They routinely operate gapped posts, but the operational task on which a ship is deployed (or for which it is being generated) will determine its manning priority profile. This ensures that the unit has the appropriate manpower for the task.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* surface ships, *(b)* submarines and *(c)* auxiliary vessels are available for deployment; and what the equivalent numbers were in 1997. [235431]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The following figures indicate the number of vessels in service with the Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary as at 1 April of each year. All vessels in service at any given time are available for deployment at periods of notice appropriate to their states of readiness:

| | *Surface ships* | *Submarines* | *Auxiliary vessels* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 | 74 | 13 | [1]16 |
| 1997 | 101 | 15 | 21 |

[1] An additional six roll-on/roll-off vessels available for charter when required.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current tasks set by his Department are for the Royal Navy's *(a)* destroyers and frigates and *(b)* submarines; and how many of each of these classes of warship are required to be on station to fulfil each task. [235627]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The current tasks for destroyers, frigates and submarines are as shown.

I have included the number of destroyers and frigates on station but I am withholding detailed information on the numbers of submarines on task as its release would, or would be likely to prejudice national security.

| *DIIFF current tasks* | *Number on station* |
|---|---|
| Op TELIC[1] (Nth Arabian Gulf) | One permanently committed |
| Op CALASH (Indian Ocean - counter terrorism and capacity building coalition) | One permanently committed |
| NATO Response Force | One nominated and permanently assigned to a standing force |
| Atlantic Patrol Task (South) | One permanently committed |
| Support to Strategic Deterrence | One nominated, at extremely high readiness and activated when required |
| Atlantic Patrol Task (North) | One core hurricane season only (May to November) |
| Integrity of the UK | Three nominated, one immediate, two extremely high readiness and activated when required |
| UKMP Counter Piracy | One temporarily assigned pending confirmation of the requirement |

| *Submarines* | |
|---|---|
| Strategic Intelligence | |
| Support to Strategic Deterrence | |
| Integrity of the UK | |
| Op TELIC and CALASH | |
| Falkland Islands Contingency | |

The number of units on station does not reflect the generation factors which are the number of hulls essential to produce the required units for each station. These factors vary and are dependent on whether a task is routed (continuous) or non-routed. The figures also exclude the units held at very high readiness for contingent operations.

## TREASURY

### Audit: Standards

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* individual firms of accountants and (b) representatives of the accountancy profession of the standard of auditing of the accounts of (i) Northern Rock, (ii) Bradford and Bingley, (iii) HBOS and (iv) Royal Bank of Scotland respectively. [235560]

**Ian Pearson:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

### Bank of England: Accountability

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Bank of England's executive will be accountable to the Financial Stability Committee. [231014]

**Ian Pearson:** The Financial Stability Committee will be established as a sub-committee of the Court of Directors of the Bank of England. The committee will include all the executive members of the Court, and will be chaired by the Governor. In addition to the Bank's executive, the Committee will include a majority non-executive membership, bringing outside expertise and insight to the Committee. Executives, and the Financial Stability Committee as a whole, will be accountable to the Court—the Bank's governing body—for their performance.

### Bank Services

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the sums of money *(a)* frozen and *(b)* otherwise unavailable to depositors held in (i) Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander Ltd, (ii) Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man) and (iii) Landsbanki; [233581]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of accounts in Icelandic banks which have been *(a)* frozen and *(b)* otherwise rendered inaccessible as a result of the operation of the Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008; and what estimate he has made of the sums involved; [233582]

(3) how many assets owned by Icelandic proprietors have been frozen under the terms of the Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008 and related Ministerial decisions; and which Minister in his Department is responsible for matters relating to Icelandic banks in the UK; [233584]

(4) what the reason was for the time taken to issue his Department's financial sanctions notice of 17 October 2008 on the Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008 following the issue of the initial notice on 8 October 2008; and for what reason it was necessary to clarify that only the funds of Landsbanki were the subject of the Order; [233585]

(5) what steps he took to ensure that imports of fish from Iceland could be paid for by bank transfer after 17 October 2008; what steps his Department took to ensure that the contents of the statement of that date on Icelandic banks were communicated to bank branches and other financial institutions handling payments for fish imports; and what steps he took *(a)* before and *(b)* after 17 October 2008 to ensure that banks remitted payment for fish imports to Icelandic banks; [233586]

(6) when he was made aware that UK banks were prohibited from transferring money to Iceland in payment for imports of Icelandic fish; what steps he took in consequence; and if he will make a statement; [233754]

(7) what *(a)* warnings were given to the government of Iceland and *(b)* consultations he had with the government of Iceland before the freezing of Icelandic bank accounts under the Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008; and what prior notice he gave of his intention to make the order; [233759]

(8) for what reason he took action against the assets of Landsbanki Bank using powers under the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. [231629]

**Ian Pearson:** On 8 October HM Government made the Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008. This requires all persons in the UK (and UK persons elsewhere) to freeze funds owned, held or controlled by Landsbanki, including those owned held or controlled in relation to Landsbanki by certain Icelandic Authorities or the Government of Iceland. The Order was made because the Icelandic Government, its authorities and Landsbanki appeared to be on the brink of action which would be to the detriment of the UK economy, including detrimental treatment of UK depositors.

The effect of the Order is that all funds owned, held or controlled by Landsbanki in the UK are frozen. Landsbanki funds may only be released from frozen accounts in the UK under the authority of a licence granted by HMT. No freezing orders have been made in respect of other Icelandic banks.

The Order was made under a power contained in the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. This Act includes a broad range of provisions and is not only about countering terrorism. The power enables the Treasury to make a freezing order where the Treasury reasonably believe that action to the detriment of the UK economy (or part of it) has been or is likely to be taken by a foreign government or resident of a foreign country or territory. As we have made clear the UK's action was not taken on the basis of the anti-terrorism provisions in the Act.

As envisaged by the 2001 Act, the Landsbanki Freezing Order also gives the Treasury power to licence exceptions to the freeze. Granting licences is an integral part of the Treasury's ongoing role in relation to the freezing order, in particular, in minimising potential harmful consequences, while providing the necessary safeguards.

The Treasury's approach has been to publish general licences and guidance to deal with industry concerns. A general licence was granted on 9 October. This dealt with the concern of allowing the London branch of Landsbanki to continue its commercial finance operations, on which a number of UK businesses depend for their immediate cash flow. This licence also confirmed a broad range of transactions that were permitted, including that third parties could set-off and net out arrangements where Landsbanki was the counterparty. A further licence was granted on 13 October, to provide reassurance to a wide range of market participants who might otherwise be in a position of dealing with frozen funds.

In response to inquiries received, the Treasury published a series of notices to ensure the scope of the Freezing Order was clear to UK financial institutions. The notice published on 17 October provided detailed guidance and reiterated that other Icelandic banks and companies were not affected by the Freezing Order. It was published on the Treasury's website and was also sent to financial institutions in the UK via the financial sanctions e-mail notification service.

In response to a request from certain financial institutions, the Treasury granted a licence on 7 November in relation to securities settlement through exchanges where there is no central counterparty.

In addition, the Treasury liaised with the major UK banks to ensure that the freezing order was not preventing payments to Icelandic companies; discussed individual transactions with banks that advised transactions had been blocked because of the Order; and made clear that the Order does not prohibit UK banks from transferring money to Iceland in payment for imports of Icelandic fish (as long as they are not unlicensed "frozen funds").

The Chancellor announced the Order was being made in his statement to the House on the morning of 8 October. As is generally the case in relation to asset freezes, prior notice was not given to the persons designated under the Order, so as not to prompt asset flight.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the basis was for his statement of 8 October 2008 that the Icelandic government had no intention of paying compensation to UK investors in Icelandic bank accounts. [233630]

**Ian Pearson:** I refer my hon. Friend to the comments the Chancellor of the Exchequer made at the Treasury Select Committee hearing in response to the hon. Member for Sevenoaks (Mr. Fallon's) question (Q116) on 3 November.

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the situation of UK depositors in *(a)* the Isle of Man and *(b)* the Channel Island branches of Kaupthing Bank; what protection applies to deposits in such financial institutions made by British citizens resident (i) in and (ii) outside the UK; and if he will make a statement. [233753]

**Ian Pearson:** In line with usual constitutional arrangements, the UK Government will represent the Crown Dependencies in their negotiations with Iceland.

However, arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man remain a matter for the Government of the Isle of Man. Deposits with Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man, will be subject to the Isle of Man Deposit Compensation Scheme.

Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Channel Islands are a matter for the Government of the Channel Islands.

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme would pay compensation to eligible claimants up to the limit of £50,000 per person per authorised institution in the UK. The Financial Services Compensation Scheme does not cover deposits with banks outside the UK other than deposits with branches of UK banks established in other EEA states under EEA rights. Other deposits, including those made by UK residents or by British citizens resident outside the UK would be covered by any locally operated deposit-guarantee schemes.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

### Bank Services: Iceland

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps he has taken to assist those with money deposited in Icelandic banks. [234969]

**Ian Pearson:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Chancellor on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 279-80.

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions were held with the Icelandic government before freezing the assets of Icelandic banks and businesses. [235174]

**Ian Pearson:** On 8 October HM Government made the Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008. The effect of the Order is that all funds owned, held or controlled by Landsbanki in the UK are frozen. Landsbanki funds may only be released from frozen accounts in the UK under the authority of a licence granted by HMT. No freezing orders have been made in respect of other Icelandic banks.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

### Bank Services: Local Government

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to extend to local authorities the same level of assurances regarding funds deposited with Landsbanki as those offered to individual savers. [232569]

**Ian Pearson:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 35WS.

### Bank Services: Rural Areas

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to encourage banks to share facilities in rural areas. [235602]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government have no plans to make shared banking facilities in rural areas a matter of policy.

### Bank Services: Standards

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his predecessor had with the US Administration between 1997 and 2001 on the effects on the United Kingdom economy of banks in the United States lowering their lending standards; and if he will make a statement. [229514]

**Ian Pearson:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations and international partners. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Banking Supervision

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will direct his appointees as non-executive directors on the boards of banks in receipt of recapitalisation from the public purse to establish lending rules which prohibit the provision of sub-prime mortgages; and if he will instruct the Financial Services Authority to oversee implementation of this instruction. [227924]

**Ian Pearson:** As part of its investment, the Government have agreed a range of commitments with banks accessing the recapitalisation scheme. The Government expect boards to appoint new independent non-executive directors, in consultation with Government.

These banks are committed to offering a wide range of products at competitive rates, which will be made available to customers with good credit ratings. Decisions on the terms and pricing of specific products are commercial decisions for the individual institutions.

It is important that all lenders lend responsibly and fulfil their regulatory obligations. Since 2004, the Financial Services Authority has held responsibility for the regulation of first charge residential mortgages, helping to ensure that lenders lend responsibly and borrowers are afforded appropriate protections.

### Banks: EC Law

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1004/2008 of 15 October 2008 on levels of equity and liquidity of British banks. [233563]

**Ian Pearson:** Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1004/2008 of 15 October 2008 adopts the amendments to International

Accounting Standard 39 and International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 7 made by the International Accounting Standards Board. The purpose of these amendments was to align the treatment on valuation and classification of certain financial instruments between IFRS and US Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). UK banks will be required to utilise the amended standards in preparing their accounts, which will in turn be subject to audit scrutiny.

### Banks: Iceland

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make provision for British citizens living overseas who are unable to access their deposits in subsidiaries of Icelandic banks following the Government's decision to freeze the assets of Landsbanki bank. [229869]

**Ian Pearson:** On 8 October HM Government made the Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008. This requires all persons in the UK (and UK persons elsewhere) to freeze funds owned, held or controlled by Landsbanki, including those owned held or controlled in relation to Landsbanki by certain Icelandic Authorities or the Government of Iceland. The Order was made because the Icelandic Government, its authorities and Landsbanki appeared to be on the brink of action which would be to the detriment of the UK economy, including detrimental treatment of UK depositors.

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme does not cover deposits with banks outside the UK other than deposits with branches of UK banks established in other EEA states under EEA rights. Other deposits, including those made by UK residents or by British citizens resident outside the UK would be covered by any locally operated deposit-guarantee schemes.

### Banks: Public Appointments

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the experience and qualities sought in Government directors of UK banks where the Government has a shareholding will include time spent working in a mutual. [227517]

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has considered placing a Minister or departmental representative on the board of directors of those banks in receipt of public funds and support; [226914]

(2) if he will consider appointing as non-executive directors to the boards of banks in receipt of public funds for recapitalisation representatives from *(a)* the Bankworkers' Trade Union and *(b)* the third sector. [228371]

**Ian Pearson:** As part of the recapitalisation scheme, it is intended that new non-executive directors will be appointed to the boards of each of RBS and, provided it proceeds, the merged Lloyds TSB/HBOS. These will be independent non-executive directors appointed by the board of each bank. UK Financial Investments, the company which will manage the Treasury's shareholding, will work with those boards to ensure the individuals have appropriate commercial experience. The purpose behind their appointment is to strengthen the board of each bank and to provide independent oversight in respect of governance and other matters in the interests of all the shareholders of each bank.

### Child Benefit

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what checks his Department makes to establish the accuracy of information provided by nationals of EU member states on applications forms for child benefit; and if he will make a statement. [235586]

**Mr. Timms:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answers given to him on 26 November 2007 and 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 48W and 1217W respectively.

### Child Trust Fund

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of Child Trust Fund accounts had a lower monetary value than the day upon which they were opened on the latest date for which figures are available. [235560]

**Ian Pearson:** The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

### Christmas

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [226948]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested is not available.

### Council Tax: Tax Yields

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of gross revenue from council tax, including domestic rates where applicable, in England in each of the next three years. [230675]

**Yvette Cooper:** Council tax increases are determined annually by local authorities, not by the Government. Council tax projections are based on assumptions made for public finance purposes and are not Government forecasts.

The most recent council tax projection is detailed in the Budget 2008 document on page 187, Table C6.

### Credit

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 137-8W, on credit, if he will list those meetings with respect to which he thinks it is appropriate to release details; if he will place copies in the Library of the *(a)* agenda, *(b)* list of attendees and *(c)* minutes of each such meeting; and what criteria he applies in determining whether it is appropriate to release such details. [235538]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]*: Treasury Ministers and officials meet and correspond

with representatives of the banking sector on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of financial issues—including the provision of affordable credit—as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

The Government remain committed to supporting the provision of affordable credit, which is a central strand of our financial inclusion strategy. We will continue to engage with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that this issue remains high on the agenda of the banking sector.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 1 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 733W, on the Fairtrade Initiative, how much his Department spent on refreshments for official departmental meetings and engagements in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of this was spent on Fairtrade products. [208713]

**Angela Eagle:** Spending on official departmental meetings and engagements in the past three financial years was £499,000 in 2005-06, £394,000 in 2006-07 and £424,000 in 2007-08. While there is no central record of the proportion of Fairtrade products used at departmental meetings and engagements, all tea and coffee offered at such events is certified Fairtrade.

### Departmental Leave

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's rest and recuperation leave policy for civilians working in operational theatres. [235419]

**Ian Pearson:** HM Treasury do not have staff working in operational theatres.

### Departmental Marketing

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226511]

**Angela Eagle:** The majority of advertising undertaken by the Treasury in the last 12 months was for the purposes of recruitment. The advertising is evaluated to ascertain the volume and quality of responses and is used, together with advice from the Department's advertising agency, to ensure the most effective medium is used.

### Departmental Pay

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [213294]

**Angela Eagle:** The requested information for 2007-08 is shown in the following table.

| | *2007-08* |
|---|---|
| Performance bonuses (£000) | 1,083 |
| Special bonuses (£000) | 177 |
| *Number of staff:* | |
| Special bonus | 382 |
| Performance bonus | 461 |
| *Percentage of staff*[1]*:* | |
| Special bonus | 34 |
| Performance bonus | 41 |
| Highest amount | 18,000 |

[1] Based on fte headcount at end of each financial year

For information on prior years I refer the hon. Member to the answer the then Financial Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) gave him on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1881W.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what bonuses are paid to staff in his Department for working in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [235418]

**Ian Pearson:** HM Treasury do not have any staff working in *(a)* Iraq or *(b)* Afghanistan.

### Departmental Pensions

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants working in his Department and its agencies have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229543]

**Angela Eagle:** It is not appropriate to disclose pension information for civil servants other than board members whose details are shown in the remuneration report in annual resource accounts. A copy of the HM Treasury's resource accounts for financial year 2007-08 which includes Debt Management Office (DMO) and OGC can be found in the Library or accessed electronically using the following link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/annualreportandaccounts200708050808.pdf (pages 29-34 refer)

OGC Buying Solutions are a trading fund of OGC and publish their own accounts. These can be accessed using the following link:

http://online.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk/downloads/tinymce_uploads/corporatepublications/ARA%2007-08.pdf (refer to page 36).

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small- and medium-sized businesses were paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [226488]

**Angela Eagle:** As the size of suppliers is not identified in the accounting systems of the Treasury and its agencies, the information requested is not available. Data relating to payment performance to all suppliers for the Treasury Group are included in paragraph 48 of the Management Commentary section of the 2007-08 Resource Account (HC 539).

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on targeted initiatives in *(a)* inner cities, *(b)* rural areas and *(c)* seaside towns in each of the last 16 years. [235699]

**Angela Eagle:** There is no centrally held record of where particular departmental initiatives may have been targeted and the cost of obtaining any such information would exceed the disproportionate costs threshold. Details of the Treasury's total spending by region is published annually in the Country and Regional Analysis section of 'Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses', the latest edition is HC 489.

### Deprivation Indicators

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the *(a)* most and *(b)* least deprived lower super output area is in each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales; [234939]

(2) what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest ranking lower super output area on the crime domain for multiple index of deprivation is in each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales. [234950]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

The following tables list the codes for the least and most deprived lower super output areas in the principal seaside towns in England, on the overall measure of multiple deprivation and across the seven domains of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007. Information on deprivation in Welsh towns can be obtained from the Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Directorate.

| | | *IMD* | | *Income* | | *Employment* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Town* | *LA name* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* |
| Blackpool | Blackpool | E01012721 | E01012718 | E01012721 | E01012717 | E01012721 | E01012717 |
| Bognor Regis | Arun | E01031456 | E01031383 | E01031429 | E01031412 | E01031456 | E01031392 |
| Bournemouth | Bournemouth | E01015282 | E01015315 | E01015282 | E01015319 | E01015282 | E01015319 |
| Bridlington | East Riding of Yorkshire | E01012948 | E01013093 | E01012946 | E01013088 | E01012944 | E01013012 |
| Brighton | Brighton and Hove | E01016947 | E01016984 | E01016865 | E01016984 | E01016942 | E01016899 |
| Burnham-on-Sea | Sedgemoor | E01029106 | E01029104 | E01029106 | E01029128 | E01029112 | E01029128 |
| Clacton | Tendring | E01021988 | E01022005 | E01021988 | E01022013 | E01021988 | E01022013 |
| Dawlish/Teignmouth | Teignbridge | E01020272 | E01020239 | E01020272 | E01020242 | E01020228 | E01020242 |
| Deal | Dover | E01024240 | E01024233 | E01024240 | E01024233 | E01024199 | E01024238 |
| Eastbourne | Eastbourne | E01020912 | E01020933 | E01020923 | E01020946 | E01020911 | E01020933 |
| Exmouth | East Devon | E01019914 | E01019931 | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019914 | E01019964 |
| Falmouth | Carrick | E01018841 | E01018848 | E01018841 | E01018816 | E01018841 | E01018827 |
| Folkestone/Hythe | Shepway | E01024504 | E01024523 | E01024507 | E01024523 | E01024506 | E01024519 |
| Great Yarmouth | Great Yarmouth | E01026625 | E01026587 | E01026625 | E01026587 | E01026625 | E01026587 |
| Hastings/Bexhill | Hastings | E01020972 | E01020970 | E01020972 | E01020970 | E01020972 | E01020987 |
| Ilfracombe | North Devon | E01020112 | E01020090 | E01020103 | E01020133 | E01020112 | E01020133 |
| Isle of Wight | Isle of Wight | E01017332 | E01017352 | E01017345 | E01017293 | E01017336 | E01017302 |
| Lowestoft | Waveney | E01030258 | E01030284 | E01030258 | E01030288 | E01030258 | E01030292 |
| Minehead | West Somerset | E01029344 | E01029331 | E01029344 | E01029342 | E01029344 | E01029338 |
| Morecambe/Heysham | Lancaster | E01025110 | E01025146 | E01025156 | E01025105 | E01025110 | E01025105 |
| Newquay | Restormel | E01019056 | E01019017 | E01019056 | E01019017 | E01019033 | E01019016 |
| Penzance | Penwith | E01018997 | E01018985 | E01018997 | E01019011 | E01018997 | E01019011 |
| Scarborough | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027844 | E01027874 | E01027855 | E01027847 | E01027857 |
| Sidmouth | East Devon | E01019914 | E01019931 | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019914 | E01019964 |
| Skegness | East Lindsey | E01026093 | E01026063 | E01026083 | E01026063 | E01026093 | E01026061 |
| Southend-on-Sea | Southend-on-Sea | E01015842 | E01015908 | E01015842 | E01015914 | E01015842 | E01015830 |
| Southport | Sefton | E01007007 | E01006985 | E01007007 | E01006991 | E01007007 | E01006985 |
| St. Ives | East Dorset | E01020393 | E01020377 | E01020393 | E01020377 | E01020394 | E01020409 |
| St. Ives | Penwith | E01018997 | E01018985 | E01018997 | E01019011 | E01018997 | E01019011 |
| Swanage | Purbeck | E01020489 | E01020470 | E01020472 | E01020470 | E01020485 | E01020470 |
| Thanet | Thanet | E01024678 | E01024708 | E01024678 | E01024650 | E01024678 | E01024689 |
| Torbay | Torbay | E01015217 | E01015208 | E01015257 | E01015208 | E01015217 | E01015251 |
| Weston-super-Mare | North Somerset | E01014831 | E01014798 | E01014831 | E01014793 | E01014801 | E01014791 |
| Weymouth | Weymouth and Portland | E01020554 | E01020558 | E01020555 | E01020559 | E01020554 | E01020558 |
| Whitby | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027844 | E01027874 | E01027855 | E01027847 | E01027857 |
| Whitley Bay | North Tyneside | E01008485 | E01008523 | E01008485 | E01008563 | E01008485 | E01008548 |
| Whitstable/Herne Bay | Canterbury | E01024080 | E01024056 | E01024061 | E01024051 | E01024080 | E01024051 |

| Town | LA name | IMD | | Income | | Employment | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA |
| Worthing | Worthing | E01031819 | E01031824 | E01031819 | E01031824 | E01031811 | E01031824 |

| Town | LA name | Health & Disability | | Education, Skills & Training | | Barriers to Housing & Services | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA |
| Blackpool | Blackpool | E01012721 | E01012718 | E01012720 | E01012722 | E01012704 | E01012725 |
| Bognor Regis | Arun | E01031456 | E01031389 | E01031429 | E01031416 | E01031392 | E01031464 |
| Bournemouth | Bournemouth | E01015282 | E01015319 | E01015313 | E01015344 | E01015370 | E01015335 |
| Bridlington | East Riding of Yorkshire | E01012948 | E01013088 | E01013002 | E01013070 | E01012981 | E01012999 |
| Brighton | Brighton and Hove | E01016942 | E01016983 | E01016915 | E01017001 | E01016899 | E01016961 |
| Burnham-on-Sea | Sedgemoor | E01029132 | E01029128 | E01029106 | E01029147 | E01029147 | E01029127 |
| Clacton | Tendring | E01022025 | E01021978 | E01021988 | E01021987 | E01021974 | E01022035 |
| Dawlish/Teignmouth | Teignbridge | E01020228 | E01020194 | E01020212 | E01020274 | E01020259 | E01020265 |
| Deal | Dover | E01024215 | E01024233 | E01024240 | E01024211 | E01024249 | E01024221 |
| Eastbourne | Eastbourne | E01020920 | E01020960 | E01020923 | E01020946 | E01020958 | E01020939 |
| Exmouth | East Devon | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019938 | E01019948 |
| Falmouth | Carrick | E01018841 | E01018816 | E01018841 | E01018816 | E01018850 | E01018848 |
| Folkestone/Hythe | Shepway | E01024506 | E01024490 | E01024498 | E01024523 | E01024549 | E01024512 |
| Great Yarmouth | Great Yarmouth | E01026625 | E01026587 | E01026619 | E01026611 | E01026609 | E01026639 |
| Hastings/Bexhill | Hastings | E01020989 | E01020970 | E01020972 | E01020970 | E01020970 | E01021013 |
| Ilfracombe | North Devon | E01020112 | E01020127 | E01020103 | E01020128 | E01020100 | E01020105 |
| Isle of Wight | Isle of Wight | E01017336 | E01017351 | E01017332 | E01017316 | E01017297 | E01017344 |
| Lowestoft | Waveney | E01030258 | E01030237 | E01030277 | E01030224 | E01030285 | E01030288 |
| Minehead | West Somerset | E01029344 | E01029338 | E01029344 | E01029335 | E01029338 | E01029332 |
| Morecambe/Heysham | Lancaster | E01025110 | E01025105 | E01025156 | E01025103 | E01025132 | E01025098 |
| Newquay | Restormel | E01019041 | E01019017 | E01019055 | E01019017 | E01019060 | E01019072 |
| Penzance | Penwith | E01018997 | E01018985 | E01018997 | E01019011 | E01019006 | E01018993 |
| Scarborough | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027814 | E01027874 | E01027855 | E01027857 | E01027871 |
| Sidmouth | East Devon | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019938 | E01019948 |
| Skegness | East Lindsey | E01026073 | E01026098 | E01026083 | E01026119 | E01026082 | E01026054 |
| Southend-on-Sea | Southend-on-Sea | E01015842 | E01015908 | E01015842 | E01015908 | E01015827 | E01015910 |
| Southport | Sefton | E01007009 | E01006985 | E01007019 | E01006974 | E01007038 | E01007102 |
| St. Ives | East Dorset | E01020393 | E01020415 | E01020393 | E01020380 | E01020396 | E01020426 |
| St. Ives | Penwith | E01018997 | E01018985 | E01018997 | E01019011 | E01019006 | E01018993 |
| Swanage | Purbeck | E01020485 | E01020470 | E01020471 | E01020470 | E01020490 | E01020492 |
| Thanet | Thanet | E01024676 | E01024635 | E01024682 | E01024642 | E01024703 | E01024655 |
| Torbay | Torbay | E01015217 | E01015208 | E01015266 | E01015271 | E01015190 | E01015211 |
| Weston-super-Mare | North Somerset | E01014832 | E01014850 | E01014831 | E01014766 | E01014766 | E01014816 |
| Weymouth | Weymouth and Portland | E01020554 | E01020560 | E01020552 | E01020558 | E01020569 | E01020588 |
| Whitby | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027814 | E01027874 | E01027855 | E01027857 | E01027871 |
| Whitley Bay | North Tyneside | E01008545 | E01008546 | E01008484 | E01008563 | E01008480 | E01008546 |
| Whitstable/Herne Bay | Canterbury | E01024092 | E01024056 | E01024047 | E01024131 | E01024054 | E01024115 |
| Worthing | Worthing | E01031790 | E01031824 | E01031819 | E01031803 | E01031832 | E01031797 |

| Town | LA name | Crime & Disorder | | Living Environment | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA |
| Blackpool | Blackpool | E01012736 | E01012662 | E01012673 | E01012722 |
| Bognor Regis | Arun | E01031454 | E01031458 | E01031427 | E01031383 |
| Bournemouth | Bournemouth | E01015367 | E01015315 | E01015279 | E01015315 |
| Bridlington | East Riding of Yorkshire | E01013000 | E01013122 | E01012948 | E01012939 |
| Brighton | Brighton and Hove | E01016952 | E01016998 | E01016952 | E01017008 |
| Burnham-on-Sea | Sedgemoor | E01029098 | E01029103 | E01029095 | E01029115 |
| Clacton | Tendring | E01021988 | E01022012 | E01021988 | E01022004 |
| Dawlish/Teignmouth | Teignbridge | E01020269 | E01020193 | E01020224 | E01020215 |
| Deal | Dover | E01024241 | E01024213 | E01024215 | E01024256 |
| Eastbourne | Eastbourne | E01020912 | E01020948 | E01020912 | E01020926 |
| Exmouth | East Devon | E01019918 | E01019897 | E01019916 | E01019905 |
| Falmouth | Carrick | E01018809 | E01018827 | E01018836 | E01018813 |
| Folkestone/Hythe | Shepway | E01024504 | E01024536 | E01024504 | E01024542 |
| Great Yarmouth | Great Yarmouth | E01026626 | E01026629 | E01026626 | E01026582 |

| | | Crime & Disorder | | Living Environment | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Town* | *LA name* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* |
| Hastings/Bexhill | Hastings | E01020979 | E01020971 | E01020984 | E01020995 |
| Ilfracombe | North Devon | E01020113 | E01020107 | E01020112 | E01020085 |
| Isle of Wight | Isle of Wight | E01017336 | E01017298 | E01017340 | E01017352 |
| Lowestoft | Waveney | E01030258 | E01030245 | E01030250 | E01030239 |
| Minehead | West Somerset | E01029330 | E01029327 | E01029338 | E01029331 |
| Morecambe/Heysham | Lancaster | E01025139 | E01025160 | E01025117 | E01025158 |
| Newquay | Restormel | E01019029 | E01019045 | E01019056 | E01019018 |
| Penzance | Penwith | E01018999 | E01018975 | E01019012 | E01018983 |
| Scarborough | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027834 | E01027804 | E01027855 |
| Sidmouth | East Devon | E01019918 | E01019897 | E01019916 | E01019905 |
| Skegness | East Lindsey | E01026069 | E01026098 | E01026093 | E01026085 |
| Southend-on-Sea | Southend-on-Sea | E01015841 | E01015866 | E01015852 | E01015885 |
| Southport | Sefton | E01007051 | E01007093 | E01007003 | E01006991 |
| St. Ives | East Dorset | E01020392 | E01020378 | E01020396 | E01020374 |
| St. Ives | Penwith | E01018999 | E01018975 | E01019012 | E01018983 |
| Swanage | Purbeck | E01020472 | E01020491 | E01020490 | E01020470 |
| Thanet | Thanet | E01024676 | E01024644 | E01024676 | E01024637 |
| Torbay | Torbay | E01015267 | E01015251 | E01015231 | E01015226 |
| Weston-super-Mare | North Somerset | E01014801 | E01014793 | E01014802 | E01014793 |
| Weymouth | Weymouth and Portland | E01020554 | E01020559 | E01020554 | E01020560 |
| Whitby | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027834 | E01027804 | E01027855 |
| Whitley Bay | North Tyneside | E01008584 | E01008518 | E01008572 | E01008551 |
| Whitstable/Herne Bay | Canterbury | E01024080 | E01024054 | E01024080 | E01024056 |
| Worthing | Worthing | E01031787 | E01031804 | E01031810 | E01031820 |

## Economic Policy

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account has been taken by his Department of New Economics and post neo-classical endogenous growth theory in the formulation of economic policy since 1997. [235481]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government take into account all relevant factors in their formulation of economic policy.

## Economic Situation: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross value added per head was in the principal seaside towns in England and Wales in the latest period for which figures are available. [235189]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question about gross value added (GVA) per head in the principal seaside towns in England and Wales in the latest period for which figures are available. (235189)

The Office for National Statistics publishes regional GVA using official statistical geographies known as Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS)[1]. NUTS3 boundaries (the lowest level at which the ONS publishes regional GVA) do not directly correspond to the principal seaside towns of the United Kingdom, but some towns are included as individual regions.

Regional GVA per head can be found in table 3.2 of the link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/GVA_NUTS3_Excel_Tables_1995-2005.xls

Regional GVA estimates are expressed at current basic prices and do not allow for changes in prices over time (inflation) or differences in regional price levels (purchasing power).

The full range of regional GVA estimates is available on the ONS website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14650

[1] The Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) provides a single uniform breakdown for the production of regional statistics for the European Union. Regional GVA data are produced at three levels of NUTS in the UK. These are:

NUTS 1: Government Office Regions of England and the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

NUTS2: 37 areas—sometimes referred to as sub-regions.

NUTS3: 133 areas—generally groups of unitary authorities or districts, also known as local areas.

## EU External Trade: Israel

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 883-84W, on EU external trade: Israel, what action was taken on the requests for information not answered by the Israeli authorities; and whether the consignments in question were permitted to be sold in the UK with the preference applied under the EU-Israel Association Agreement. [234372]

**Mr. Timms:** Four late replies to requests for information were received from Israel after 10 months had elapsed, leaving only eight cases where the authorities did not provide an answer. In seven of those cases the preference was refused and the full rate of customs duty was demanded.

There was insufficient evidence in the remaining case to confirm whether the goods had originated in a settlement.

### European Coalition for Responsible Credit Conference

**John Battle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if his Department will participate in the European Coalition for Responsible Credit Conference to be held in London on 13 to 14 November; and if he will make a statement. [233108]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government want to see all lenders meeting the highest standards and welcomes all contributions to discussions of these issues, including at events relating to credit issues. Government officials attended the European Coalition for Responsible Credit Conference.

### Government Shareholding

**Anne Main:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the value of UK bank shares held by *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* the Treasury Solicitor. [231784]

**Ian Pearson:** As shown in HM Treasury 2007-2008 resource accounts, shares in Northern Rock held by the Treasury Solicitors on behalf of HM Treasury are being carried at historic cost. This is currently shown as nil, since the historic cost to HM Treasury will be dependent on the valuation of the company by the valuer appointed in accordance with the Northern Rock plc Compensation Scheme Order 2008. This valuation is pending.

A Compensation Order to determine the amount of any compensation payable to former shareholders of Bradford and Bingley will be laid before Parliament in due course. That will decide the historic cost to HM Treasury of the shares it holds in Bradford and Bingley.

As the Chancellor announced on 13 October, the Treasury has agreed to invest up to £37 billion to recapitalise the Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, HBOS plc, and Lloyds TSB Group plc, by underwriting ordinary and preference shares. No public money has yet been invested in these banks to date.

### Income Tax: Prisoners

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 338W, on income tax: prisoners, whether income tax paid by prisoners working on the Barbed project in Coldingley prison was returned to them. [236415]

**Mr. Timms:** As for other individuals, the personal tax affairs of prisoners are covered by rules of confidentiality.

### Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to oral Statement of 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 278, on the banking system, what steps he is taking to ensure that investors who have placed funds with Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man) Limited are able to reclaim those investments without loss; and what steps his Department has taken in respect of such funds following the seizure of the assets of this company. [234880]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 11 November 2008]:* Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man are a matter for the Government of the Isle of Man.

Deposits with Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man, will be subject to the Isle of Man Deposit Compensation Scheme.

In line with usual constitutional arrangements, the Government will represent the Crown Dependencies in their negotiations with the Icelandic authorities.

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice he received from the Financial Services Authority on the position of Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander Limited prior to the decision to bring the Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008 into force. [230731]

**Ian Pearson:** The FSA intensified its supervision of deposit-taking by Icelandic banks (including through increased contact with firms, more frequent visits and enhanced reporting requirements) from the beginning of 2008. As the economic situation deteriorated during the year and particularly since September, the FSA worked increasingly with the banks concerned. As the Memorandum of Understanding between HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the FSA sets out, the FSA informs the Tripartite Standing Committee of its concerns on a regular basis.

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the operations of Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander Limited of the operation of the Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008. [230733]

**Ian Pearson:** On 8 October, the Treasury made Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008 in order to freeze funds and financial assets relating to Landsbanki. Landsbanki is the only Icelandic bank which has been made the subject of a freezing order.

### Landsbanki

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what information his Department received on the financial position of Landsbanki between February and October 2008; [229766]

(2) what information his Department received on Icesave accounts between Landsbanki between February and October 2008. [229767]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* The FSA intensified its supervision of deposit-taking by Icelandic banks (including through increased contact with the banks themselves and the Icelandic regulator) from the beginning of 2008. As the macroeconomic situation deteriorated during the year and particularly since September the FSA has worked increasingly intensively with the banks concerned.

As the Memorandum of Understanding between HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the FSA sets out, the FSA informs the Tripartite Standing Committee of any concerns about individual financial institutions on a regular basis.

### Lloyds TSB: Halifax Bank of Scotland

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to halt the merger of Lloyds TSB plc and HBOS plc; and if he will make a statement. [229577]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* The decision as to whether the merger proceeds is a matter for shareholders of Lloyds TSB and HBOS.

### Loans: Small Businesses

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government plans to take to encourage banks which are in receipt of money from the public purse to lend money to small businesses. [229851]

**Ian Pearson:** As part of their investment, the Government have agreed a range of commitments with banks accessing the recapitalisation scheme. The Government expect banks to restore and maintain the availability and active marketing of competitively priced lending to SMEs, at a level at least equivalent to that of 2007, until the end of 2011.

UK Financial Investments Limited (UKFI), which is wholly owned by the Government, will also oversee the conditions attached to subscribing to the Government's recapitalisation fund, including in relation to SME lending.

On 30 October, the Chancellor announced that Britain's small and medium-sized businesses stand to benefit from up to £4 billion in loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB) over the next four years. The Government have secured commitments from UK's largest SME lenders that they will maximise use of this funding.

### Lost Working Days

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many working days have been lost due to industrial action by employees for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [218048]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested in respect of HM Treasury is as follows:

| *Date of industrial action* | *Number of employees absent* |
|---|---|
| 5 November 2004 | 12 |
| 31 January 2007 | 26 |
| 1 May 2007 | 13 |

### Maternity Pay

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of statutory maternity pay expressed as *(a)* reduced tax income from employers, *(b)* reduced national insurance income from employers and *(c)* compensation paid to small employers in each year since it was introduced. [215204]

**Mr. McNulty:** I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the following tables.

*Department for Work and Pensions expenditure on statutory maternity pay: Great Britain*

| | *Nominal terms* | *£ million Real terms (2008-09 prices)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1987-88 | 193 | 395 |
| 1988-89 | 250 | 478 |
| 1989-90 | 286 | 510 |
| 1990-91 | 314 | 520 |
| 1991-92 | 408 | 636 |
| 1992-93 | 434 | 656 |
| 1993-94 | 416 | 613 |
| 1994-95 | 480 | 696 |
| 1995-96 | 524 | 738 |
| 1996-97 | 341 | 464 |
| 1997-98 | 502 | 664 |
| 1998-99 | 553 | 714 |
| 1999-2000 | 635 | 803 |
| 2000-01 | 648 | 808 |
| 2001-02 | 636 | 775 |
| 2002-03 | 724 | 855 |
| 2003-04 | 1,035 | 1,188 |
| 2004-05 | 1,291 | 1,442 |
| 2005-06 | 1,184 | 1,295 |
| 2006-07 | 1,287 | 1,368 |
| 2007-08 | 1,496 | 1,541 |

*Compensation of employers payments: Great Britain (nominal terms)*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 1988-89 | 17 |
| 1989-90 | 20 |
| 1990-91 | 22 |
| 1991-92 | 17 |
| 1992-93 | 17 |
| 1993-94 | 18 |
| 1994-95 | 10 |
| 1995-96 | 2 |
| 1996-97 | 3 |
| 1997-98 | 3 |
| 1998-99 | 3 |
| 1999-2000 | 2 |
| 2000-01 | 2 |
| 2001-02 | 3 |
| 2002-03 | 3 |
| 2003-04 | 5 |
| 2004-05 | 7 |
| 2005-06 | 7 |
| 2006-07 | 8 |
| 2007-08 | 9 |

*Notes:*

1. The nature of employers' interaction with the national insurance system leaves all figures open to revision.
2. Compensation of employers information is not available for 1987-88.
3. There was a change in the SMP arrangements in 1994 (see The SMP (Compensation of Employers) and Miscellaneous Amendment Regulations 1994) to restrict additional compensation to small employers only.
4. Historical figures prior to 1999-2000 have been provided by the Government Actuary's Department. Figures thereafter are taken from a sample of records from the National Insurance Recording System 2.

### Members: Correspondence

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 8

September 2008 from the hon. Member for Congleton on behalf of her constituent Mr. Peter Carr. [236240]

**Ian Pearson:** The former Economic Secretary to the Treasury my hon. Friend the Member for Burnley, (Kitty Ussher) replied to the hon. Lady on 18 September.

### Non-domestic Rates: Ports

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 594W, on non-domestic rates: ports, which ports have been affected by the decision to backdate the higher rateable values. [231870]

**Mr. Timms:** Hereditaments situated within the following ports in England and Wales, and occupied other than by the designated port operator, have been affected:

Ammouth
Barrow
Barry
Boston
Blyth
Cardiff
Dover
Falmouth
Felixstowe
Fishguard
Fleetwood
Folkestone
Garston
Goole
Great Yarmouth
Grimsby
Harwich
Heysham
Holyhead
Hull
Immingham
Ipswich
King's Lynn
Liverpool
Lowestoft
Milford Dock Company
Mostyn
Newport
Portsmouth
Port Talbot
Seaham
Sharpness
Sheerness
Shoreham
Southampton
Southampton Container Terminal
Sunderland,
Swansea,
Teesport
Teignmouth
Thamesport
Tilbury
Tilbury Container Terminal
Tyne
Workington

The only assessment of a hereditament occupied by a designated port operator which has experienced backdated increases is Harwich Dock.

Individual occupiers have the right of appeal against rateable values. The outcome of such appeals may affect the overall picture.

### Public Sector: Pensions

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations have been made by his Department in connection with the treatment of state pension liabilities and public service pension liabilities under the revisions to the System of National Accounts 1993 being prepared by the UN Statistics Commission. [233237]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what representations have been made in connection with the treatment of state pension liabilities and public service pension liabilities under the revisions to the System of National Accounts 1993 being prepared by the UN Statistics Commission. (233237)

The Office for National Statistics has responsibility for contributions to the revision of the System of National Accounts 1993. The ONS has been an active participant in the process to update the System of National Accounts. Comments from the UK and other countries on the draft Volume 1 of the SNA can be found at:

www.unstats.un.org/unsd/sna1993/draftingghost/ChapterIssueMatrix-V1.asp.

The proposed change to the treatment of pension liabilities in the new System of National Accounts aims to quantify and recognise future pension benefits as liabilities of social security schemes or unfunded employer schemes. The discussion is ongoing and no final position has yet been agreed.

### Public Works Loan Board: Interest Rates

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the effect of *(a)* rates of inflation, *(b)* the banking situation and *(c)* the increase in Government borrowing on Public Works Loan Board interest rates. [236087]

**Angela Eagle:** The PWLB's rates are determined according to the price of gilts in the secondary market, with a margin to prevent loss to the National Loans Fund.

### Revenue and Customs: Public Appointments

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the decision to appoint Lesley Strathie as the new Chief Executive of HM Revenue and Customs was made. [235357]

**Mr. Timms:** The Chairman of HMRC, Mike Clasper announced on 13 October 2008 that Lesley Strathie was to become the new chief executive officer, and she took up her new post on 10 November.

### Tax Havens

**Frank Dobson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's most recent estimate is of the reduction in UK tax revenues consequent upon the existence of overseas tax havens. [235546]

**Mr. Timms:** In March 2008 HMRC released details of some analysis from 2005 that attempted to derive estimates of the direct tax gap at the start of the decade—see:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/direct-tax-gaps.pdf

Since the Offshore Disclosure Facility was launched in 2007 it is estimated that over £400 million unpaid tax has been collected.

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants in his Department were seconded to work for *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since 2003. [229699]

**Angela Eagle:** None.

### Valuation: Information and Communications Technology

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency has spent on IT projects in the last 24 months, broken down by project. [235998]

**Mr. Timms:** The amounts spent by the Valuation Office Agency on IT projects during the period October 2006 to September 2008 were as follows:

| Project title | £000 (exc. VAT) |
|---|---|
| Appeals Direct | 340 |
| Computer Assisted Design ( CAD ) | 100 |
| Deployment of hand held devices for VOA executives | 27 |
| Electronic Billing Authority Reports | 150 |
| Electronic interface with OGDs | 282 |
| Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) | 5,163 |
| Geographical Information System (GIS) | 1,500 |
| Handicaps records | 667 |
| Internet service level revision | 78 |
| Mass appraisals techniques (1 and 2) | 2,871 |
| Minerals | 294 |
| Mobile computing (homeworkers) | 173 |
| NESR Rural 2010 | 4,252 |
| Offline data capture | 439 |
| Secure UAT access | 75 |
| Web access from the desktop | 5 |
| Working in advance | 10 |
| Procurement of laptops | 346 |
| Replacement of personal computers | 692 |
| Replacement file and print servers | 286 |

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer question *(a)* 227155, *(b)* 227156, *(c)* 227157 and *(d)* 227158 on the Zanzibar eProcurement Service, tabled by the hon. Member for Putney on 9 October 2008. [236200]

**Angela Eagle:** I very much regret not having answered the hon. Lady's questions and hope to be in a position to do so very shortly.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Administration of Justice

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) when he expects the guiding principles for dealing with cases of extraterritoriality, referred to by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State on 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 510, to be *(a)* finalised and *(b)* published; [219511]

(2) what he expects to be included in the guiding principles for dealing with cases of extraterritoriality, as referred to by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State on 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 510; and what account will be taken of these principles in formulating and implementing the Government's extraterritorial policy. [219512]

**Gillian Merron:** Whitehall discussions on a set of guiding principles are continuing.

### Admiralty House: Utilities

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on *(a)* electricity, *(b)* heating and *(c)* water bills in each of the flats in Admiralty House in each of the last five years. [221192]

**Gillian Merron:** Costs associated with each of the flats (including costs for electricity, heating and water) are calculated on the basis of percentages of the total costs for Admiralty House, which includes the common parts. It is not possible, within the overall total, to identify separately the costs for electricity, heating and water that arise from the three flats.

### Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK's objectives are for the Paris 2008 Conference on Afghanistan to be held on 12th June 2008. [204089]

**David Miliband:** The UK saw the Paris Conference as an important occasion to reaffirm international and Afghan Government commitment to Afghanistan's future. This commitment was demonstrated by the launch of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the $20 billion pledged by the international community to support the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

The $20 billion pledged at Paris included £613 million of UK support to Afghanistan (over the period up to 2012-13). This support is in addition to the £500 million we pledged at the London Conference in 2006.

The UN Secretary General, myself and others also used the opportunity to stress the urgent need for the

Afghan Government to tackle corruption. The conference also reiterated the importance of the role played by the UN in coordinating the civilian effort in Afghanistan and made clear its support for the UN Special Representative, Kai Eide.

### British Nationality: Overseas Residence

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the number of British expatriates resident in each country outside the UK. [223175]

**Gillian Merron:** Our network of posts overseas is asked each year to provide an estimate of the number of British nationals resident in their consular areas. The results of this survey for April 2006 to March 2007 are as follows.

| *Country* | *Estimated size of the British national community 2006-07* |
|---|---|
| Afghanistan | 285 |
| Albania | 196 |
| Algeria | 645 |
| Angola | 1,500 |
| Antigua and Barbuda | 2,200 |
| Argentina | 5,000 |
| Armenia | 37 |
| Australia | 1,550,000 |
| Austria | 7,369 |
| Azerbaijan | 3,000 |
| Bahamas | 4,500 |
| Bahrain | 6,000 |
| Bangladesh | 15,000 |
| Barbados | 3,800 |
| Belarus | 15 |
| Belgium | 39,867 |
| Belize | 1,400 |
| Bolivia | 250 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 400 |
| Botswana | 6,000 |
| Brazil | 9,819 |
| Brunei | 3,000 |
| Bulgaria | 1,700 |
| Burma | 195 |
| Cambodia | 1,000 |
| Cameroon | 262 |
| Canada | 1,645,000 |
| Chile | 7,682 |
| China | 3,748,348 |
| Colombia | 1,980 |
| Congo (Democratic Republic) | 240 |
| Costa Rica | 2,230 |
| Croatia | 1,200 |
| Cuba | 160 |
| Cyprus | 60,000 |
| Czech Republic | 3,183 |
| Denmark | 13,183 |
| Djibouti | — |
| Dominican Republic | 600 |
| East Timor | — |
| Ecuador | 1,500 |
| Egypt | 15,900 |
| El Salvador | — |
| Eritrea | 71 |
| Estonia | 220 |
| Ethiopia | 600 |
| Fiji | 500 |
| Finland | 4,350 |
| France | 383,000 |
| Gambia | 3,250 |
| Georgia | 232 |
| Germany | 115,554 |
| Ghana | 4,000 |
| Greece | 31,470 |
| Grenada | 2,700 |
| Guatemala | 1,212 |
| Guinea | 45 |
| Guyana | 450 |
| Haiti | — |
| Honduras | — |
| Hungary | 2,640 |
| Iceland | 900 |
| India | 36,150 |
| Indonesia | 6,300 |
| Iran | 1,500 |
| Iraq | 4,000 |
| Ireland | 112,548 |
| Israel | 50,000 |
| Italy | 71,990 |
| Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire) | — |
| Jamaica | 4,500 |
| Japan | 23,494 |
| Jerusalem | 20,000 |
| Jordan | 2,500 |
| Kazakhstan | 1,200 |
| Kenya | 20,000 |
| Kuwait | 2,940 |
| Laos | — |
| Latvia | 400 |
| Lebanon | 5,000 |
| Lesotho | — |
| Libya | 4,500 |
| Lithuania | 250 |
| Luxembourg | 4,480 |
| Macedonia | 66 |
| Madagascar | — |
| Malawi | 8,000 |
| Malaysia | 8,500 |
| Mali | 70 |
| Malta | 6,000 |
| Mauritius | 1,500 |
| Mexico | 15,334 |
| Moldova | 150 |
| Mongolia | 200 |
| Morocco | 1,258 |
| Mozambique | 700 |
| Namibia | 2,500 |
| Nepal | 550 |
| Netherlands | 73,600 |
| New Zealand | 450,000 |
| Nicaragua | — |
| Nigeria | 1,783 |
| North Korea | 8 |
| Norway | 11,030 |

| Country | Estimated size of the British national community 2006-07 |
|---|---|
| Oman | 4,000 |
| Pakistan | 85,000 |
| Panama | 260 |
| Papua New Guinea | 1,200 |
| Paraguay | |
| Peru | 2,000 |
| Philippines | 17,000 |
| Poland | 2,531 |
| Portugal | 34,624 |
| Qatar | 7,500 |
| Romania | 6,000 |
| Russia | 6,950 |
| Rwanda | 400 |
| Saudi Arabia | 19,500 |
| Senegal | 232 |
| Serbia | 750 |
| Seychelles | 800 |
| Sierra Leone | 2,500 |
| Singapore | 21,300 |
| Slovakia | 1,000 |
| Slovenia | 157 |
| Solomon Islands | 120 |
| South Africa | 800,000 |
| South Korea | 4,100 |
| Spain | 840,989 |
| Sri Lanka | 3,000 |
| St Lucia | 750 |
| St Vincent and the Grenadines | 700 |
| Sudan | 1,300 |
| Swaziland | |
| Sweden | 15,000 |
| Switzerland | 83,570 |
| Syria | 1,100 |
| Tajikistan | 100 |
| Tanzania | 6,200 |
| Thailand | 42,500 |
| Tonga | |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 5,000 |
| Tunisia | 850 |
| Turkey | 15,120 |
| Turkmenistan | 50 |
| Uganda | 3,500 |
| Ukraine | 1,000 |
| United Arab Emirates | 120,000 |
| Uruguay | 756 |
| USA | 1,257,000 |
| Uzbekistan | 116 |
| Vanuatu | |
| Venezuela | 1,500 |
| Vietnam | 2,900 |
| Yemen | 490 |
| Zambia | 8,000 |
| Zimbabwe | 17,500 |
| | 12,113,756 |

### China: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of Tibetans held in detention in China following the protests of March and April 2008; and what representations he has made to the Chinese authorities on obtaining due process for these detainees. [207811]

**David Miliband:** There has been no official confirmation of the number of Tibetans held in detention following the protests in March and April 2008. Unofficial estimates vary considerably—International Campaign for Tibet, for example, gives a figure of 4,000 people detained, of whom 2,000 had been released by 14 April.

We continue to urge the Chinese authorities to ensure due process for all Tibetan detainees, including that they be allowed access to lawyers of their choice. We have also stressed the need to differentiate between those who peacefully express their views and those who commit violent crimes. I have spoken to Chinese Foreign Minister Yang on several occasions since the protests emphasising the need to respect human rights. My officials have raised the detentions directly with the Chinese authorities both in Beijing and London.

At the end of March, EU Foreign Ministers called for all Tibetan detainees to be treated in conformity with international standards. The rights of the Tibetan detainees were also raised at the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue which took place in Slovenia on 15 May.

### Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals hold honours. [198078]

**Gillian Merron:** The following members of the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals hold honours as shown:

Sir Gus O'Donnell KCB
Sir Bill Jeffrey KCB
Sir Peter Ricketts KCMG
Jeremy Heywood CB CVO
Sir David Normington KCB
Right hon. Christopher Geidt CVO OBE

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Residence

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate has been made of the number of British citizens believed to be in critical areas in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and what steps have been made to ensure their safety. [213864]

**David Miliband:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice advises against all travel to eastern and north eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, including North Kivu. British nationals in the affected areas are likely to be working with international aid agencies and UN agencies. These organisations have their own security systems in place for evacuation of staff and take advice from MONUC locally. The British embassy in Kinshasa is able to provide limited consular assistance to British nationals in need of emergency assistance. The embassy also has a diplomat based in Goma who, as part of his role, is able to offer ad hoc consular advice and assistance.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Peace Negotiations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals the UK has put forward on mediation to secure a ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and if he will make a statement. [233066]

**David Miliband:** A ceasefire was declared in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on 29 October. While the situation in the region remains uncertain, it appears to be holding. During my visit to the region on 1-2 November with my French counterpart, I urged the Presidents of DRC and Rwanda to find a political solution to the problems of the region, including through the full implementation of the Nairobi Agreement. I also offered full support for President Kikwete of Tanzania's initiative to hold a regional meeting, which would include Presidents Kabila and Kagame.

I also welcome the UNSG's appointment of former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo as his special envoy to the DRC on 3 November. I look forward to working with former President Obasanjo in his efforts to bring about a lasting settlement in the region.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his French counterpart on the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and what initiatives are being considered. [233071]

**David Miliband:** I have remained in close contact with my French counterpart since the recent upsurge in fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on 16 October. On 1-2 November, I visited DRC, Rwanda and Tanzania with M. Kouchner. During the visit, we urged President Kabila of DRC and President Kagame of Rwanda to seek a political solution to the problems in eastern DRC, including through the full implementation of the Nairobi and Goma agreements. We also discussed with President Kikwete of Tanzania his initiative to hold a regional meeting, which would include Presidents Kabila and Kagame.

I will continue to work closely with my French colleague and other partners to bring about a lasting settlement in the region.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Rwanda on steps to alleviate the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and if he will make a statement. [233063]

**David Miliband:** I met President Kagame on 1 November with my French counterpart Bernard Kouchner. I urged President Kagame to support efforts to find a political solution to the problems in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown attended the Nairobi Summit on 7 November and will be visiting Kigali on 19 to 20 November where he plans to discuss the crisis further with the Government of Rwanda.

### Departmental Air Travel

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies who are entitled to business class or first class air travel are permitted to (i) travel in a cheaper class to the destination and (ii) benefit in monetary terms or kind from the saving. [222105]

**Gillian Merron:** All official travel by the Department and its agencies is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Human Resources Guidance.

Staff are permitted to travel in a cheaper class to their destination, both in the UK and overseas. They receive no benefit except as shown below.

Staff who are travelling to and from their posting at a British mission overseas on transfer and on leave journeys can choose to travel in a cheaper class than the approved route entitlement and may use any additional savings made for additional travel when taking leave during that posting. Unused entitlements remain available to the officer until the end of the posting but are then cancelled. This allows staff to travel in a way which best meets operational and personal needs, and involves no additional cost to the taxpayer.

### Departmental Appeals

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions his Department has instructed the Treasury Solicitor to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords from *(a)* the Court of Appeal and *(b)* the House of Lords itself in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions the application was rejected. [220821]

**Gillian Merron:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what his Department's policy is on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings which it *(a)* rents and *(b)* owns; what changes there have been in the energy efficiency of such buildings in the last (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and whether his Department has adopted targets on energy efficiency improvements in the buildings it occupies over the next (A) five and (B) 10 years; [221082]

(2) what account his Department takes of the level of energy efficiency of buildings before entering into agreements to *(a)* rent and *(b)* purchase those buildings. [221098]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) sets environmental objectives for our UK estate which are in accordance with UK Government-wide Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE)

targets. These targets cover carbon emissions, energy efficiency, waste management, recycling, water consumption, and utilisation of low-carbon or renewable sources of energy.

One of the SOGE targets is to increase energy efficiency per square metre of both owned and rented buildings by 15 per cent. by 2010 and 30 per cent. by 2020, compared to a 1999-2000 baseline. Detailed figures for the FCO's energy efficiency performance since 1999-2000 can be found on the Sustainable Development Commission website. The relevant figures from the Fifth and Sixth Annual Sustainable Development in Government Reports are at:

www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2006/images/Results_Energy.xls

and pages 52 to 62 of:

http://www.sd-comission.org.uk/publications/downloads/sdig report 2007.pdf

By 1 October, all FCO sites in the UK were displaying Display Energy Certificates (DECs). The FCO is using the information obtained through DECs to further improve the energy efficiency of our buildings.

The FCO is working to fully integrate environmental factors into the design, construction and management of all new buildings and major refurbishments in the UK and overseas. For buildings in the UK we use the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM). We have developed a bespoke BREEAM model for all new builds and major refurbishments in our overseas estate. Two recently completed office buildings—the British embassy in Manila and the ICT building in Hanslope Park—have both achieved a BREEAM rating of 'Very good' for their sustainability.

We have worked with the Carbon Trust to establish targets for improving the energy efficiency of the operations of our overseas trust and are in the process of developing a programme of actions to achieve these targets by 2012.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which organisations have received *(a)* free and *(b)* discounted room hire from (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the commercial value of the discount was in each case. [221583]

**Gillian Merron:** The information requested is not held centrally by the FCO and to obtain it for the last five years would incur disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Databases

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies make of (i) MOSAIC data and (ii) ACORN data. [222103]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no central record to indicate that MOSAIC or ACORN data have been used. To provide more detailed information would require a search by all directorates and posts which would incur a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department and its agencies have been *(a)* dismissed and *(b)* disciplined for their conduct in the last two years. [217409]

**Gillian Merron:** From 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008, seven Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff and four FCO services staff were dismissed for their conduct.

During the same period, 39 FCO staff and 14 FCO services staff were disciplined for their conduct, including those dismissed.

### Departmental Equality

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department met the Civil Service diversity targets set out on page 51 of the Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007 by April 2008. [204706]

**Gillian Merron:** As at 1 April 2008, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) fell short of its diversity targets for the Senior Management Structure (SMS), as set out in the Cabinet Office Annual Report 2007. We aimed for 25 per cent. women (achieved 19.4 per cent.), 4 per cent. ethnic minority staff (achieved 3.7 per cent.) and 3.2 per cent. of staff with a declared disability (achieved 2.4 per cent.).

### Departmental Expenses

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much Ministers in his Department claimed in expenses in each of the last three years. [222819]

**Gillian Merron:** Expenses reimbursed to Ministers in each of the last three financial years are as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 916.16 |
| 2006-07 | 460.58 |
| 2007-08 | 602.76 |

### Departmental Information

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what types of data have been sold by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [222106]

**Gillian Merron:** Core information provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office can be re-used free of charge under the terms of the PSI Click-Use Licence which is administered by the Office of the Public Sector Information in accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations.

During the last 12 months the Documents of the British Foreign Policy 1919-39, Third Series, Vols II, III and IV has been re-used under the Click-Use Value Added Licence for which re-use fees are charged.

### Departmental Information and Communications Technology

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on upgrading its IT in each of the last three financial years. [228425]

**Gillian Merron:** The following table summarises the gross information technology additions to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's tangible and intangible fixed assets in the past three financial years, as reported in its Resource Accounts:

| | *Addition (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 25.692 |
| 2006-07 | 20.621 |
| 2007-08 | 31.355 |

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the change in the number of employees in his Department and its agencies has been since July 2006. [217063]

**Gillian Merron:** The following table records the monthly change in the number of UK civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services between July 2006 and July 2008. Due to the way in which central records are kept, it is not possible to give a separate breakdown of FCO and FCO Services figures without incurring disproportionate cost.

| | *UK civil servants* |
|---|---|
| *2006* | |
| July | 6,098 |
| August | 6,068 |
| September | 6,048 |
| October | 6,057 |
| November | 6,060 |
| December | 6,100 |
| *2007* | |
| January | 6,058 |
| February | 5,994 |
| March | 6,059 |
| April | 6,063 |
| May | 6,058 |
| June | 6,100 |
| July | 6,099 |
| August | 6,083 |
| September | 6,049 |
| October | 6,063 |
| November | 6,028 |
| December | 6,039 |
| *2008* | |
| January | 6,017 |
| February | 5,960 |
| March | 5,935 |
| April | 5,884 |
| May | 5,870 |
| June | 5,894 |
| July | 5,866 |
| Percentage Difference between July 2006 and July 2008 | 3.80 per cent. reduction |

### Departmental Overtime

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many hours of overtime were worked by staff in each pay grade in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [221240]

**Gillian Merron:** The following tables set out the total number of hours of overtime worked by civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) during the period 1 July 2007 to June 2008 broken down by grade:

| *FCO Grade* | *Civil Service Grade* | *Figures in hours* |
|---|---|---|
| A1 | AA | 7,805 |
| A2 | AO | 34,378 |
| B3 | EO | 30,414 |
| C4 | HEO | 41,625 |
| C5 | SEO | 17,510 |
| D6 | Grade 7 | 12,521 |
| D7 | Grade 6 | 4,129 |
| Cleaner | | 671 |

| | *2008* | | | | | | *2007* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *June* | *May* | *April* | *March* | *February* | *January* | *December* | *November* | *October* | *September* | *August* | *July* |
| A1 | 866 | 736 | 835 | 723 | 672 | 645 | 436 | 484 | 681 | 401 | 698 | 628 |
| A2 | 3,299 | 3,336 | 3,340 | 3,210 | 2,423 | 2,814 | 1,720 | 3,661 | 2,859 | 1,844 | 2,678 | 3,194 |
| B3 | 2,541 | 3,601 | 3,657 | 1,990 | 1,905 | 2,379 | 1,669 | 3,149 | 2,234 | 1,954 | 2,043 | 3,292 |
| C4 | 4,075 | 3,470 | 4,484 | 3,322 | 2,926 | 4,068 | 2,457 | 4,322 | 2,893 | 1,770 | 3,380 | 4,458 |
| C5 | 1,285 | 1,332 | 1,387 | 1,548 | 1,145 | 2,152 | 1,436 | 1,691 | 1,227 | 958 | 1,524 | 1,825 |
| D6 | 1,479 | 707 | 1,638 | 979 | 888 | 1183 | 824 | 1,283 | 1,198 | 454 | 931 | 1,227 |
| D7 | 298 | 747 | 426 | 666 | 110 | 182 | 338 | 317 | 234 | 178 | 253 | 380 |
| Cleaner | 110 | -- | 111 | 29 | 36 | 31 | 24 | 71 | 47 | 65 | 53 | 94 |

### Departmental Pay

**Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average pay of *(a)* male and *(b)* female full-time equivalent staff of his Department who were recruited as fast-stream entrants was (i) five, (ii) 10, (iii) 15, (iv) 20

and (v) 25 years after their recruitment at the most recent date for which figures are available. [198711]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not differentiate fast streamers from other staff following their first two home postings. It is not therefore possible for us to supply the information requested without incurring disproportionate cost.

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of *(a)* salaries for permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in his Department was in each month since May 2005. [199535]

**Gillian Merron:** The following table sets out the annual cost of salaries paid by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to permanent civil servants, to permanent non-civil servants and to temporary, agency or fee-paid workers during the last three years.

£

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| UK Civil Servants | 254,713,000 | 258,826,000 | 262,746,000 |
| Non- Civil Servants | 426,000 | 640,000 | 781,000 |
| Temporary/agency/ fee paid staff | 12,239,000 | 13,022,000 | 14,832,000 |

Unfortunately the data are not stored in a form which enables us to break the figures down into monthly totals.

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the pay bands for senior civil servants in his Department are. [221889]

**Gillian Merron:** Pay arrangements for staff in the Senior Management Structure/Senior Civil Service of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) follow a framework set centrally for Whitehall Departments by the Cabinet Office based on recommendations from the Senior Salaries Review Body.

For the year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, the SMS/SCS pay bands are:

£

| | *From* | *To* |
|---|---|---|
| Pay band 1 | 57,300 | 116,000 |
| Pay band 2 | 81,600 | 160,000 |
| Pay band 3/Senior Head of Mission | 99,960 | 205,000 |

**Departmental Procurement**

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on requesting discounts from its suppliers in return for swift payment of invoices. [220435]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not have a policy of negotiating discounts for early payment to suppliers. The FCO attempts to pay suppliers within 30 days of receipt of an invoice and is now seeking to comply with the latest policy of paying within 10 days of receipt of an invoice.

**Departmental Public Expenditure**

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on *(a)* new furnishings, *(b)* art and *(c)* new vehicles by his Department in each of the last three years. [213526]

**Gillian Merron:** The following expenditure, on art and new vehicles, has been recorded in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's fixed assets register in the last three financial years.

£

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Antiques and works of art* | | | |
| Total | 2,597 | 69,967 | |
| *Vehicles* | | | |
| Heavy Commercial | 60,827 | 72,251 | 108,593 |
| Light Commercial | 267,783 | 367,449 | 231,181 |
| Motor Cars | 4,249,522 | 17,628,125 | 11,248,651 |
| Total | 4,578,132 | 18,067,825 | 11,588,425 |

Furnishings are not recorded in the fixed assets register. It would not be possible to provide the information required without incurring a disproportionate cost.

**Departmental Temporary Employment**

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time posts in his Department were filled on a temporary basis for a period in excess of six months in each of the last three years. [200662]

**Gillian Merron:** In September 2006, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) devolved responsibility for hiring temporary staff to Directorates. The FCO does not maintain central records of temporary appointments of any length and could collate such information only at disproportionate cost.

**Departmental Translation Services**

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, broken down by language. [205183]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) procures translation and interpretation services from a range of suppliers, in the UK and overseas. Information on the total spent by the FCO on these services, and the languages involved, is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The FCO procures some translation and interpretation services from FCO Services: Translating and Interpreting,

a business team within the FCO Services Trading Fund. In the financial year 2007-08 FCO Services: Translation and Interpreting delivered 171 translation assignments to the FCO to the value of £58,455. It arranged interpreters for events arranged by staff in the FCO for a total of 46 events at an overall cost of £77,816.

### Departmental Working Hours

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many hours *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per employee were worked by civil servants in his Department in the last year for which records are available. [195821]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) operates around the world 24 hours a day seven days a week, requiring careful management of staff time. Our terms and conditions of service require full-time staff in the UK to work 41 hours a week in London (and 42 hours elsewhere) including five hours paid meal breaks. Staff and their managers are expected to ensure that they are able to keep to this pattern as far as possible. The precise hours actually worked by individual staff above the conditioned hours are not recorded centrally. Where staff below senior management are required to work in excess of their conditioned hours for a particular period, they may claim overtime or time off in lieu (TOIL) by agreement with their line managers.

Except in exceptional circumstances, UK civil servants employed by the FCO at diplomatic missions overseas work similar hours to their counterparts in London.

### Diego Garcia: Detainees

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who was responsible for carrying out the modifications to prison facilities on Diego Garcia required under orders issued in December 2001. [228499]

**David Miliband:** In exercise of powers conferred on him by the Prisons Ordinance 1981 of the British Indian Ocean Territory, the Commissioner for the Territory declared certain specified premises in Diego Garcia to be a prison. In December 2001, the Commissioner declared that the fenced compound containing tended or other accommodation facilities, adjacent to the British Indian Ocean Territory Police Station on Diego Garcia, to be a prison.

### Diego Garcia: Police Stations

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons a police station is maintained on the island of Diego Garcia. [228466]

**David Miliband:** The UK is responsible for maintaining law and order in the British Indian Ocean Territory and, therefore, a police station is maintained on Diego Garcia. Adjoining the police station is a detention facility operated by the UK authorities. It has primarily been used for the detention of Sri Lankan fishermen caught fishing illegally in the British India Ocean Territory's Fishing and Conservation Management Zone (FCMZ).

### Diplomatic Service: Education

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of his Department's advisory board on the appointment of British ambassadors and high commissioners were educated at *(a)* private school, *(b)* state school, *(c)* the universities of Oxford and Cambridge and *(d)* other universities. [219008]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold information on the educational backgrounds of its employees as a matter of course. The information here has been compiled in order to answer this question. Figures are given for the members of the three selection boards which appoint ambassadors and high commissioners (excluding the non-executive board members of the Number 1 Selection Board).

Of six members of the Number 1 Selection Board, responsible for senior management structure (SMS) 2-4 appointments: five were educated at private school and one at state school; four were educated at Oxford or Cambridge University and two at other universities.

Of 23 members of the Number 2 Selection Board, responsible for SMS 1 appointments: 11 were educated at private school, 10 at state school, and school details are not available for the other two; 15 were educated at Oxford or Cambridge University, seven at other universities, and university details are not available for the other one.

Of seven members of the Band D Selection Board, responsible for Grade 6/7 appointments: five were educated at private school and two at state school; five were educated at Oxford or Cambridge University and two at other universities.

### Diplomatic Service: Manpower

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which overseas posts overseas security officer positions are filled by *(a)* private contractors and *(b)* employees of his Department; and if he will make a statement. [203484]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) stopped employing overseas security officers following the 2002 FCO review of overseas security management, which recommended separating security management and guarding duties.

### Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* UK-based officials and *(b)* local employees have been dismissed from positions at UK posts for disciplinary reasons since 2000. [223705]

**Gillian Merron:** The number of UK-based officials that were dismissed from the FCO for disciplinary reasons while serving in positions at UK posts (overseas) are:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 0 |
| 2001 | 0 |
| 2002 | 0 |
| 2003 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 |

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 0 |
| 2006 | 2 |
| 2007 | 2 |
| 2008 | 0 |

Records are not held centrally on the number of local staff dismissed for disciplinary reasons. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Discrimination

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of his Department and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194980]

**Gillian Merron:** The information is as follows.

In 2003, there were no employment tribunal claims based on discrimination on grounds of sex, race or sexual orientation against the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

In 2004, there were two tribunal claims based on discrimination on grounds of sex and one on grounds of race brought against the FCO. The two sex claims were dismissed by the tribunal. The race claim was withdrawn. There were no claims based on sexual orientation.

In 2005, there were six tribunal claims based on discrimination on grounds of race brought against the FCO. The Home Office was a joint respondent in two of these. Two claims were dismissed by the tribunal. Four were settled out of court. There were no claims based on discrimination on sex or sexual orientation.

In 2006, there were five tribunal claims based on discrimination on grounds of race that included one joint sex/race claim brought against the FCO. The tribunal dismissed all five race claims and ruled that it did not have territorial jurisdiction to hear the sex discrimination claim. There were no claims based on discrimination on sexual orientation.

In 2007, there was one claim based on discrimination on the grounds of sex and one joint claim based on discrimination on grounds of sex and race brought against the FCO. The sex claim was settled out of court. The joint sex/race claim was dismissed by the tribunal. There were no claims based on discrimination on sexual orientation.

To date in 2008, there have been two tribunal claims based on discrimination on grounds of race brought against the FCO. Both claims were withdrawn. There have been no claims based on discrimination on grounds of sex or sexual orientation.

### Dorneywood

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use his Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [222082]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made no use of Dorneywood for its official engagements in the past 12 months.

### EDF Energy

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have with EDF; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221842]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) have six contracts with EDF to supply its UK offices with electricity. This includes five for its London estate, and one for its office in Hanslope Park. These contracts incorporate FCO Services, as they share its premises with the FCO.

Information relating to the amount paid to EDF, by the FCO and its agencies, is only available from 2004, following the introduction of a central management information system. Information pre-dating the introduction of this system could therefore be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Please see the following table for further details on the FCO's expenditure with EDF.

| | £ | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Electricity* | *Metering contracts* | *Other* | *Comments* |
| 2003-04 | 190,632.69 | — | — | Year only partially accounted for on new management information system. |
| 2004-05 | 1,254,618.74 | 3,037.40 | — | — |
| 2005-06 | 1,809,299.51 | 2,058.63 | 63,689.96 | Other expenditure was a connection charge and £621.94 for two charges incurred by our European posts. |
| 2006-07 | 2,391,364.77 | 2,019.84 | — | — |
| 2007-08 | 2,082,117.03 | 4,783.46 | — | — |
| 2008-09 | 549,865.74 | 4,267.69 | — | Financial year up to August 2008. |

### Embassies: Foreign Workers

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many positions in UK posts overseas have been localised in each of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [216304]

**David Miliband:** Statistics on positions being localised in UK posts have only been compiled since 1 October 2007. The figures include localisations since 1 January 2007.

115 UK-based positions in our posts overseas have been, or are about to be, localised.

**Internet: Regulation**

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on regulation of access to the internet in other countries. [204319]

**Gillian Merron:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly receives representations on freedom of expression including access to information. The Government remain concerned that access to information is greatly restricted in many countries around the world. We continue to raise our concerns on this and other related issues as part of our ongoing human rights dialogue with other countries, both bilaterally and in international fora.

**Iraq: Prisoners**

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on the treatment of Khaled al-Magtari by UK personnel in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [196313]

**Gillian Merron:** No representations have been received in respect of the treatment of Khaled al-Magtari by UK personnel in Iraq. We are nonetheless aware of the report published by Amnesty International in March 2008 concerning his alleged mistreatment while in detention.

**Israel: Armed Conflict**

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations on the reported storage of (i) rockets and (ii) arms by Hamas in civilian areas in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [196141]

**Gillian Merron:** The import and storage of rockets and other weapons in Gaza is of grave concern. We and the Quartet (of which the UN is a member) call on Hamas to accept the Quartet principles: non-violence, recognition of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations.

**Jerusalem: Railways**

**Mr. Breed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Israeli government on the construction of the Jerusalem Light Railway; and if he will make a statement. [221699]

**Gillian Merron:** No representations have been made recently but we have raised our concerns about the construction of the Jerusalem Light Railway on occupied land with the Israeli authorities in the past. We believe that any actions that facilitate the transfer of population onto occupied land are illegal under international law.

**Mexico: Trade Unions**

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Mexican government on the position of the National Miners' and Metalworkers' Union of Mexico; and if he will make a statement. [202823]

**Gillian Merron:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made no representations to the Mexican government on the position of the National Miners' and Metalworkers' Union of Mexico.

The explosion at the Pasta de Conchas mine in Mexico in 2006, which killed 65miners from the National Miners' and Metalworkers' Union, was a tragedy. We expect the unions and the Government of Mexico to continue to work to improve the safety of mine workers.

**Middle East: Armed Conflict**

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with (i) governments of Arab states and (ii) the government of Israel to secure the release of the Israeli soldiers kidnapped by (A) Hamas and (B) Hezbollah in June and July 2006; what response was received from each; and if he will make a statement. [214056]

**Bill Rammell:** We welcome the swift implementation of the agreement made on 1 July between the Israeli Government and Hezbollah, which ensured the return of the remains of Eldad Regev and Eldad Goldwasser who were kidnapped in July 2006.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East meet regularly with representatives from Arab states and Israel. We urge all parties to remain committed to the cease-fire and resolve all outstanding issues, including the return of Corporal Shalit.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the governments of Arab states and *(b)* the government of Israel on adherence by Hamas and Israel to the agreement on a six-month ceasefire; what response was received from each; and if he will make a statement. [216198]

**Gillian Merron:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East regularly meet representatives from Arab States and Israel. We urge all parties to remain committed to the ceasefire, and to reinforce it by, on Israel's part, increasing the flow of goods through the crossings into Gaza, and for Arab states to press Hamas to reconcile with the Palestinian Authority and accept the Quartet principles. We have found broad support for the ceasefire and the relief it has brought to the people of Gaza and southern Israel.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations on compliance by Hamas and Israel with the agreement for a six-month ceasefire; and if he will make a statement. [216200]

**Gillian Merron:** During the last five months the Egyptian brokered ceasefire has brought relative calm for the

people of Gaza and southern Israel. The recent rocket attacks and Israeli incursions have fractured that calm. It is in both sides' interests to seek to reinforce the ceasefire. We have not and do not intend to take measures at the UN on compliance, which is best discussed between Egypt and the parties.

### Middle East: Peace Negotiations

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written Ministerial Correction of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 7MC, on the Middle East: peace negotiations, what the pay band is of the senior Civil Service equivalent who has been seconded to work in the right hon. Tony Blair's office. [225096]

**Gillian Merron:** The pay band for the senior civil servant (pay band one) equivalent who is seconded to work in the right hon. Tony Blair's office, ranges from £57,300 to £116,000. These figures are effective as of 1 April 2008.

### Official Cars

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which make and model of car he has chosen as his Ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217761]

**Gillian Merron:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W.

### Rackspace

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last nine years. [197505]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services have no record of any contracts being awarded to Rackspace since the introduction of PRISM, our financial and management information system in 2004-05.

### Science: Manpower

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* scientists and *(b)* engineers are employed in scientific and engineering roles in his Department. [220331]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) jointly fund the UK's international Science and Innovation Network. The network has 94 staff (21 civil servants and 73 locally-recruited staff) and operates in 39 diplomatic missions in 24 countries overseas. Not everyone in the network is a professional scientist or engineer; but their remit is to help the Government achieve their aims in the field of science and innovation. It would incur disproportionate cost to ascertain figures of how many staff in the network is a professional scientist or engineer.

FCO Services (a trading fund of the FCO) employs 319 engineers in engineering roles. In addition it currently employs 22 engineering apprentices.

### Shares: Sales Methods

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on co-operation to tackle boiler room fraud with his counterparts in *(a)* the United States, *(b)* Ireland, *(c)* Hong Kong, *(d)* Singapore, *(e)* Gibraltar, *(f)* Canada, *(g)* Belize, *(h)* Nevis, *(i)* Cyprus, *(j)* Tanzania, *(k)* Lebanon, *(l)* Latvia and *(m)* Spain. [207271]

**Gillian Merron:** To date, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had direct discussions on boiler room fraud with the countries mentioned.

### Somalia: International Assistance

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the effects of the Dutch government's withdrawal of military aid from Somalia. [222734]

**Gillian Merron:** We are not aware of any Dutch military aid programmes for Somalia but they are currently providing naval escorts for World Food Programme (WFP) shipments to Somalia. In September the EU established a small team to co-ordinate support to European shipping in the region. In addition plans are advanced for a wider EU operation that aims, with full co-operation and co-ordination with ongoing NATO and Combined Task Force 150 activity, to disrupt and deter pirate activity in the region: EU partners have accepted the UK's offer to lead this operation.

### Somalia: Politics and Government

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's role was in negotiating the recent agreement between the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and the opposition Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia. [212288]

**Gillian Merron:** United Kingdom officials supported Ahmedou Ould Abdalla, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, who led the series of UN-sponsored talks in Djibouti. We welcome the peace agreement between the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia on 9 June. This is a positive step and we hope all parties will fulfil their 26 October commitment to implement a ceasefire from 5 November.

### Special Representative on Climate Change

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what activities the Special Representative on Climate Change has undertaken since his appointment; what progress has been made towards meeting the objectives associated with the post; and if he will make a statement. [225001]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) supports the Government's goal of achieving an ambitious and equitable agreement in Copenhagen by building the necessary political conditions.

To do this, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has set the building of a high-growth, low-carbon global economy as a strategic priority for the FCO. The role of the Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change is to help build the political conditions for the transition to a low-carbon economy. So far six targeted diplomatic campaigns have been established in support of this objective. My right hon. Friend The Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change is closely involved in the design and implementation of the campaigns and represents my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary with key partners.

Progress has been made in building more favourable political conditions. For example, there is now much greater awareness among partner governments that a successful and rapid transition to low carbon is a requisite condition for security and prosperity; there is a stronger consensus in the EU that it should be an early mover in the transition; and momentum is building on the need for an the early deployment of Carbon Capture and Storage. In addition, progress is being made in building a conversation between the EU and China which looks at opportunities in the low carbon transition, and considers how the economic relationship between the two can help accelerate the transition. Building the necessary political conditions will be critical in ensuring a successful outcome at the UN conference in Copenhagen at the end of next year.

### Syria: Nuclear Weapons

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1403W, on Syria: nuclear weapons, whether the government of Syria has provided full access to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors to sites of concern in Syria; and when the IAEA Secretary General is expected to report the findings of his investigation. [207813]

**David Miliband:** The Deputy Director General of the IAEA, Olli Heinonen, visited Syria on 22-24 June to hold talks with the Syrian Government and investigate the Al Kibar site, where environmental samples were taken. The Syrian Government did not provide the IAEA with unfettered access to all the sites the Agency requested to inspect during that visit. We regret that a follow-up visit to Syria as requested by the IAEA has not taken place.

We understand that Dr. El Baradei, the IAEA Director General, intends to report formally on the matter at the next IAEA Board of Government from 27-28 November.

### Taxis

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223032]

**Gillian Merron:** In the UK, the Foreign and Commonwealth (FCO), and its agencies, have spent £547,094.40 on taxis in the last financial year. Taxi expenditure for the FCO's overseas posts is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### Treaty of Lisbon

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on ratification of the Lisbon Treaty if another two EU countries announce their refusal to ratify. [218636]

**Caroline Flint:** Twenty-four member states have completed their parliamentary process to approve the Lisbon treaty. The UK ratified on 16 July, following Royal Assent to the EU (Amendment) Bill. The Irish Government have made clear to us their respect for the right of other countries to complete their ratification process. The Government do not comment on other member states' ratification processes. We have made clear that ratification is going ahead because the Lisbon treaty represents a good deal for the UK and will make the EU operate in a more efficient and effective way.

### USA: Internet

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the United States authorities to create a central list of internet service providers to assist arrangements for the speedy removal of websites containing images of child abuse. [189331]

**Bill Rammell:** The US National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) collates reports of child sexual abuse imagery, and works closely with US law enforcement and US internet service providers to close down sites in the US. The Government, and UK law enforcement agencies, work closely with their US counterparts to tackle online images of child sexual abuse. The UK and US also work together through the G8 and other fora to tackle this issue.

### Zimbabwe: United Nations

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken to secure agreement on the appointment of a UN envoy to Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [204844]

**Gillian Merron:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister called for the UN Secretary General to appoint a formal UN envoy or mission to investigate the human rights situation in Zimbabwe in June when meeting President Bush. The UK also raised this at the UN Security Council on two occasions since 29 March and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has discussed this with the UN Secretary General. We welcome the ongoing engagement of UN Assistant Secretary General Mekerios as the UN Secretary General's senior representative dealing with Zimbabwe.

## HEALTH

### Arachnoiditis

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who have arachnoiditis as a result of having previously undergone medical procedures involving Myodil. [235656]

**Ann Keen:** We have made no estimate.

### Association of Greater Manchester Primary Care Trusts: Grants

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Association of Greater Manchester Primary Care Trusts has given to *(a)* the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations, *(b)* Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support and *(c)* the Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Learning Consortium in the last 24 months. [233215]

**Phil Hope:** The information requested is not collected centrally. It is the responsibility of local primary care trusts to determine how best to use the resources allocated to them to meet the health needs of their local populations.

### Cancer: Health Services

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 900W, on cancer: health services, whether any areas are not covered by a cancer network. [235598]

**Ann Keen:** The whole of England is covered by one of 28 cancer networks. We cannot comment on behalf of the devolved Administrations for Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

### Care Homes: Inspections

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* improvement plans, *(b)* warning letters, *(c)* statutory requirement notices, *(d)* changes to conditions of registration and *(e)* cancellations of registration were issued by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in each category of care in 2007-08. [232370]

**Phil Hope:** I am informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that it is unable to provide information relating to warning letters or improvement plans, as these are held within individual service records and not specifically recorded in CSCI's central registration and inspection database.

CSCI is unable to specify the number of imposed changes to conditions of registration prior to 1 November 2007, as its previous database did not make the distinction between changes to registration made by the service provider and changes which had been imposed by CSCI. Between 1 November 2007 and 31 March 2008, there were six imposed changes to conditions of registration, all of which were related to care homes.

The following table shows numbers of statutory requirement notices issued and non-urgent and urgent cancellations of registration between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008.

| *Type of service* | *Statutory requirement notices issued* | *Non-urgent cancellations of registration* | *Urgent cancellations of registration*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Domiciliary care agency | 45 | 22 | 0 |
| Nursing agency | 9 | 17 | 0 |
| Care home | 440 | 27 | 9 |
| Adult placement scheme | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 494 | 66 | 9 |

[1] These are applications under Section 20 of the Care Standards Act 2000, which provides a vehicle for making urgent or emergency applications in circumstances where CSCI staff consider that there is a serious risk to a person's life, health or well-being. There were 11 section 20 applications in 2007-08, of which nine resulted in a cancellation of registration. The remaining two relate to impositions of conditions.

*Source:*
CSCI registration and inspection database.

### Community Hospitals

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average length of stay in community hospitals was *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each primary care trust in the last year for which figures were available. [236724]

**Ann Keen:** Where a community hospital is part of an NHS acute trust, or an NHS foundation trust, figures for length of stay are collected for the whole trust and it is not possible to disaggregate those data.

The following table shows the median figure for length of stay for each primary care trust in England for 2006-07, where the primary care trust is the provider. Information about health services in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly.

| *All primary care trusts (PCTs) in England* | *2 days* |
|---|---|
| South Gloucestershire PCT | 1 |
| Havering PCT | 2 |
| Kingston PCT | 2 |
| Bromley PCT | 2 |
| Greenwich Teaching PCT | 1 |
| Barnet PCT | 2 |
| North East Lincolnshire PCT | 2 |
| Hillingdon PCT | 1 |
| Enfield PCT | 1 |
| Barking and Dagenham PCT | 2 |
| City and Hackney Teaching PCT | 1 |
| Tower Hamlets PCT | 2 |
| Newham PCT | 1 |
| Haringey Teaching PCT | 1 |
| Blackburn With Darwen PCT | 1 |
| Herefordshire PCT | 2 |
| Milton Keynes PCT | 1 |
| Newcastle PCT | 2 |
| North Tyneside PCT | 1 |
| Hartlepool PCT | 2 |
| North Tees PCT | 1 |

| All primary care trusts (PCTs) in England | 2 days |
|---|---|
| North Lincolnshire PCT | 2 |
| Nottingham City PCT | 2 |
| Rotherham PCT | 2 |
| Plymouth Teaching PCT | 1 |
| Salford PCT | 1 |
| Stockport PCT | 1 |
| Portsmouth City Teaching PCT | 1 |
| Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 2 |
| Luton PCT | 1 |
| Bournemouth and Poole PCT | 1 |
| Rotherham PCT | 2 |
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT | 1 |
| Blackpool PCT | 2 |
| Bolton PCT | 1 |
| Ealing PCT | 1 |
| Hounslow PCT | 1 |
| Warrington PCT | 1 |
| Knowsley PCT | 1 |
| Oldham PCT | 1 |
| Calderdale PCT | 1 |
| Darlington PCT | 1 |
| Barnsley PCT | 2 |
| Bury PCT | 1 |
| Swindon PCT | 1 |
| Brent Teaching PCT | 1 |
| Harrow PCT | 1 |
| Camden PCT | 2 |
| Islington PCT | 2 |
| Croydon PCT | 2 |
| Gateshead PCT | 1 |
| South Tyneside PCT | 2 |
| Sunderland Teaching PCT | 2 |
| Middlesbrough PCT | 1 |
| Southampton City PCT | 1 |
| Medway PCT | 2 |
| Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 2 |
| Westminster PCT | 1 |
| Lambeth PCT | 2 |
| Southwark PCT | 1 |
| Lewisham PCT | 1 |
| Wandsworth PCT | 2 |
| Tameside and Glossop PCT | 2 |
| Brighton and Hove City PCT | 1 |
| South Birmingham PCT | 2 |
| Shropshire County PCT | 2 |
| Walsall Teaching PCT | 2 |
| Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 2 |
| Sutton and Merton PCT | 2 |
| North Somerset PCT | 1 |
| Coventry Teaching PCT | 2 |
| Telford and Wrekin PCT | 2 |
| Wolverhampton City PCT | 1 |
| Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT | 1 |
| Leeds PCT | 2 |
| Kirklees PCT | 2 |
| Wakefield District PCT | 2 |
| Sheffield PCT | 2 |
| Doncaster PCT | 1 |
| Derbyshire County PCT | 2 |
| Derby City PCT | 2 |
| Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT | 2 |
| Lincolnshire Teaching PCT | 2 |

| All primary care trusts (PCTs) in England | 2 days |
|---|---|
| Rotherham PCT | 2 |
| Waltham Forest PCT | 2 |
| County Durham PCT | 2 |
| Cumbria PCT | 2 |
| North Lancashire PCT | 2 |
| Central Lancashire PCT | 1 |
| East Lancashire Teaching PCT | 1 |
| Sefton PCT | 2 |
| Wirral PCT | 1 |
| Liverpool PCT | 2 |
| Halton and St Helens PCT | 1 |
| Western Cheshire PCT | 1 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 1 |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT | 2 |
| Bradford PCT | 2 |
| Manchester PCT | 2 |
| North Yorkshire and York PCT | 2 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire PCT | 2 |
| Hull Teaching PCT | 2 |
| Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT | 1 |
| South East Essex PCT | 2 |
| Bedfordshire PCT | 2 |
| East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 2 |
| West Hertfordshire PCT | 2 |
| Surrey PCT | 2 |
| West Sussex PCT | 2 |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT | 2 |
| Hastings and Rother PCT | 2 |
| West Kent PCT | 1 |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT | 1 |
| Leicester City PCT | 1 |
| Northamptonshire Teaching PCT | 1 |
| Dudley PCT | 1 |
| Sandwell PCT | 1 |
| Birmingham East and North PCT | 1 |
| North Staffordshire PCT | 1 |
| Stoke On Trent PCT | 1 |
| South Staffordshire PCT | 2 |
| Worcestershire PCT | 2 |
| Warwickshire PCT | 2 |
| Peterborough PCT | 1 |
| Cambridgeshire PCT | 2 |
| Norfolk PCT | 2 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT | 2 |
| Suffolk PCT | 2 |
| West Essex PCT | 2 |
| North East Essex PCT | 2 |
| Mid Essex PCT | 2 |
| South West Essex PCT | 2 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT | 2 |
| Hampshire PCT | 2 |
| Buckinghamshire PCT | 1 |
| Oxfordshire PCT | 2 |
| Berkshire West PCT | 2 |
| Berkshire East PCT | 1 |
| Gloucestershire PCT | 2 |
| Bristol PCT | 1 |
| Wiltshire PCT | 2 |
| Somerset PCT | 2 |
| Dorset PCT | 2 |
| Bournemouth and Poole PCT | 1 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT | 1 |

| *GI primary care trusts (PCTs) in England* | *2 days* |
|---|---|
| Devon PCT | 2 |
| Durham and Cleveland PCT | 2 |
| Isle of Wight NHS PCT | 2 |
| Northumberland Care Trust | 2 |
| Batley Care Trust | 2 |
| Torbay Care Trust | 2 |
| Solihull Care Trust | 1 |

## Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the regulatory *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies sponsored by his Department will recover their full costs of regulation from fees in the 2008-09 financial year. [232449]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is as follows:

*Agencies*

Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA):

The MHRA will recover the full cost of regulation from fees.

*Non-departmental public bodies*

Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI):

The CSCI will not recover the full cost of regulation from fees.

CSCI have no power to set their fees.

General Social Care Council (GSCC):

The GSCC will not recover the full costs of regulation from fees.

It is Government policy as set out in debates on the Care Standards Act that the GSCC should not break even with regard to the fees it charges to those registered.

Healthcare Commission (HC):

The HC will recover the full costs of regulation from fees.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA):

The HFEA will recover the full costs of regulation from fees.

Human Tissue Authority (HTA):

The HTA will recover the full cost of regulation from fees.

Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts (Monitor):

Monitor will not recover the full costs of regulation from fees.

Although Monitor has the power to require NHS foundation trusts to pay a reasonable annual fee, to date these powers have not been exercised.

Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB):

The PMETB will not recover the full costs of regulation from fees.

The aim was that PMETB would be self-financing from April 2010 but the function of PMETB will now transfer to the General Medical Council in 2010 subject to legislation.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department last reviewed the work of *(a)* Monitor, *(b)* the Standard Dental Advisory Committee, *(c)* the Doctors and Dentists Review Body, *(d)* the NHS Litigation Authority, *(e)* the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement, *(f)* the NHS Business Services Authority and *(g)* the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency; and if he will place copies of each such review in the Library. [232455]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following five bodies listed are Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs) and were reviewed as part of the Department's Review of ALBs in 2004:

Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts (Monitor);

NHS Litigation Authority;

NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement;

NHS Business Services Authority; and

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency.

The report, 'Reconfiguring the Department of Health's Arm's Length Bodies', which was issued on 25 November 2004 has been placed in the Library and is published on the Department's website:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/Browsable/DH_4095954

Since 2004 the following further reviews have taken place:

The NHS Litigation Authority has recently undergone a 'fitness for purpose' review that is due to report soon.

The NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement is currently undergoing a review that is due to complete in January 2009.

The following two bodies listed are advisory non-departmental public bodies:

The Standing Dental Advisory Committee; and

The Doctors and Dentists Review Body.

Following a public consultation which ended in January 2008 a decision has been made to abolish the Standing Dental Advisory Committee.

The response to the consultation has been placed in the Library and published on the Department's website and can be found at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_086586

The Doctors and Dentists Review Body (DDRB) is one of six independent Pay Review Bodies which advise the Prime Minister and various Secretaries of State on matters referred to them, primarily making annual recommendations about pay levels.

The DDRB was established in 1971 with changes to the terms of reference introduced in 1998, 2003 and 2007.

The Department keeps under review the system of setting pay for doctors and dentists and the membership of the DDRB and is satisfied with the current arrangements.

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many full-time equivalent staff are employed by the British Pharmacopoeia Commission; [235181]

(2) how many full-time equivalent staff are employed by the Human Medicines Commission; [235182]

(3) how many full-time equivalent staff are employed by the Committee on the Safety of Devices Committee; [235185]

(4) what *(a)* capital, *(b)* revenue and *(c)* other funding his Department has given to the Borderline Products Independent Review Panel since its inception; [235206]

(5) what *(a)* capital, *(b)* revenue and *(c)* other funding his Department has given to the Commission

on Human Medicines Commission since its inception; [235209]

(6) what *(a)* capital, *(b)* revenue and *(c)* other funding his Department has given to the Committee on the Safety of Devices since its inception. [235254]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not provide any Capital, funding or revenue for the Commission for Human Medicines (CHM) or the Borderline Products Independent Review Panel. Members are paid a preparation and attendance fee and travel costs for turning up to meetings. CHM Commissioners are paid a taxable preparation and attendance fee of £275 and any travel and accommodation expenses for a meeting. The Chairman is paid a taxable preparation and attendance fee of £400 plus travel and accommodation expenses.

Borderline Products Independent Review Panel Members are paid a preparation and attendance fee of £150 (taxable) and any travel and accommodation expenses for a meeting. The Chairman is paid a preparation and attendance fee of £275 (taxable) plus travel and accommodation expenses.

The costs for these are entirely funded from the statutory fees raised on medicines licences, which are collected by the Medicines and Health care products Regulatory Agency.

The Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) does not employ any full time whole equivalent staff. The Commission meets monthly and the Secretariat for those meetings is provided by the Commission Secretariat who are employed by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

There are no full-time equivalent staff employed by the Committee on the Safety of Devices. Members are paid a taxable preparation and attendance fee of £168.50 and any travel and accommodation expenses for a meeting. The Chairman is paid a taxable preparation and attendance fee of £210 and any travel and accommodation expenses for a meeting.

The British Pharmacopoeia Commission (BPC) does not employ any full time whole equivalent staff. The Commission meets three times a year and the Secretariat for those meetings is provided by the British Pharmacopoeia Secretariat who are employed by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Questions for written answer were tabled to his Department in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235393]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The numbers of written parliamentary questions for each Session since 2002 are show in the following table.

| | *Number of written parliamentary questions* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 9,929 |
| 2003-04 | 8,356 |
| 2004-05 | 3,270 |
| 2005-06 | 14,893 |
| 2006-07 | 8,621 |
| 2007-08 (as of 12 November 2008) | 9,164 |

We do not record separately how many answers referred to the disproportionate cost threshold. Written answers are however a matter of public record and published in the *Official Report*.

### Diabetes

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department is providing to charitable or non-governmental organisations and projects which raise awareness of type 2 diabetes in 2008-09. [235045]

**Ann Keen:** Through the Section 64 General Grant scheme (now known as Third Sector Investment Programme), we gave a total of £80,952 in support of two projects that include raising awareness of Type 2 diabetes in 2008-09.

The organisations that were awarded Section 64 funding to take forward their projects are as follows:

In 2007, the Sikh Community Care Project was granted a total of £198,000 over three years for their Diabetes Intervention and Prevention Programme to raise awareness of Type 2 diabetes among local south Asian community groups. The amount received in 2008-09 was £65,000.

In 2007, Speak Up Self Advocacy was awarded at total of £48,567 for a two year project to develop and distribute a DVD on Type 2 diabetes prevention to people with learning disabilities. The amount received in 2008-09 was £15,952.

As part of the 'Change4Life' campaign, we will be providing £500,000 in 2008-09 to Diabetes UK, the British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research UK to highlight the health consequences of obesity. This will include an advertising campaign that will raise awareness of the problems caused by our sedentary lifestyles and poor diets, such as Type 2 diabetes.

### Direct Payments

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the lack of requirement in the draft Direct Payments Regulations to *(a)* vet friends involved in the provision of care to become a suitable person for individuals who lack capacity and *(b)* vet staff directly employed by the family and friends of individuals who lack capacity; [236252]

(2) what *(a)* support and *(b)* information his Department proposes to make available to the suitable person identified in the draft Direct Payments Regulations as the person responsible for managing direct payments on behalf of an individual who lacks capacity; [236253]

(3) what steps he has taken to ensure adequate availability of professionals with specialist knowledge to advise families who will manage direct payments on behalf of an individual who lacks capacity under the provisions of the draft Direct Payments Regulations; and if he will make a statement. [236254]

**Phil Hope:** The majority of 'suitable persons' will either be court-appointed deputies, donees of lasting powers of attorneys or friends or relatives who may already be involved in managing and organising the care of the direct payment recipient. It would not be appropriate to vet these people who have been chosen by the person without capacity themselves or the Court of Protection. However, it is up to local authorities to satisfy themselves that identified suitable persons are able to act in the best interests of the person who lacks capacity, even where they are not fully vetted.

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 introduces further safeguards where the 'suitable person' is not a friend or family member of the individual whose direct payment they are managing. Where the council engages someone to provide services for that individual, then they become a regulated activity provider. These issues were fully debated during the passage of the Act. In practice, this means that the council must ensure that the individual they engage has undergone a vetting and barring check, as specified in the Act. If the suitable person is a friend or family member, the council will be able to apply for vetting information about potential carers but checks will not be mandatory.

Guidance recommends that this is a good option currently for Direct Payment recipients and we would envisage that the new guidance would mirror this advice for suitable people. Furthermore, regulation 16 of the draft regulations sets out that the local authority must review the making of the direct payment at certain intervals and under certain circumstances.

Until the safeguards included in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 are brought into force, safeguards are being provided through Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks. Through a registered body, such as a local authority, a 'suitable person' will be able to apply for a CRB disclosure on the person they wish to employ. This facility is currently available to people managing their own direct payment.

In relation to support and information available to the person managing direct payments on behalf of an individual who lacks capacity, the Department will issue guidance after analysing responses to the 'Putting People First—Transforming Adult Social Care—Consultation on Direct Payments Regulations' in spring 2009. This guidance will also support suitable persons identified in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and draft Direct Payments regulations made under the provisions in this Act. Furthermore, as part of 'Putting People First', we have encouraged councils to explore different support mechanisms to support people to access Direct Payments.

Finally, we are taking action to ensure advice is made available to families who will manage direct payments on behalf of an individual who lacks capacity. The Government are making resources available under the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) grant to councils and primary care trusts to train professionals on all aspects of working with people who lack capacity and taking best interest decisions on their behalf. Councils decide how best to use these resources on training, awareness raising and appointing specialist MCA professionals.

### Drinking Water: Standards

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health to what extent the Food Standards Agency has implemented the provisions relating to *(a)* bottled and *(b)* tap water of the EU Drinking Water Directive; and if he will make a statement. [235788]

**Dawn Primarolo:** European Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water for human consumption is fully implemented in England for bottled waters by the Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water (England) Regulations 2007. These Regulations are the responsibility of the Food Standards Agency. Similar regulations exist in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

In relation to tap water the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC) has been implemented by the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 which apply to water supplies provided by water companies in England. These regulations are the responsibility of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Similar Regulations exist in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

### Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people in Cornwall entered into a drug addiction treatment programme in each year since 1979; and what percentage of those people successfully completed the treatment; [235191]

(2) how many people in Cornwall were in contact with drug treatment services in each year since 1979. [235192]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Since 2003-04, the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) has collected data from local drug services about clients in structured drug treatment and the treatment they receive, with information on new people entering treatment being collected from 2004-05 onwards.

The following table shows the number of new people entering drug treatment programmes covered by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Drug Action Team for each of the years for which we have available data.

*Number of individuals with new presentation to treatment in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Drug Action Team area, 2004-05 to 2007-08*

| | *Number of individuals* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 532 |
| 2005-06 | 764 |
| 2006-07 | 795 |
| 2007-08 | 731 |

*Source:*
NDTMS

NDTMS does not track individuals through their treatment, so information is not available on how many of these people have successfully completed their treatment. The following table shows the number of people who successfully completed treatment within Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Drug Action Team area for each year since 2004-05. The year of completion is likely in most cases to be later than the year in which treatment was commenced.

*Number of individuals successfully completing treatment in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Drug Action Team area, 2004-05 to 2007-08*

| | *Number of individuals* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 128 |
| 2005-06 | 157 |

*Number of individuals successfully completing treatment in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Drug Action Team area, 2004-05 to 2007-08*

| | Number of individuals |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 181 |
| 2007-08 | 228 |

*Source:*
NDTMS

The following table shows the number of people who were in contact with drug treatment services within Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Drug Action Team area for each of the years for which we have available data. Please note that 'people in contact' is defined as those who entered treatment or who were already in treatment during that year.

*Number of individuals in contact with structured drug treatment services in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Drug Action Team area, 2003-04 to 2007-08*

| | Number of individuals |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 1,121 |
| 2004-05 | 1,240 |
| 2005-06 | 1,509 |
| 2006-07 | 1,716 |
| 2007-08 | 1,820 |

*Source:*
NDTMS

### Gastrointestinal System: Cancer

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 93W, on upper gastrointestinal cancer, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of this policy in respect of the contrast between outcomes in those areas where the improving outcomes in upper gastrointestinal cancer had been implemented and those where it had not been implemented. [235600]

**Ann Keen:** An assessment of the extent to which outcomes have improved for patients with uppergastrointestinal cancer since the implementation of "Improving Outcomes for Upper Gastrointestinal Cancers" will be undertaken in due course, when national data are available.

### Gene Therapy Advisory Committee

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many full-time equivalent staff are employed by the Gene Therapy Advisory Committee; [235183]

(2) what *(a)* capital, *(b)* revenue and *(c)* other funding his Department has given to the Gene Therapy Advisory Committee since its inception. [235208]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Gene Therapy Advisory Committee is an advisory committee to the Department and does not employ any staff. There has been no capital funding. The committee's secretariat, approximately two full-time equivalent posts, are civil servants employed by the Department. These, and other running costs, are accounted for as part of general administration budget expenditure, where it is not customary to separate the running costs of individual advisory committees.

### General Practitioners: Finance

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of savings under the practice-based commission scheme a GP practice is allowed to spend in *(a)* the next financial year following the making of the savings and *(b)* subsequent years; [235697]

(2) what the recommended list of service initiatives is on which a GP practice could spend savings made under the practice-based commission scheme. [235698]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Practice Based Commissioning guidance ("Practice-based commissioning: practical implementation," November 2006) establishes that practice based commissioners should be allowed to use a minimum of 70 per cent. of any savings achieved through the innovative redesign of services. The remaining 30 per cent. is for the primary care trust (PCT) to use at their discretion. The proportion of savings which can be used by practice based commissioners relate to both the financial year following the making of the savings and to subsequent years where savings are achieved. A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library.

The guidance also establishes that practice based commissioners should use the savings achieved as a result of practice based commissioning activities for the benefit of patients and to be reinvested in patient care. The use of the savings is at local discretion and should be agreed with the PCT. There is no national recommended list of service initiatives on which the savings should be used.

### Health Centres

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 83W, on health centres, what assessment he has made of any possible negative consequences that could arise from the provision of a minimum income guarantee to a new GP-led health centre. [235606]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is for each primary care trust to determine locally the funding for their health centre depending on the range of services and staff required. For some, this will also include what percentage of income should be guaranteed to the provider, and for how long. If the income guarantee is set too high it could reduce the risk on the provider who may not be incentivised to provide a high quality service and reduces value for money. If set too low the general practitioner-led health centre provider may not obtain sufficient income in the early period of the contract to deliver a high quality and usable service 8am to 8pm, 365 days a year.

### Health Services: Discrimination

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to reduce ageism in the provision of healthcare. [233811]

**Phil Hope:** The Department is taking a number of steps to tackle age discrimination, such as work on older people's mental health services by the Care Services Improvement Partnership. Other initiatives such as Dignity in Care are also having an impact on services used by older people. The Government will shortly make a

statement setting out a detailed programme of work to tackle age discrimination in the health and social care sectors and to help service providers prepare for legislation.

### Health Services: Overseas Visitors

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will increase the quota of Montserratian people allowed to travel to the UK for health care in each year. [236111]

**Dawn Primarolo:** There is no limit on the number of Montserratian people allowed to travel to the UK for health care, provided they pay for it in line with any other overseas visitors. There are no plans to review the quota of patients that the overseas territories can refer to the UK under a bilateral agreement.

### Hearing-Impaired: Screening

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data from the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme is collected by *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* strategic health authorities and *(c)* his Department; and if he will make a statement. [236125]

**Ann Keen:** The NHS Newborn Hearing Screening Programme (NHSP) collects data on behalf of the Department through a single national screening information system which has the functionality to provide screening management and performance data at provider, primary care trust, strategic health authorities and national level.

The main data collected, which are published quarterly, include coverage and outcomes of screening and diagnostic pathways including the numbers of children identified with permanent hearing impairment.

The NHSP Annual Report and Quality Assurance (QA) Peer Review Report are due to be published later this month.

### Heart Diseases

**David Maclean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the quality outcomes framework exception reporting rates for coronary heart disease were for *(a)* primary care trusts (PCTs) and *(b)* spearhead PCTs in the latest period for which figures are available; what research he has (i) commissioned and (ii) evaluated on the reasons for differences in the rates; and if he will make a statement; [234221]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of the variation in high exception rate reporting on the *(a)* health and *(b)* working capacity of patients at risk of coronary heart disease in spearhead areas. [233549]

**Ann Keen:** A copy of the information requested on exception rates for coronary heart disease by primary care trust (PCT) with spearhead PCTs identified has been placed in the Library.

The latest research by the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre (NPCRDC) shows that although practices in deprived areas are slightly more likely to exception report patients than practices in affluent areas, deprivation-related variation in reported quality of care for measured activities reduced during the first three years of the Quality and Outcomes Framework, resulting in more equitable delivery of health care for these activities.

The NPCRDC conclude that general practitioners in deprived areas achieved high scores without high rates of exception reporting, and the differences in scores between affluent and deprived areas are small and of relatively little clinical significance. This is a considerable achievement for practices in deprived areas.

There is evidence that some practices, whether in deprived or affluent areas, may be using exception reporting inappropriately. Manipulating QOF data in order to increase rewards without delivering the required level of quality for patients is clearly unacceptable—and also unfair on the majority of practices who comply with QOF requirements. PCTs are responsible in England for verifying evidence for QOF achievement. They should analyse exception rates and recorded prevalence, investigating any outliers, correcting QOF payments where necessary and taking action if they uncover any actual fraud.

The Government are committed to ensuring, in consultation with the profession, that QOF continually develops and supports leading edge quality of care for patients based on best available evidence. We want to look with the profession at how we can reduce exception reporting in order to ensure that all patients who would benefit receive good quality of care, including those who are hard to reach.

### Heart Diseases: Health Services

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to develop a successor to the current National Service Framework for coronary heart disease. [235635]

**Ann Keen:** Although the Coronary Heart Disease National Service Framework (CHD NSF), launched in March 2000, was a 10-year plan of action, heart services must continue to develop after March 2010. The Department is currently considering how it might best support the national health service to build on the considerable success of the CHD NSF.

### Hepatitis: Vaccinations

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost is for a hepatitis B vaccination; what the average cost was in each year since 1997; what plans he has to reduce the cost; and if he will make a statement. [235522]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not centrally supply the hepatitis B vaccine. The price of the hepatitis B vaccines are available in the "British National Formulary", which is published biannually. Pages 168-172 of the "Immunisation against infectious disease (Green Book)" states which patients are recommended to receive the Hepatitis B vaccine. The "Green Book" has already been placed in the Library.

### Influenza: Vaccinations

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the level of take-up of influenza vaccinations in *(a)* Southend West constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England in each of the last five years

for which figures are available, broken down by age group. [235523]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department collects data on influenza uptake for age groups within the national influenza vaccination programme. These are people aged 65 and over and those aged under 65 in a clinical risk group. The Department does not collect data on uptake for those outside these groups. Influenza uptake data are collected by primary care trust (PCT) rather than by constituency.

Uptake figures by PCT are contained in the following documents which have already been placed in the Library.

Vaccination uptake among the 65 years and over and under 65 years at risk in England 2007-08.

Vaccination uptake among the 65 years and over and under 65 years at risk in England 2006-07.

Influenza vaccine uptake in patients aged 65 years and over and under 65s at risk, England 2005-06

Influenza vaccine uptake in patients aged 65 years and over and under 65s at risk, England 2004-05

Data for the 2008-09 season will be available in the new year.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken by his Department to ensure that influenza vaccines are made available free of charge to essential workers in nursing homes; what criteria are used by his Department in determining who receives influenza vaccines free of charge; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [235524]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The national policy is that influenza vaccine should be offered to the following groups:

all those aged 65 years and over;

all those aged six months or over in a clinical risk group;

those living in long-stay residential care homes or other long-stay care facilities where rapid spread is likely to follow introduction of infection and cause high morbidity and mortality (this does not include prisons, young offender institutions, university halls of residence etc.); and

those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill. This should be given on an individual basis at the GP's discretion in the context of other clinical risk groups in their practice.

As stated in the Chief Medical Officer letter of 31 March 2008, responsibility for immunisation for occupational staff rests with employers and should be provided by occupational health services. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library.

The Department has recently published a new leaflet, fact sheet and poster encouraging health care professionals to get vaccinated against the flu.

The Department's policy on flu vaccination is regularly reviewed by an expert panel of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation in the light of all relevant evidence.

The Department has received letters relating to the influenza policy. In all responses the policy was clearly stated as per the Chief Medical Officer letter of 31 March 2008.

## Midwives

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were working in the National Health Service in *(a)* England and *(b)* Portsmouth in (i) each year between 1997 and 2001 and (ii) 2003 expressed as both (A) headcount and (B) full-time equivalent. [235576]

**Ann Keen:** The number of registered national health service midwives in England and working in Portsmouth Hospital NHS Trust in the years requested is detailed in the following table.

*NHS hospital and community health services: qualified midwifery staff in England, the south central strategic health authority area and Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust as at 30 September each specified year*

*Headcount*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2003* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 22,385 | 22,841 | 22,799 | 22,572 | 23,075 | 23,941 |
| *of which* | | | | | | |
| Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust | 267 | 272 | 252 | 254 | 241 | 246 |
| England | 18,053 | 18,168 | 17,876 | 17,662 | 18,048 | 18,444 |
| *of which* | | | | | | |
| Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust | 211 | 211 | 195 | 194 | 186 | 188 |

*Notes:*
1. Full time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.
2. Data Quality
Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.
*Source:*
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

## NHS Pharmacy Education and Development Committee: Finance

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* capital, *(b)* revenue and *(c)* other funding his Department has given to the NHS Pharmacy Education and Development Committee since its inception. [235255]

**Dawn Primarolo:** None.

## NHS: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government plan to top-slice surpluses in NHS organisations in 2008-09. [235615]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The 2008-09 National Health Service Operating Framework clearly states that in 2008-09, strategic health authorities (SHAs) may determine and agree locally with their primary care trusts (PCTs) arrangements for the transfer and lodging of resources with the SHA, provided this is within the limit of the overall SHA planned surplus. SHAs will be accountable for the management of this flexibility.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to strategic health authorities on the repayment of funds top-sliced from primary care trusts in the last two years. [235616]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In the Operating Framework for 2007-08 (which has already been placed in the Library) the Department stated that contributions from primary care trusts (PCTs) required to deliver the financial plans within their economy must be subject to locally agreed transparent rules, clearly covering the purpose of the reserves and the timescale over which each organisation would recover its contribution.

The Operating Framework for 2008-09 also stated that each strategic health authority (SHA) would determine locally the arrangements for transfer and lodging of resources with the SHA.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 87W, on NHS finance, whether NHS organisations that generated a surplus in 2007-08 are permitted to count this towards the surplus they are expected to generate in 2008-09. [235720]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has made clear in the 2008-09 Operating Framework that the surplus delivered by strategic health authorities and primary care trusts in 2007-08 will be carried forward to 2008-09. As a result, this surplus relating to the 2007-08 financial year is included within the financial position reported in 2008-09.

We also made clear in the 2008-09 Operating Framework that we expect the national health service should plan for a surplus at least equivalent to the surplus achieved in 2007-08.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 87W, on NHS finance, whether his Department expects that the 2007-08 surplus will be spent by the end of 2008-09. [235721]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We made it clear in the Operating Framework 2008-09 for that surpluses generated in 2007-08 will be carried forward to 2008-09, and that the national health service should plan for a surplus at least equivalent to the surplus achieved in 2007-08.

As reported in the 2008-09 quarter 1 edition of "The Quarter", the NHS (excluding Foundation Trusts) was forecasting an overall surplus of £1.75 billion. This forecast enables the full deployment of baseline and additional resources for 2008-09, and continues with our strategy for flexibility to respond to fluctuations in demand, while maintaining sufficient funds for investment in new services.

The surplus generated within the NHS during 2008-09 will be carried forward to 2009-10.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 88-89W, on NHS finance, whether any restrictions are placed on NHS organisations as to how they spend surpluses which are carried over into the next financial year. [235728]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We made clear in the Operating Framework 2008-09 that surpluses generated in 2007-08 will be carried forward to 2008-09, and that the national health service should plan for a surplus at least equivalent to the surplus achieved in 2007-08.

"The Operating Framework for 2008-09" clearly states that strategic health authorities have the flexibility to determine within their economies, the level of contingency necessary to ensure delivery of their financial plans, and where this contingency is best held.

Aside from this, the Department has placed no restrictions (further to the normal accounting rules) on how NHS organisations spend their surpluses.

### NHS: Personal Records

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 909-10W, on NHS: personal records, how many of the incidents recorded in the table took place on 25 December in each year. [233732]

**Ann Keen:** The number of incidents reported to the National Reporting and Learning System relating to nutritional care, which occurred on 25 December during 2005, 2006 and 2007 are shown in the following table:

| | *Number of incidents* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 5 |
| 2006 | 9 |
| 2007 | 11 |

### NHS: Private Sector

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 9 of his Department's consultation document on Guidance on NHS patients who wish to pay for additional private care, which relevant national audits he expects clinicians to contribute to. [235612]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Recommendation 11 of Professor Richards's report, 'Improving Access to Medicines for NHS Patients', states that:

"The Department of Health should take a lead on commissioning a national audit of demand for unfunded drugs and on the outcome of treatments, working closely with professional organisations and NHS managers."

A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

On 4 November, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State accepted this recommendation, and asked Professor Richards to lead this piece of work. The reference in the consultation document to "relevant national audits" is therefore a reference to the outcome of this work.

### NHS: Telephone Numbering

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much revenue the national health service received from the use of revenue sharing telephone numbers in each of the last five years. [236297]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not held centrally.

## NHS: Temporary Employment

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts the NHS negotiates with employment agencies regarding the pay of agency staff *(a)* in England and *(b)* at regional level. [235620]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not collected centrally. It is the responsibility of local national health service organisations to plan and manage their demand for agency staff in the context of local business and work force planning. Many NHS organisations use the NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency (PASA), Agency Framework Agreements to contract some of their agency staff as the PASA uses the NHS's buying power to negotiate lower pay rates with agencies.

## Obesity: Health Services

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to introduce national guidelines for the way NHS staff deal with bariatric people. [235633]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has produced "Guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children", available at

http://www.nice.org.uk/CG43.

This guidance is for both health and non-health professionals, and contains guidance on when bariatric surgery may be considered as an option.

It is up to primary care trusts as local commissioners and providers of services to determine the most appropriate methods to deliver health care to their populations, based on clinical need and effectiveness, and following medical advice.

The care and treatment of individual patients who undergo surgery remains a matter for their clinical team who will base the treatment on the most appropriate clinical evidence, and the wishes of the patient.

## Organ Donation Taskforce

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Organ Donation Taskforce next to report. [236070]

**Ann Keen:** The Organ Donation Taskforce has today published its report 'The potential impact of an opt out system for organ donation in the UK'. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement on the report issued today.

## Primary Care Trusts

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports he has received on the late payment of bills by primary care trusts (PCTs); and what representations his Department has received from *(a)* cleaning contractors and *(b)* hospital food contractors on the late payment of bills by PCTs. [234657]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department routinely collects data from the national health service on the payment of bills. The latest data available for quarter 1 of 2008-09 is as follows, shows the number of NHS and non-NHS bills that were paid by each primary care trust.

NHS trusts and primary care trusts are required to comply with the Confederation of British Industry's "Better Payment Practice Code" target of paying 95 per cent. of undisputed invoices within contract terms of 30 days where no terms have been agreed.

The Department does not collect information on the payment of bills to specific contractors.

| | | | | *Non-NHS bills* | | | *NHS bills* | | | *All bills* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | *Non-NHS* | | | *NHS* | | | | | |
| *Name* | *Org code* | *HA* | *Business year* | *Bills paid in period* No. | *Bills paid within target* No. | % | *Bills paid in period* No. | *Bills paid within target* No. | % | *Bills paid in period* No. | *Bills paid within target* No. | % |
| North Tees Teaching PCT | 5E1 | Q30 | 2008-09 | 409 | 389 | 95 | 3,808 | 3,661 | 96 | 4,217 | 4,050 | 96 |
| Newcastle PCT | 5D7 | Q30 | 2008-09 | 6,770 | 5,002 | 74 | 624 | 329 | 53 | 7,394 | 5,331 | 72 |
| North Tyneside PCT | 5D8 | Q30 | 2008-09 | 3,254 | 2,459 | 76 | 447 | 264 | 59 | 3,701 | 2,723 | 74 |
| Hartlepool PCT | 5D9 | Q30 | 2008-09 | 2,119 | 2,056 | 97 | 382 | 367 | 96 | 2,501 | 2,423 | 97 |
| Darlington PCT | 5J9 | Q30 | 2008-09 | 2,213 | 1,530 | 69 | 221 | 158 | 71 | 2,434 | 1,686 | 69 |
| Gateshead PCT | 5KF | Q30 | 2008-09 | 908 | 758 | 83 | 83 | 78 | 94 | 991 | 836 | 84 |
| South Tyneside PCT | 5KG | Q30 | 2008-09 | 304 | 268 | 88 | 185 | 166 | 90 | 489 | 434 | 89 |
| Sunderland Teaching PCT | 5KL | Q30 | 2008-09 | 924 | 840 | 91 | 229 | 206 | 91 | 1,153 | 1,048 | 91 |
| Middlesbrough PCT | 5KM | Q30 | 2008-09 | 2,838 | 2,416 | 85 | 310 | 242 | 78 | 3,148 | 2,658 | 84 |
| County Durham PCT | 5ND | Q30 | 2008-09 | 16,283 | 11,436 | 70 | 930 | 564 | 61 | 17,213 | 12,000 | 70 |
| Redcar And Cleveland PCT | 5QR | Q30 | 2008-09 | 1,911 | 1,684 | 88 | 133 | 105 | 79 | 2,044 | 1,789 | 88 |

| | | | | Non-NHS bills | | | NHS bills | | | All bills | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Non-NHS | | | NHS | | | | | |
| Name | Org code | HA | Business year | Bills paid in period | Bills paid within target | | Bills paid in period | Bills paid within target | | Bills paid in period | Bills paid within target | |
| | | | | No. | No. | % | No. | No. | % | No. | No. | % |
| Northumberland Care PCT | TAC | Q30 | 2008-09 | 5,763 | 4,206 | 73 | 576 | 306 | 53 | 6,339 | 4,512 | 71 |
| Blackburn with Darwen PCT | 5CC | Q31 | 2008-09 | 3,498 | 3,355 | 96 | 532 | 513 | 96 | 4,030 | 3,868 | 96 |
| Salford PCT | 5F5 | Q31 | 2008-09 | 8,498 | 8,269 | 97 | 498 | 485 | 97 | 8,996 | 8,754 | 97 |
| Stockport PCT | 5F7 | Q31 | 2008-09 | 3,544 | 3,383 | 95 | 482 | 465 | 96 | 4,026 | 3,848 | 96 |
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT | 5HG | Q31 | 2008-09 | 5,912 | 5,555 | 94 | 532 | 490 | 92 | 6,444 | 6,045 | 94 |
| Blackpool PCT | 5HP | Q31 | 2008-09 | 9,118 | 8,378 | 92 | 1,617 | 1,441 | 89 | 10,735 | 9,819 | 91 |
| Bolton PCT | 5HQ | Q31 | 2008-09 | 7,684 | 7,490 | 97 | 663 | 631 | 95 | 8,347 | 8,121 | 97 |
| Warrington PCT | 5J2 | Q31 | 2008-09 | 4,447 | 4,210 | 95 | 367 | 348 | 95 | 4,814 | 4,558 | 95 |
| Knowsley PCT | 5J4 | Q31 | 2008-09 | 4,696 | 4,348 | 93 | 377 | 289 | 77 | 5,073 | 4,637 | 91 |
| Oldham PCT | 5J5 | Q31 | 2008-09 | 4,800 | 4,659 | 97 | 598 | 574 | 96 | 5,398 | 5,233 | 97 |
| Bury PCT | 5JX | Q31 | 2008-09 | 5,808 | 5,711 | 98 | 738 | 691 | 94 | 6,546 | 6,402 | 98 |
| Tameside And Glossop PCT | 5LH | Q31 | 2008-09 | 6,331 | 6,199 | 98 | 495 | 476 | 96 | 6,826 | 6,675 | 98 |
| Cumbria Teaching PCT | 5NE | Q31 | 2008-09 | 8,293 | 5,004 | 60 | 774 | 601 | 78 | 9,067 | 5,605 | 62 |
| North Lancashire Teaching PCT | 5NF | Q31 | 2008-09 | 6,658 | 6,260 | 94 | 947 | 703 | 74 | 7,605 | 6,963 | 92 |
| Central Lancashire PCT | 5NG | Q31 | 2008-09 | 12,392 | 11,165 | 90 | 997 | 847 | 85 | 13,389 | 12,012 | 90 |
| East Lancashire Teaching PCT | 5NH | Q31 | 2008-09 | 13,347 | 12,619 | 95 | 942 | 883 | 94 | 14,289 | 13,502 | 94 |
| Sefton PCT | 5NJ | Q31 | 2008-09 | 4,383 | 2,169 | 49 | 540 | 82 | 15 | 4,923 | 2,251 | 46 |
| Wirral PCT | 5NK | Q31 | 2008-09 | 6,818 | 6,272 | 92 | 565 | 406 | 72 | 7,383 | 6,678 | 90 |
| Liverpool PCT | 5NL | Q31 | 2008-09 | 8,052 | 5,037 | 63 | 255 | 124 | 49 | 8,307 | 5,161 | 62 |
| Halton and St Helens PCT | 5NM | Q31 | 2008-09 | 7,509 | 6,499 | 87 | 657 | 427 | 65 | 8,166 | 6,926 | 85 |
| Western Cheshire PCT | 5NN | Q31 | 2008-09 | 3,512 | 3,119 | 89 | 517 | 390 | 75 | 4,029 | 3,509 | 87 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 5NP | Q31 | 2008-09 | 8,262 | 7,541 | 91 | 669 | 492 | 74 | 8,931 | 8,033 | 90 |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT | 5NQ | Q31 | 2008-09 | 6,432 | 6,173 | 96 | 494 | 461 | 93 | 6,926 | 6,634 | 96 |
| Trafford PCT | 5NR | Q31 | 2008-09 | 4,968 | 4,834 | 97 | 364 | 347 | 95 | 5,332 | 5,181 | 97 |
| Manchester PCT | 5NT | Q31 | 2008-09 | 11,991 | 8,031 | 67 | 931 | 465 | 50 | 12,922 | 8,496 | 66 |
| North Lincolnshire PCT | 5EF | Q32 | 2008-09 | 2,307 | 2,086 | 90 | 403 | 298 | 74 | 2,710 | 2,384 | 88 |
| Rotherham PCT | 5H8 | Q32 | 2008-09 | 6,211 | 5,967 | 96 | 526 | 521 | 99 | 6,737 | 6,488 | 96 |
| Calderdale PCT | 5J6 | Q32 | 2008-09 | 2,840 | 2,778 | 98 | 481 | 465 | 97 | 3,321 | 3,243 | 98 |
| Barnsley PCT | 5JE | Q32 | 2008-09 | 6,712 | 6,199 | 92 | 668 | 628 | 94 | 7,380 | 6,827 | 93 |

| | | | | Non-NHS bills | | | NHS bills | | | All bills | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Non-NHS | | | NHS | | | | | |
| | | | | Bills paid in period | Bills paid within target | | Bills paid in period | Bills paid within target | | Bills paid in period | Bills paid within target | |
| Name | Org code | HA | Business Year | No. | No. | % | No. | No. | % | No. | No. | % |
| Leeds PCT | 5N1 | Q32 | 2008-09 | 13,249 | 12,831 | 97 | 960 | 909 | 95 | 14,209 | 13,740 | 97 |
| Kirklees PCT | 5N2 | Q32 | 2008-09 | 6,005 | 5,350 | 89 | 631 | 561 | 89 | 6,636 | 5,911 | 89 |
| Wakefield District PCT | 5N3 | Q32 | 2008-09 | 5,777 | 5,207 | 90 | 815 | 644 | 79 | 6,592 | 5,851 | 89 |
| Sheffield PCT | 5N4 | Q32 | 2008-09 | 8,861 | 6,991 | 79 | 813 | 655 | 81 | 9,674 | 7,646 | 79 |
| Doncaster PCT | 5N5 | Q32 | 2008-09 | 5,453 | 5,239 | 96 | 747 | 684 | 92 | 6,200 | 5,923 | 96 |
| North Yorkshire and York PCT | 5NV | Q32 | 2008-09 | 12,768 | 10,112 | 79 | 1,714 | 1,140 | 67 | 14,482 | 11,252 | 78 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire PCT | 5NW | Q32 | 2008-09 | 4,811 | 4,229 | 88 | 758 | 641 | 85 | 5,569 | 4,870 | 87 |
| Hull Teaching PCT | 5NX | Q32 | 2008-09 | 4,940 | 3,588 | 73 | 612 | 351 | 57 | 5,552 | 3,939 | 71 |
| Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT | 5NY | Q32 | 2008-09 | 7,890 | 6,973 | 88 | 1,091 | 892 | 82 | 8,981 | 7,865 | 88 |
| North East Lincolnshire PCT | TAN | Q32 | 2008-09 | 6,472 | 5,488 | 85 | 398 | 343 | 86 | 6,870 | 5,831 | 85 |
| Nottingham City PCT | 5EM | Q33 | 2008-09 | 5,642 | 5,200 | 92 | 500 | 403 | 81 | 6,142 | 5,603 | 91 |
| Bassetlaw PCT | 5ET | Q33 | 2008-09 | 1,844 | 1,756 | 95 | 304 | 290 | 95 | 2,148 | 2,046 | 95 |
| Derbyshire County PCT | 5N6 | Q33 | 2008-09 | 11,934 | 10,417 | 87 | 1,137 | 871 | 77 | 13,071 | 11,288 | 86 |
| Derby City PCT | 5N7 | Q33 | 2008-09 | 3,908 | 3,770 | 96 | 857 | 847 | 99 | 4,765 | 4,617 | 97 |
| Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT | 5N8 | Q33 | 2008-09 | 14,229 | 9,139 | 64 | 1,140 | 662 | 58 | 15,369 | 9,801 | 64 |
| Lincolnshire Teaching PCT | 5N9 | Q33 | 2008-09 | 10,576 | 8,598 | 81 | 1,332 | 993 | 75 | 11,908 | 9,584 | 80 |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT | 5PA | Q33 | 2008-09 | 13,812 | 12,798 | 93 | 1,296 | 1,195 | 92 | 15,108 | 13,993 | 93 |
| Leicester City PCT | 5PC | Q33 | 2008-09 | 5,053 | 4,336 | 86 | 496 | 398 | 80 | 5,549 | 4,734 | 85 |
| Northamptonshire Teaching PCT | 5PD | Q33 | 2008-09 | 52,285 | 49,847 | 95 | 942 | 804 | 85 | 53,227 | 50,651 | 95 |
| Herefordshire PCT | 5CN | Q34 | 2008-09 | 6,787 | 5,653 | 83 | 432 | 361 | 84 | 7,219 | 6,014 | 83 |
| South Birmingham PCT | 5M1 | Q34 | 2008-09 | 10,382 | 8,763 | 84 | 886 | 535 | 60 | 11,268 | 9,298 | 83 |
| Shropshire County PCT | 5M2 | Q34 | 2008-09 | 5,257 | 5,044 | 96 | 653 | 610 | 93 | 5,910 | 5,654 | 96 |
| Walsall Teaching PCT | 5M3 | Q34 | 2008-09 | 12,029 | 10,978 | 91 | 531 | 493 | 93 | 12,560 | 11,471 | 91 |
| Coventry Teaching PCT | 5MD | Q34 | 2008-09 | 5,750 | 5,424 | 94 | 617 | 435 | 71 | 6,367 | 5,859 | 92 |
| Telford and Wrekin PCT | 5MK | Q34 | 2008-09 | 3,581 | 3,450 | 96 | 506 | 484 | 96 | 4,087 | 3,934 | 96 |
| Wolverhampton City PCT | 5MV | Q34 | 2008-09 | 7,174 | 4,065 | 57 | 508 | 346 | 68 | 7,682 | 4,411 | 57 |
| Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT | 5MX | Q34 | 2008-09 | 7,248 | 6,430 | 89 | 533 | 523 | 98 | 7,781 | 6,953 | 89 |
| Dudley PCT | 5PE | Q34 | 2008-09 | 9,903 | 9,149 | 92 | 543 | 378 | 70 | 10,446 | 9,527 | 91 |
| Sandwell PCT | 5PF | Q34 | 2008-09 | 3,440 | 3,031 | 88 | 305 | 275 | 90 | 3,745 | 3,306 | 88 |
| Birmingham East and North PCT | 5PG | Q34 | 2008-09 | 8,961 | 7,777 | 87 | 669 | 625 | 93 | 9,630 | 8,402 | 87 |
| North Staffordshire PCT | 5PH | Q34 | 2008-09 | 3,802 | 3,216 | 85 | 474 | 256 | 54 | 4,276 | 3,472 | 81 |
| Stoke on Trent PCT | 5PJ | Q34 | 2008-09 | 6,424 | 5,527 | 86 | 556 | 406 | 73 | 6,980 | 5,933 | 85 |

| | | | | Non-NHS bills | | | NHS bills | | | All bills | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Non-NHS | | | NHS | | | | | |
| | | | | Bills paid in period | Bills paid within target | | Bills paid in period | Bills paid within target | | Bills paid in period | Bills paid within target | |
| Name | Org code | HA | Business year | No. | No. | % | No. | No. | % | No. | No. | % |
| South Staffordshire PCT | 5PK | Q34 | 2008-09 | 7,547 | 5,477 | 73 | 989 | 796 | 80 | 8,536 | 6,273 | 73 |
| Worcestershire PCT | 5PL | Q34 | 2008-09 | 7,129 | 6,116 | 86 | 915 | 761 | 83 | 8,044 | 6,877 | 85 |
| Warwickshire PCT | 5PM | Q34 | 2008-09 | 10,301 | 8,170 | 79 | 1,016 | 521 | 51 | 11,317 | 8,691 | 77 |
| Solihull Care PCT | TAM | Q34 | 2008-09 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Luton PCT | 5GC | Q35 | 2008-09 | 2,321 | 1,841 | 79 | 513 | 253 | 49 | 2,834 | 2,094 | 74 |
| South East Essex PCT | 5P1 | Q35 | 2008-09 | 4,733 | 4,081 | 86 | 1,533 | 1,288 | 84 | 6,266 | 5,369 | 86 |
| Bedfordshire PCT | 5P2 | Q35 | 2008-09 | 6,699 | 6,027 | 90 | 701 | 611 | 87 | 7,400 | 6,638 | 90 |
| East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 5P3 | Q35 | 2008-09 | 4,574 | 3,580 | 78 | 496 | 310 | 63 | 5,070 | 3,890 | 77 |
| West Hertfordshire PCT | 5P4 | Q35 | 2008-09 | 6,711 | 5,438 | 81 | 771 | 526 | 68 | 7,482 | 5,964 | 80 |
| Peterborough PCT | 5PN | Q35 | 2008-09 | 11,264 | 10,455 | 93 | 573 | 503 | 88 | 11,837 | 10,958 | 93 |
| Cambridgeshire PCT | 5PP | Q35 | 2008-09 | 9,779 | 6,864 | 70 | 1,246 | 538 | 43 | 11,025 | 7,402 | 67 |
| Norfolk PCT | 5PQ | Q35 | 2008-09 | 9,244 | 7,262 | 79 | 425 | 304 | 72 | 9,669 | 7,566 | 78 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT | 5PR | Q35 | 2008-09 | 2,860 | 2,440 | 85 | 625 | 460 | 74 | 3,485 | 2,900 | 83 |
| Suffolk PCT | 5PT | Q35 | 2008-09 | 8,941 | 8,278 | 93 | 872 | 688 | 79 | 9,813 | 8,966 | 91 |
| West Essex PCT | 5PV | Q35 | 2008-09 | 4,923 | 3,696 | 75 | 635 | 540 | 85 | 5,558 | 4,236 | 76 |
| North East Essex PCT | 5PW | Q35 | 2008-09 | 7,112 | 5,068 | 71 | 506 | 324 | 64 | 7,618 | 5,392 | 71 |
| Mid Essex PCT | 5PX | Q35 | 2008-09 | 5,163 | 4,216 | 82 | 582 | 446 | 77 | 5,745 | 4,662 | 81 |
| South West Essex PCT | 5PY | Q35 | 2008-09 | 7,220 | 6,342 | 88 | 526 | 399 | 76 | 7,746 | 6,741 | 87 |
| Havering PCT | 5A4 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 3,500 | 3,195 | 91 | 263 | 192 | 73 | 3,763 | 3,387 | 90 |
| Kingston PCT | 5A5 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 1,301 | 1,117 | 86 | 433 | 373 | 86 | 1,734 | 1,490 | 86 |
| Bromley PCT | 5A7 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 4,400 | 4,024 | 91 | 494 | 373 | 76 | 4,894 | 4,397 | 90 |
| Greenwich Teaching PCT | 5A8 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 3,984 | 3,784 | 95 | 388 | 380 | 98 | 4,372 | 4,164 | 95 |
| Barnet PCT | 5A9 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 7,027 | 5,928 | 84 | 369 | 290 | 79 | 7,396 | 6,218 | 84 |
| Hillingdon PCT | 5AT | Q36 | 2008-09 | 2,772 | 2,047 | 74 | 537 | 362 | 67 | 3,309 | 2,409 | 73 |
| Enfield PCT | 5C1 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 4,750 | 4,384 | 92 | 810 | 769 | 95 | 5,560 | 5,153 | 93 |
| Barking and Dagenham PCT | 5C2 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 7,121 | 6,199 | 87 | 505 | 423 | 84 | 7,626 | 6,622 | 87 |
| City and Hackney Teaching PCT | 5C3 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 6,541 | 5,799 | 89 | 387 | 325 | 84 | 6,928 | 6,124 | 88 |
| Tower Hamlets PCT | 5C4 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 8,702 | 7,322 | 84 | 708 | 532 | 75 | 9,410 | 7,854 | 83 |
| Newham PCT | 5C5 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 5,478 | 4,714 | 86 | 340 | 300 | 88 | 5,818 | 5,014 | 86 |
| Haringey Teaching PCT | 5C9 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 6,915 | 6,655 | 96 | 1,593 | 1,560 | 98 | 8,508 | 8,215 | 97 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | 5H1 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 4,629 | 4,240 | 92 | 518 | 383 | 74 | 5,147 | 4,623 | 90 |
| Ealing PCT | 5HX | Q36 | 2008-09 | 8,200 | 7,640 | 93 | 597 | 485 | 81 | 8,797 | 8,125 | 92 |
| Hounslow PCT | 5HY | Q36 | 2008-09 | 4,663 | 4,196 | 90 | 304 | 206 | 68 | 4,967 | 4,402 | 89 |
| Brent Teaching PCT | 5K5 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 5,262 | 3,559 | 68 | 689 | 416 | 60 | 5,951 | 3,975 | 67 |
| Harrow PCT | 5K6 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 231 | 231 | 100 | 2,876 | 2,795 | 97 | 3,107 | 3,026 | 97 |
| Camden PCT | 5K7 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 6,787 | 3,995 | 59 | 659 | 514 | 78 | 7,446 | 4,509 | 61 |

| | | | | Non-NHS bills | | | NHS bills | | | All bills | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Non-NHS | | | NHS | | | | | |
| | | | | Bills paid in period | Bills paid within target | | Bills paid in period | Bills paid within target | | Bills paid in period | Bills paid within target | |
| Name | Org code | HA | Business year | No | No | % | No | No | % | No | No | % |
| Islington PCT | 5K8 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 7,032 | 5,873 | 84 | 508 | 368 | 72 | 7,540 | 6,241 | 83 |
| Croydon PCT | 5K9 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 7,050 | 5,166 | 73 | 680 | 493 | 73 | 7,730 | 5,659 | 73 |
| Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 5LA | Q36 | 2008-09 | 6,646 | 5,665 | 88 | 530 | 267 | 50 | 6,976 | 5,932 | 85 |
| Westminster PCT | 5LC | Q36 | 2008-09 | 5,469 | 5,045 | 92 | 655 | 548 | 84 | 6,124 | 5,593 | 91 |
| Lambeth PCT | 5LD | Q36 | 2008-09 | 8,214 | 5,999 | 73 | 941 | 745 | 79 | 9,155 | 6,744 | 74 |
| Southwark PCT | 5LE | Q36 | 2008-09 | 7,113 | 4,974 | 70 | 75,648 | 73,829 | 98 | 82,761 | 78,803 | 95 |
| Lewisham PCT | 5LF | Q36 | 2008-09 | 4,124 | 3,662 | 89 | 536 | 460 | 86 | 4,660 | 4,122 | 88 |
| Wandsworth PCT | 5LG | Q36 | 2008-09 | 9,645 | 8,206 | 85 | 998 | 627 | 63 | 10,643 | 8,833 | 83 |
| Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 5M6 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 2,100 | 1,714 | 82 | 412 | 333 | 81 | 2,512 | 2,047 | 81 |
| Sutton and Merton PCT | 5M7 | Q36 | 2008-09 | 6,366 | 5,125 | 81 | 1,143 | 723 | 63 | 7,509 | 5,848 | 78 |
| Redbridge PCT | 5NA | Q36 | 2008-09 | 8,511 | 7,819 | 92 | 548 | 440 | 80 | 9,059 | 8,259 | 91 |
| Waltham Forest PCT | 5NC | Q36 | 2008-09 | 4,061 | 3,712 | 91 | 485 | 396 | 82 | 4,546 | 4,108 | 90 |
| Bexley Care PCT | TAK | Q36 | 2008-09 | 2,678 | 2,545 | 95 | 535 | 525 | 98 | 3,213 | 3,070 | 96 |
| Medway PCT | 5L3 | Q37 | 2008-09 | 4,404 | 4,043 | 92 | 778 | 566 | 73 | 5,182 | 4,609 | 89 |
| Brighton and Hove City PCT | 5LQ | Q37 | 2008-09 | 2,445 | 1,961 | 80 | 849 | 246 | 29 | 3,294 | 2,207 | 67 |
| Surrey PCT | 5P5 | Q37 | 2008-09 | 17,553 | 14,521 | 83 | 1,697 | 1,116 | 66 | 19,250 | 15,637 | 81 |
| West Sussex PCT | 5P6 | Q37 | 2008-09 | 13,493 | 11,589 | 86 | 1,079 | 599 | 56 | 14,572 | 12,188 | 84 |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT | 5P7 | Q37 | 2008-09 | 5,846 | 5,429 | 93 | 487 | 231 | 47 | 6,333 | 5,660 | 89 |
| Hastings and Rother PCT | 5P8 | Q37 | 2008-09 | 2,078 | 1,809 | 87 | 328 | 198 | 60 | 2,406 | 2,007 | 83 |
| West Kent PCT | 5P9 | Q37 | 2008-09 | 8,668 | 7,595 | 88 | 2,057 | 1,411 | 69 | 10,725 | 9,006 | 84 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT | 5QA | Q37 | 2008-09 | 6,623 | 3,532 | 53 | 624 | 432 | 69 | 7,247 | 3,964 | 55 |
| Milton Keynes PCT | 5CQ | Q38 | 2008-09 | 4,395 | 4,234 | 96 | 643 | 612 | 95 | 5,038 | 4,846 | 96 |
| Portsmouth City Teaching PCT | 5FE | Q38 | 2008-09 | 8,371 | 7,616 | 91 | 419 | 388 | 93 | 8,790 | 8,004 | 91 |
| Southampton City PCT | 5L1 | Q38 | 2008-09 | 8,309 | 8,172 | 98 | 581 | 568 | 98 | 8,890 | 8,740 | 98 |
| Hampshire PCT | 5QC | Q38 | 2008-09 | 23,058 | 20,979 | 91 | 2,186 | 1,945 | 89 | 25,244 | 22,924 | 91 |
| Buckinghamshire PCT | 5QD | Q38 | 2008-09 | 2,150 | 1,845 | 86 | 222 | 137 | 62 | 2,372 | 1,982 | 84 |
| Oxfordshire PCT | 5QE | Q38 | 2008-09 | 11,456 | 10,523 | 92 | 772 | 649 | 84 | 12,228 | 11,172 | 91 |
| Berkshire West PCT | 5QF | Q38 | 2008-09 | 5,717 | 4,206 | 74 | 470 | 152 | 32 | 6,187 | 4,358 | 70 |
| Berkshire East PCT | 5QG | Q38 | 2008-09 | 4,456 | 3,147 | 71 | 468 | 169 | 36 | 4,924 | 3,316 | 67 |
| Isle of Wight NHS PCT | 5QT | Q38 | 2008-09 | 11,758 | 9,729 | 83 | 459 | 357 | 78 | 12,217 | 10,086 | 83 |
| South Gloucestershire PCT | 5A3 | Q39 | 2008-09 | 2,140 | 1,895 | 89 | 479 | 381 | 80 | 2,619 | 2,276 | 87 |
| Plymouth Teaching PCT | 5F1 | Q39 | 2008-09 | 11,651 | 10,525 | 90 | 553 | 426 | 77 | 12,204 | 10,951 | 90 |
| Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 5FL | Q39 | 2008-09 | 2,823 | 2,621 | 93 | 295 | 168 | 57 | 3,118 | 2,789 | 89 |
| Swindon PCT | 5K3 | Q39 | 2008-09 | 3,567 | 3,242 | 91 | 569 | 506 | 89 | 4,136 | 3,748 | 91 |

| | | | | Non-NHS bills | | | NHS bills | | | All bills | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Non-NHS | | | NHS | | | | | |
| Name | Org code | HA | Business year | Bills paid in period | Bills paid within target | % | Bills paid in period | Bills paid within target | % | Bills paid in period[1] | Bills paid within target | % |
| North Somerset PCT | 5M8 | Q39 | 2008-09 | 1,869 | 1,787 | 96 | 376 | 365 | 97 | 2,245 | 2,152 | 96 |
| Gloucestershire PCT | 5QH | Q39 | 2008-09 | 11,502 | 10,377 | 90 | 1,520 | 1,361 | 90 | 13,022 | 11,738 | 90 |
| Bristol PCT | 5QJ | Q39 | 2008-09 | 4,527 | 3,965 | 88 | 856 | 476 | 55 | 5,385 | 4,441 | 82 |
| Wiltshire PCT | 5QK | Q39 | 2008-09 | 8,082 | 7,199 | 89 | 856 | 692 | 81 | 8,938 | 7,891 | 88 |
| Somerset PCT | 5QL | Q39 | 2008-09 | 9,496 | 9,302 | 98 | 914 | 795 | 90 | 10,310 | 10,097 | 98 |
| Dorset PCT | 5QM | Q39 | 2008-09 | 13,659 | 12,605 | 92 | 1,076 | 783 | 73 | 14,735 | 13,388 | 91 |
| Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT | 5QN | Q39 | 2008-09 | 4,347 | 4,241 | 98 | 530 | 511 | 96 | 4,877 | 4,752 | 97 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT | 5QP | Q39 | 2008-09 | 10,054 | 9,674 | 96 | 600 | 547 | 91 | 10,654 | 10,221 | 96 |
| Devon PCT | 5QQ | Q39 | 2008-09 | 14,359 | 12,332 | 86 | 1,300 | 903 | 69 | 15,660 | 13,235 | 84 |
| Torbay Care PCT | TAL | Q39 | 2008-09 | 9,437 | 9,120 | 97 | 466 | 329 | 71 | 9,903 | 9,449 | 95 |
| Total | | | | 1,050,852 | 906,423 | 86 | 182,746 | 157,717 | 86 | 1,233,598 | 1,064,140 | 86 |

## Prostate Cancer

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received treatment for prostate cancer in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [229866]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people received treatment for prostate cancer in (a) the UK, (b) the North East, (c) Tees Valley District and (d) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [229866]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006 for England and Wales, and the year 2005 for Scotland and Northern Ireland. The number of prostate cancer cases receiving treatment in the United Kingdom (UK) is only available for the year 2001. There are no figures for the UK for the other years requested because the number of prostate cancer cases receiving treatment is only available for the year 2001 for Northern Ireland.

Table 1 gives the number of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer that have received treatment for 2001 for (a) the United Kingdom, and for the years 1997 to 2006 for (b) the North East Government Office Region, (c) Tees Valley District, and (d) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland Parliamentary Constituency. In 2001, for 41 per cent of prostate cancer cases in the UK, either no treatment information was recorded or patients were recorded as having no treatment.

*Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer[1] receiving treatment[2], males: United Kingdom[3], north east government office region, Tees Valley District[4], and Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency[5], 1997 to 2006*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| United Kingdom | .. | .. | .. | .. | 19,130 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| North East | 447 | 911 | 1,038 | 1,060 | 1,180 | 1,163 | 1,227 | 1,066 | 1,165 | 1,010 |
| Tees Valley | 88 | 229 | 309 | 298 | 291 | 288 | 330 | 272 | 293 | 238 |
| Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland | 13 | 45 | 56 | 64 | 47 | 42 | 65 | 62 | 55 | 42 |

[1] Prostate cancer is coded to C61 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Number of cases that have one or more treatments recorded.
[3] The number of prostate cancer cases receiving treatment in the United Kingdom is only available for the year 2001. There are no figures for the UK for the other years requested because the number of prostate cancer cases receiving treatment is only available for the year 2001 for Northern Ireland.
[4] Tees Valley is defined as the Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees and Darlington local authorities.
[5] Based on boundaries as of 2007.
[6] Cancer registration data for 1997 are not sufficiently robust to accurately identify treatment in prostate cancer patients. In 1997, for 30 per cent. of all prostate cancer cases in the north east government office region, either no treatment was recorded or patients were recorded as having no treatment, this compares to an average of 18 per cent. for the years 1998 to 2006. A Radical Therapy for Localised Prostate Cancer audit, that included all patients in the northern and Yorkshire region diagnosed with prostate cancer during 1998, was published in 2004.

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics; Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit; Scottish Cancer Registry, NHS National Services Scotland; and Northern Ireland Cancer Registry.

## Social Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what specialist areas of work are of each official in his Department that works on social care. [235611]

**Phil Hope:** The strategic objectives of the Department are better health and well-being for all, better care for all and better value for all. Every official within the Department contributes, through their personal objectives, to achieving those goals for both health and social care.

The social care, local government and care partnerships directorate has the specific responsibility for the development of policy on adult social care, and on mental health and health services for offenders. In meeting this responsibility, the directorate is supported by the rest of the Department. The directorate has an establishment of 149.01 whole time equivalent officials. Of these 100.66 whole time equivalents work exclusively on adult social care policy. The specialist areas of work of these officials are in the following table.

| *Administrative unit* | *Description of work* | *Number of whole time equivalents 2008-09* |
|---|---|---|
| Social care policy and innovation | To develop policies and support innovative practices that promote equality, human rights and social inclusion by embedding choice, control and personal safety in social care services. | 50.43 |
| Social care leadership and performance | To improve the quality, performance and status of social care through strengthening the performance framework, increasing the capacity and capability of the work force, enhancing leadership and providing a local government perspective in the Department. | 22.88 |
| Social care strategy unit | To provide overall strategic direction on priorities for social care and developing the green paper on reform to care and support. | 17.80 |
| Social care finance | To lead on the key issues related to the funding of social care in England. | 3.95 |

## Social Services: Standards

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to *(a)* improve social care provisions for people with disabilities and *(b)* raise standards in social care provision for the elderly; and what further steps the Government plan to take to improve social care provision. [236055]

**Phil Hope:** In 'Putting People First', (2007), the Government, and their partners in the sector, set out their commitment to transform social care to meet the needs and expectations of those who need support and their families. A copy of this document has been placed in the Library.

We have provided £520 million through the Social Care Reform Grant to help councils undertake the necessary reforms. The Department of Health is working closely with key stakeholders to deliver this agenda and a new National Director for Transforming Adult Social Care has been appointed to help councils achieve a systemic shift in adult care towards user control, prevention and enhanced information and advice services.

In addition, the Office for Disability Issues published the Independent Living Strategy in March 2008. The strategy sets out a five-year plan that seeks to realise the Government's aim that all disabled people should be able to live autonomous lives, and to have the same choice, freedom, dignity and control over their lives as non-disabled people.

The Department, together with the Office for Disability Issues, is leading work on the 'Life Chances' commitment that, by 2010, there should be a user-led organisation (ULO) modelled on existing Centres for Independent Living in every local authority area with Social Services responsibilities. ULOs are led and controlled by disabled people and are key to both delivering personalisation and achieving independent living for disabled people.

## Southmead Hospital: PFI

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the implications for the viability of the private finance initiative project to replace Southmead hospital of the current economic situation; and if he will make a statement. [235904]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The two consortiums competing to be appointed preferred bidder on the private finance initiative scheme at North Bristol NHS Trust for the redevelopment of the Southmead hospital site are currently finalising their bids. The Trust, the Department and the bidders are holding discussions about current economic conditions and how these should be factored into the bids as part of the competitive process.

As with all private finance initiative schemes, appointment of the preferred bidder is then dependent on a business case demonstrating value for money and affordability being submitted to and approved by the Department.

## Vaccinations

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to review the *(a)* hepatitis B and *(b)* influenza immunisation programme; when each was last reviewed; with what results; what recent representations he has received on each programme; and if he will make a statement. [235520]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The hepatitis B and influenza immunisation programmes are kept under review by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), who provide expert impartial advice to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health.

JCVI last considered the hepatitis B vaccination programme in June 2008. The minutes of the meeting can be found at the following website, and also been placed in the Library.

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/jcvi/JCVI_draft_minutes_final_17_June_08.pdf

The committee will consider hepatitis B vaccination again after the completion of an independent peer-review of the cost-effectiveness of introducing hepatitis B vaccine as a routine infant, routine adolescent or as a selective infant immunisation programme.

JCVI last considered the influenza (flu) vaccination programme in February 2008 when the recommendations for the current flu campaign were discussed. The committee noted that there would be no changes to the risk groups for the current flu campaign. The minutes of the meeting can be found at the following website, the minutes have also been placed in the Library.

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/jcvi/jcvimin130208.htm

A JCVI influenza subgroup will meet on 10 December 2008.

An independent panel was appointed by the Department in 2005 to review the arrangements for the seasonal influenza programme in England. This report was published in March 2007. The report is available at the following website, and has also been placed in the Library.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_072767

The Department has received correspondence relating to the clinical at risk groups. The response to these letters stressed the importance of reducing morbidity in high risk groups and made clear the independent advice from the JCVI. Further to this, senior officials from the Department meet with the UK Vaccine Industry Group (UVIG) on a six monthly basis to discuss flu vaccine supply.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which groups of workers are eligible for the *(a)* hepatitis B vaccination and *(b)* vaccination against influenza; which groups were eligible in each year since 1997; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [235127]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Details of workers who are recommended to receive a hepatitis B immunisation are provided in the "Immunisation against infectious diseases, 2006 'Green Book'" chapter 18, page 172. A copy of this has already been placed in the Library. These groups were also recommended in the "Immunisation against infectious diseases 1996 'Green Book'" chapter 18, pages 101-102. A copy of this is in the Library. Further information on hepatitis B immunisation can be found in the "Health clearance for tuberculosis, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV New healthcare workers, 2007 guidance". The guidance can be found at the following website and it has also been placed in the Library.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_073132

Influenza immunisation was first recommended for health and social care workers in a letter from the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) in 2000 (PL/CMO/2000/3). This letter can be downloaded from the following website and it has been placed in the Library.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Professionalletters/Chiefmedicalofficerletters/DH_4004974

Information on influenza policy is published in annual CMO letters. They can be downloaded from the following website.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmentLeaders/ChiefMedicalOfficer/CMOPublications/CMOLetters/index.htm

Vaccination for poultry workers was introduced by the Department at the end of the 2006-07 influenza season. Guidance on this programme can be found at the following website and it has also been placed in the Library.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_063506

The Department has received very low levels of correspondence on this issue.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce alcohol consumption among 11 to 15 year olds who drink regularly. [234957]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The proportion of teenagers who drink regularly is falling but those who do drink are drinking a lot more. Young people who drink too much not only put their own health at risk, but are more likely to get involved in antisocial behaviour and contribute to insecurity on our streets. The Youth Alcohol Action Plan, published in June, sets out a number of actions to address the problems of young people's alcohol consumption. We will provide clearer health information for parents and young people about how consumption of alcohol, particularly at an early age, can affect children and young people. This will include the chief medical officer's guidelines on safer drinking by young people and a comprehensive communications campaign aimed at 11 to 15 year-olds to be launched in spring 2009.

In line with recommendations from an independent review of drug and alcohol education, Ministers announced on 30 October 2008 that Personal Health and Social Education (PHSE) would be made statutory subject. This would underline the key role PSHE has to play in young people's personal development.

Very few young people are addicted to alcohol but we know that a small proportion of young people do drink too much which puts them at risk of harm. DCSF are working closely with the National Treatment Agency (NTA) to continue to improve the accessibility and quality of substance misuse treatment for young people (under 18), with the aim of ensuring that effective treatment is available for any young person with alcohol problems that needs it.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Electricity: Research

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what research the Government are sponsoring into static inverters for the conversion of *(a)* alternating to direct current and *(b)* direct to alternating current. [236063]

**Mr. Simon:** The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the Technology Strategy Board, funded through the Science and Research, and

Innovation Budgets respectively, support a portfolio of research grants focused on low carbon energy technologies.

EPSRC has not identified any projects that it funds which contain the words 'static inverter' in the title or abstract, but within the broad area of 'Power Electronics' and 'Electrical Motor and Drive Systems' it has a current research portfolio of £13.5 million.

The Technology Strategy Board has not funded any research projects focused solely on static inverters. However, static inverters are a part of the systems issues considered in funded projects relevant to, for example, the storage and integration of wind energy.

### Higher Education Funding Council for England: North West

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment has been made by his Department of the effectiveness of the Higher Education Funding Council for England's work with *(a)* regional higher education associations in the North West and *(b)* the North West Universities Association. [235917]

**Mr. Lammy:** We welcome the close and effective collaboration between the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the regional higher education associations in the North West and the North West Universities Association. We are confident that they will continue to succeed in their efforts to increase and widen participation in higher education and to equip learners with the skills that will enable them to flourish during new economic circumstances.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Higher Education Funding Council for England spent *(a)* in England and *(b)* in the North West in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08 on initiatives to widen participation in higher education. [235916]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Higher Education Funding Council for England spent the following on widening participation activities:

| | | £ |
|---|---|---|
| | *England* | *North West* |
| 2006-07 | 381,126,970 | 54,096,138 |
| 2007-08 | 408,737,978 | 57,102,561 |

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent representations he has received on the financial accessibility of universities; what response he has made in each case; and if he will make a statement. [236468]

**Mr. Lammy:** My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State has not received any recent representations on this issue.

This Government are firmly committed to widening participation in higher education (HE) for those from poorer and other under-represented backgrounds. The availability of finance should not present a barrier to students who have the ability and wish to study in higher education, as there is a generous package of support available in the form of grants and loans. For full-time students, the package includes a means-tested grant and loan for living costs plus a non means-tested fee loan. In addition, targeted financial support is provided for particular groups, for example, the disabled and students with childcare responsibilities.

### Vocational Education: North West

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with educational institutions in the north west on improving opportunities for vocational learners to enter higher education institutions. [235919]

**Mr. Lammy:** Ministers and officials speak to many institutions and organisations about issues that affect individuals' progression to higher education. Progression to higher education for vocational learners is an important element in our drive to capture, enrich and exploit the talents and potential of all learners; and the Lifelong Learning Network programme has been established precisely to focus on progression and widening opportunity for vocational learners, putting them on the same footing as those following more traditional academic pathways.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has invested over £100 million across 2005-11 in 30 Lifelong Learning Networks (LLNs). These networks make an important contribution to a number of the Government's strategic objectives including lifelong learning, credit transfer, articulation arrangements between higher education programmes and the Qualifications and Credit Framework, employer engagement and workplace learning, and progression from the 14-19 diplomas. HEFCE officers, including those from widening participation teams, meet with senior staff from institutions in the north west in the normal course of HEFCE business and progression for vocational learners and widening participation forms part of that dialogue. HEFCE officers were involved in discussions with the Greater Merseyside and West Lancashire LLNs about additional student numbers for 2009-10 and how they should be distributed and targeted in priority areas.

Since Blackpool college's proposal to develop a Higher Education Centre, HEFCE have maintained close strategic engagement with the college, undertaking regular visits and meetings with the senior management team. That activity is also ongoing with the Blackburn and Burnley Higher Education Centre developments.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Census

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what assessment has been made of the accuracy of the last national census; [234991]

(2) what questions will be included in the next census which were not in the last census; [234992]

(3) what the estimated cost of production of a single national address register for use in the 2011 census will be; what sources will be used to compile the register; and whether the register will be single-use. [235103]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking (a) what assessment has been made of the accuracy of the last national census, (b) what questions will be included in the next census which were not in the last census, and (c) what the estimated cost of production of a single national address register for use in the 2011 Census will be; what sources will be used to compile the register; and whether the register will be single-use. (234991, 234992, 235103)

ONS has reported fully on the accuracy and quality of the 2001 Census in the 2001 Census Quality Report, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons library and on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/proj_gr.asp

In conjunction with the 2001 Census General Report it provides a comprehensive evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the Census operation. The General Report is also available in the House of Commons library and on the website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/proj_gr_grasp

In addition, further information about local and national response rates is available on the website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/methodology.asp

Separate reviews of the accuracy of the 2001 Census were conducted by the Treasury Select Committee, the Local Government Association and the Statistics Commission.

(b) It will not be possible to confirm what questions and response categories are to be included in the 2011 Census until formal approval is given by Parliament in 2010. Current proposals for questions will be published in a White Paper shortly. The proposals include a number of new questions and these are:

civil partnership status

citizenship (passports held)

month and year of entry into UK

intended length of stay for migrants who have arrived in the last 12 months

national identity

language

second residence

a number of bedrooms

a type of central heating.

In addition we are planning to ask basic demographic questions from visitors in households on census night.

(c) The cost of developing an Address Register for the 2011 Census is estimated to be about £10 million over the years 2008-11. The primary sources of address lists, namely the Royal Mail Postcode Address File (PAF), the Ordnance Survey MasterMap Address Layer 2 (AL2), and the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG), which is administered by the local authority community through the Local Government Information House (LGIH), will be matched to find the common elements and to identify differences for more research and verification. Although the Address Register strategy takes account of other national addressing initiatives it is only being developed for the 2011 Census. Subject to having appropriate data sharing agreements in place, it should provide a one-off quality improvement to each of the main address sources. It is also hoped that the development of processes and delivery partnership models could be used to support the wider agenda for a single National Address Register in the future.

## Charities

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many registered charities there were in each of the last five years; [236362]

(2) what the gross income was of registered charities in each of the last five years. [236363]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

*Letter from Rosie Chapman, dated 14 November 2008:*

Parliamentary Questions 236362 and 236363 (numbers of registered charities)

As Executive Director of Policy and Effectiveness at the Charity Commission I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Questions, both tabled for answer on 17 November.

Below is a table which details the number of charities registered with the Charity Commission, and their gross income, for each of the last five years. Please be aware that the Charity Commission only registers charities based in England and Wales; Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own regulators. In addition, as of April 2007, only charities with an income of £5,000 a year or more have been required to register with us.

| | *Number of registered charities* | *Gross income (£s billion)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 169,297 | 44.55 |
| 2006 | 168,609 | 41.26 |
| 2005 | 167,466 | 37.86 |
| 2004 | 166,136 | 34.86 |
| 2003 | 164,781 | 31.62 |

I hope this is helpful. If you have any further questions then please do contact me directly.

## Children

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many children there are in each age group, broken down by *(a)* local authority and *(b)* constituency. [234689]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question about how many children there are in each age group, broken down by (a) local authority and (b) constituency. (234689)

Table 1 shows the estimated resident population for the United Kingdom by local authority for children aged 0-15 by single year of age.

Table 2 shows the estimated resident population for the United Kingdom by parliamentary constituency for children aged 0-15 by single year of age (total numbers only for Scottish parliamentary constituencies).

Copies of the tables have been placed in the Library of the House.

## Death: Weather

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many excess winter deaths of people with *(a)* terminal illnesses and *(b)* disabilities there were in each of the last five years. [235926]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated November 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many excess winter deaths of people

with (a) terminal illnesses and (b) disabilities there were in each of the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (235926)

The information requested is not available. The particulars recorded at death registration include the underlying cause of death and any contributory causes, but not whether the deceased had (a) a terminal illness or (b) a disability at the time of death. Whether an illness is considered terminal is a matter of clinical judgement in each individual case, and cannot be inferred from the mention of a condition at death registration alone.

## Departmental Buildings

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 557W, on departmental buildings, which contractors provided goods and services for the expenditure on *(a)* 10-12 Downing Street, *(b)* 70 Whitehall, *(c)* Admiralty Arch and *(d)* minor furniture and fittings. [232960]

**Kevin Brennan:** The names of the contractors that provided goods and services recorded as departmental building fixed assets on page 106 of the Cabinet Office annual report and accounts 2007-08 can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

## Ecovert FM

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 155W, on Ecovert FM, what his definition is of minor works; and what the level of the threshold is. [235048]

**Kevin Brennan:** Minor works are any reactive maintenance works that fall below the contractual financial threshold. The threshold level is commercial in confidence.

## Elderly: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of the population is over state pension age in each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales. [234933]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what percentage of the population is over state pension age in each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales. (234933)

The attached table shows the percentage of persons of pensionable age for principal seaside towns in England and Wales for mid-2006, the latest year for which estimates are available.

*Percentage of persons of pensionable age in principal seaside towns in England and Wales: mid-2006*

| *Principal seaside town* | *Percentage of persons of pensionable age* |
|---|---|
| Barry | 18 |
| Bognor Regis | 30 |
| Bridlington | 29 |
| Burnham-on-Sea | 31 |
| Clacton | 31 |
| Deal | 25 |
| Eastbourne | 27 |
| Exmouth | 26 |
| Falmouth | 23 |
| Folkestone/Hythe | 23 |
| Great Yarmouth | 24 |
| Greater Blackpool | 24 |
| Greater Bournemouth | 25 |
| Greater Brighton | 15 |
| Greater Worthing | 25 |
| Hastings/Bexhill | 26 |
| Ilfracombe | 22 |
| Isle of Wight | 26 |
| Llandudno/Colwyn Bay/Conwy | 27 |
| Lowestoft | 24 |
| Minehead | 33 |
| Morecambe and Heysham | 22 |
| Newquay | 22 |
| Porthcawl | 30 |
| Rhyl/Prestatyn | 25 |
| Scarborough | 24 |
| Sidmouth | 44 |
| Skegness | 26 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 21 |
| Southport | 25 |
| St. Ives | 28 |
| Swanage | 32 |
| Thanet | 24 |
| Torbay | 26 |
| Weston-super-Mare | 23 |
| Weymouth | 25 |
| Whitley Bay | 22 |
| Whitstable/Herne Bay | 15 |

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

## Employment: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people were employed in Enfield North constituency in each year since 1997; [235447]

(2) how many people were unemployed in Enfield North constituency in each year since 1997. [235451]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated November 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people were employed in Enfield North constituency in each year since 1997, and how many people were unemployed in Enfield North constituency in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (235447, 235451)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of people aged 16+, resident in the Enfield North constituency, who were in (a) employment since 1997 and (b) unemployment since 1997. Estimates are provided for 12 month periods ending in February from 1997 to 2004 from the annual LFS and for 12 month periods ending in March from 2005 to 2008 from the APS.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

These figures along with a wide range of other labour market data for parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are also published on the Office for National Statistics' Nomis® website: www.nomisweb.co.uk.

*Table 1: Number of parsons employed and unemployed[1] resident in Enfield North*

*Thousand*

| | *Enfield North* | |
|---|---|---|
| *12 months ending* | *Employed* | *Unemployed* |
| February 1998 | 42 | 3 |
| February 1999 | 42 | 3 |
| February 2000 | 44 | 2 |
| February 2001 | 44 | 2 |
| February 2002 | 48 | 2 |
| February 2003 | 55 | 4 |
| February 2004 | 50 | 3 |
| March 2005 | 48 | 2 |
| March 2006 | 43 | 4 |
| March 2007 | 57 | 2 |
| March 2008[2] | ***55 | ****4 |

[1] Levels of employment and unemployment are provided for persons aged 18 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

*Guide to Quality*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

*Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness*

* $0 \leq CV < 5$ Estimates are considered precise

** $5 \leq CV < 10$ Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** $10 \leq CV < 20$ Estimates are considered acceptable

**** $CV \geq 20$ Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

*Source:*

Annual Population Survey and annual Labour Force Survey

### Foreign Workers

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 765-6W, on foreign workers, what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the number of foreign workers in employment in the UK who are living in communal establishments. [233180]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 4 November 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the number of foreign workers in employment in the UK living in communal establishments. (233180)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles its most timely employment statistics from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions. Statistics for the number of foreign workers in employment living in communal establishments are not available from the LFS.

An alternative estimate of the number of jobs, known as Workforce Jobs, is available from surveys of businesses. As part of the reconciliation between the two sources, ONS has estimated the total number of workers living in communal establishments as 80,000, based on a pilot survey carried out in 2000. In addition, the number of temporary foreign workers not covered by the LFS has been estimated as 170,000, based on ONS experimental short term migration estimates. An estimate of the number of foreign workers living in communal establishments is not explicitly made.

ONS is undertaking a programme of work to test the feasibility of a communal establishments' survey. Part of the work programme will establish the content of the survey. One requirement for the survey, if feasible, will be to estimate the number of people in employment living in communal establishments.

### Government Communications

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what progress has been made on appointing a new Permanent Secretary for Government Communication; and if he will make a statement. [229117]

**Mr. Byrne:** An announcement was made on 12 November 2008 on the appointment of Matt Tee as the new Permanent Secretary for Government Communications.

### Home Information Packs

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many home information packs have been commissioned by his Department or its representatives to market a residential property; for which properties; at what cost; and whether a voluntary home condition report was purchased as part of the packs. [235002]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Cabinet Office is not marketing any residential properties and has not commissioned any home information packs.

### Members: Correspondence

**John Howell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he plans to reply to the letter of 2 September 2008 from the hon. Member for Henley on a complaint made against a civil servant by a constituent, Mr Geoff Weir. [231745]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* On 30 October 2008 the Cabinet Secretary replied to the hon. Member for Henley's letter on behalf of his constituent, Mr. Geoff Weir, dated 2 September 2008.

### Minimum Wage: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people received no more than the national minimum wage in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in each year since its introduction. [235999]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Dennis Roberts, November 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people received no more than the national minimum wage in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in each year since its introduction. I am replying in her absence.

(235999)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid at the national minimum wage are not available from the Office for National Statistics. However, estimates for the number of all employee jobs paid below the national wage are available by Government Office Region. This is the lowest geographical breakdown published by ONS.

I attach a table showing the number of jobs earning less than the national minimum wage for London region for all employees in each year since 1998.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

*Number of employee jobs paid below the National Minimum Wage in London Region*

| | *Number of jobs (thousand)* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 60 |
| 1999 | 30 |
| 2000 | [1] |
| 2001 | [1] |
| 2002 | [1] |
| 2003 | [1] |
| 2004 | 20 |
| 2005 | 20 |
| 2006 | 21 |
| 2007 | 23 |

[1] Sample size too small for reliable estimate

*Source:*
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

## Minimum Wage: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people received the national minimum wage in Enfield North constituency in each year since its introduction. [235452]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated November 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people received the national minimum wage in Enfield North in each year since its introduction. I am replying in her absence. (235452)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid at the national minimum wage are not available from the Office for National Statistics. However, estimates for the number of all employee jobs paid below the national wage are available by Government Office Region. This is the lowest geographical breakdown published by ONS.

I attach a table showing the number of jobs earning less than the national minimum wage for London region for all employees in each year since 1998.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

*Number of employee jobs paid below the national minimum wage in London region*

| | *Number of jobs (thousand)* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 60 |
| 1999 | 30 |
| 2000 | [1] |
| 2001 | [1] |
| 2002 | [1] |
| 2003 | [1] |
| 2004 | 20 |
| 2005 | 20 |
| 2006 | 21 |
| 2007 | 23 |

[1] Sample size too small for reliable estimate.

*Source:*
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

## Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS, on special advisers, what expenditure the Government incurred in *(a)* pension contributions on behalf of and *(b)* severance payments to special advisers in 2007-08. [234021]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer the right hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS, which included £993,329 in severance payments to special advisers in line with the contractual provisions set out in the model contract for special advisers. It also included an estimate of £546,000 for pension contributions.

## Non-profit Making Associations

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many Government contracts have been awarded to social enterprises in each of the last three years, broken down by Department. [236225]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested is not held centrally. Businesses that are awarded contracts by the Government are not currently required to state whether they are social enterprises and no detailed central record of contracts awarded is held.

## Productivity

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the productivity levels per worker were in each of the last 17 years. [234496]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what the productivity levels per worker in the UK economy was in each of the last 17 years. (234496)

The Office for National Statistics compiles quarterly productivity statistics for the UK. Output per worker is the ratio of Gross Value Added (GVA) at basic prices and Labour Force Survey (LFS) total employment.

Table 1 provides estimates of the index value with 2003 = 100 of Output per Worker for the United Kingdom for the years 1991 to 2007.

*Table 1*

| | *Output per worker index value* |
|---|---|
| 1991 | 77 |
| 1992 | 79 |
| 1993 | 82 |
| 1994 | 85 |
| 1995 | 86 |

*Table 1*

| | *Output per worker index value* |
|---|---|
| 1996 | 87 |
| 1997 | 89 |
| 1998 | 91 |
| 1999 | 93 |
| 2000 | 96 |
| 2001 | 97 |
| 2002 | 98 |
| 2003 | 100 |
| 2004 | 102 |
| 2005 | 103 |
| 2006 | 105 |
| 2007 | 107 |

## Public Bodies

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what criteria the Office for National Statistics uses to decide whether a publicly funded body may be classified as a private sector organisation. [233370]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what criteria the Office for National Statistics uses to decide whether a publicly-funded body may be classified as a private sector organisation (233370).

ONS produces the United Kingdom's National Accounts. The National Accounts are an internationally comparable accounting framework that describes the activities in a national economy, including the transactions that take place between sectors of that economy. The relevant international manuals are the System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA93) and the European System of Accounts 1995 (ESA95) in particular.

As part of the process of producing the National Accounts, ONS decides on the classification of institutions and transactions within the economy. This well-established process is set out in Annex A of the National Statistics Protocol on Statistical Integration and Classification available at: http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/ns-standard/cop/protocols/index.html.

Paragraphs 19-24 of the protocol annex provide a brief description of the classification criteria used when classifying an institution to the public or private sector. The paragraphs are reproduced below for ease. 'NACC' in paragraph 22 refers to the National Accounts Classification Committee, which is described in detail within the protocol.

Classification criteria: the basic approach to classification

19. Each classification decision is taken on its own merits and in line with international statistical guidance. Cases of public interest tend to be one of two types:

i. whether an entity, an organisation or financing vehicle for example, is in the private or public sector;

ii. whether government receipts are a charge for a service or a tax

i. Classification of an entity to the public or private sector

20. The guidance is extensive but two main stages can be identified when classifying an entity to an institutional sector. The first involves a decision on whether the entity is within the public or private sectors, and the second a decision on whether it is a market or non-market producer.

21. In summary the difference between the public and private sectors is determined by where control lies, rather than by ownership or whether or not the entity is publicly financed. International guidance defines control as the ability to determine general corporate policy. For example, this control can be exercised through the appointment of directors, control of over half of the shareholders voting power, through special legislation or decree, or through regulation.

22. As a result NACC will examine an entity to see whether there are any factors that enable any part of the public sector, either individually or collectively, to determine the general corporate policy of the entity. This includes recognition that government, or other sectors, may also control a unit through contractual arrangements. If this control is established the entity is classified to the public sector.

23. Having decided whether an entity is part of the public or private sectors, the second important aspect for sector classification is to determine whether it is a market or non-market entity. Public sector market entities are classified as public corporations (for example Royal Mail and Manchester Airport Group); public sector non-market entities are classified in the general government sector (for example government departments and the BBC). General government is then sub-divided into sub-sectors, including central government, state government and local government. Private sector market entities are classified as private corporations, and private sector non-market entities are generally classified to a sector known as Non Profit Institutions Serving Households.

24. The borderline between market and non-market classification is defined in the international guidance by whether more than fifty per cent of the production costs are covered by sales of goods and services.

## Deprivation Indicators

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the lower super output areas are with the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest rankings on the living environment domain for the multiple index of deprivation in each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales; [234944]

(2) what the lower super output areas are with the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest average income level for each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales; [234941]

(3) what the lower super output areas are with the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest employment levels in each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales. [234942]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

The following tables list the codes for the least and most deprived lower super output areas in the principal seaside towns in England, on the overall measure of multiple deprivation and across the seven domains of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007. Information on deprivation in Welsh towns can be obtained from the Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Directorate.

| | | *IMD* | | *Income* | | *Employment* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Town* | *LA name* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* |
| Blackpool | Blackpool | E01012721 | E01012718 | E01012721 | E01012717 | E01012721 | E01012717 |
| Bognor Regis | Arun | E01031456 | E01031383 | E01031429 | E01031412 | E01031456 | E01031392 |

| Town | LA name | IMD | | Income | | Employment | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA |
| Bournemouth | Bournemouth | E01015282 | E01015315 | E01015282 | E01015319 | E01015282 | E01015319 |
| Bridlington | East Riding of Yorkshire | E01012948 | E01013093 | E01012946 | E01013088 | E01012944 | E01013012 |
| Brighton | Brighton and Hove | E01016947 | E01016984 | E01016865 | E01016984 | E01016942 | E01016899 |
| Burnham-on-Sea | Sedgemoor | E01029106 | E01029104 | E01029106 | E01029128 | E01029112 | E01029128 |
| Clacton | Tendring | E01021988 | E01022005 | E01021988 | E01022013 | E01021988 | E01022013 |
| Dawlish/Teignmouth | Teignbridge | E01020272 | E01020239 | E01020272 | E01020242 | E01020228 | E01020242 |
| Deal | Dover | E01024240 | E01024233 | E01024240 | E01024233 | E01024199 | E01024238 |
| Eastbourne | Eastbourne | E01020912 | E01020933 | E01020923 | E01020946 | E01020911 | E01020933 |
| Exmouth | East Devon | E01019914 | E01019931 | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019914 | E01019964 |
| Falmouth | Carrick | E01018841 | E01018848 | E01018841 | E01018816 | E01018841 | E01018827 |
| Folkestone/Hythe | Shepway | E01024504 | E01024523 | E01024507 | E01024523 | E01024506 | E01024519 |
| Great Yarmouth | Great Yarmouth | E01026625 | E01026587 | E01026625 | E01026587 | E01026625 | E01026587 |
| Hastings/Bexhill | Hastings | E01020972 | E01020970 | E01020972 | E01020970 | E01020972 | E01020987 |
| Ilfracombe | North Devon | E01020112 | E01020090 | E01020103 | E01020133 | E01020112 | E01020133 |
| Isle of Wight | Isle of Wight | E01017332 | E01017352 | E01017345 | E01017293 | E01017336 | E01017302 |
| Lowestoft | Waveney | E01030258 | E01030284 | E01030258 | E01030288 | E01030258 | E01030292 |
| Minehead | West Somerset | E01029344 | E01029331 | E01029344 | E01029342 | E01029344 | E01029338 |
| Morecambe/Heysham | Lancaster | E01025110 | E01025146 | E01025156 | E01025105 | E01025110 | E01025105 |
| Newquay | Restormel | E01019056 | E01019017 | E01019056 | E01019017 | E01019033 | E01019016 |
| Penzance | Penwith | E01018997 | E01018985 | E01018997 | E01019011 | E01018997 | E01019011 |
| Scarborough | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027844 | E01027874 | E01027855 | E01027847 | E01027857 |
| Sidmouth | East Devon | E01019914 | E01019931 | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019914 | E01019964 |
| Skegness | East Lindsey | E01026093 | E01026063 | E01026083 | E01026063 | E01026093 | E01026061 |
| Southend-on-Sea | Southend-on-Sea | E01015842 | E01015908 | E01015842 | E01015916 | E01015842 | E01015830 |
| Southport | Sefton | E01007007 | E01006985 | E01007007 | E01006991 | E01007007 | E01006985 |
| St. Ives | East Dorset | E01020393 | E01020377 | E01020393 | E01020377 | E01020394 | E01020409 |
| St. Ives | Penwith | E01018997 | E01018985 | E01018997 | E01019011 | E01018997 | E01019011 |
| Swanage | Purbeck | E01020489 | E01020470 | E01020472 | E01020470 | E01020485 | E01020470 |
| Thanet | Thanet | E01024678 | E01024708 | E01024678 | E01024650 | E01024678 | E01024689 |
| Torbay | Torbay | E01015217 | E01015208 | E01015257 | E01015208 | E01015217 | E01015251 |
| Weston-super-Mare | North Somerset | E01014831 | E01014798 | E01014831 | E01014793 | E01014801 | E01014791 |
| Weymouth | Weymouth and Portland | E01020554 | E01020558 | E01020552 | E01020559 | E01020554 | E01020558 |
| Whitby | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027844 | E01027874 | E01027855 | E01027847 | E01027857 |
| Whitley Bay | North Tyneside | E01008485 | E01008523 | E01008485 | E01008563 | E01008485 | E01008548 |
| Whitstable/Herne Bay | Canterbury | E01024080 | E01024056 | E01024061 | E01024051 | E01024080 | E01024051 |
| Worthing | Worthing | E01031819 | E01031824 | E01031819 | E01031824 | E01031811 | E01031824 |

| Town | LA name | Health & Disability | | Education, Skills & Training | | Barriers to Housing & Services | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA |
| Blackpool | Blackpool | E01012721 | E01012718 | E01012720 | E01012722 | E01012704 | E01012725 |
| Bognor Regis | Arun | E01031456 | E01031389 | E01031429 | E01031416 | E01031392 | E01031464 |
| Bournemouth | Bournemouth | E01015282 | E01015319 | E01015313 | E01015344 | E01015370 | E01015335 |
| Bridlington | East Riding of Yorkshire | E01012948 | E01013088 | E01013002 | E01013070 | E01012981 | E01012999 |
| Brighton | Brighton and Hove | E01016942 | E01016983 | E01016915 | E01017001 | E01016899 | E01016961 |
| Burnham-on-Sea | Sedgemoor | E01029132 | E01029128 | E01029106 | E01029147 | E01029147 | E01029127 |
| Clacton | Tendring | E01022025 | E01021978 | E01021988 | E01021987 | E01021974 | E01022035 |
| Dawlish/Teignmouth | Teignbridge | E01020228 | E01020194 | E01020212 | E01020274 | E01020259 | E01020265 |
| Deal | Dover | E01024215 | E01024233 | E01024240 | E01024211 | E01024249 | E01024221 |
| Eastbourne | Eastbourne | E01020920 | E01020960 | E01020923 | E01020946 | E01020958 | E01020939 |
| Exmouth | East Devon | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019938 | E01019948 |
| Falmouth | Carrick | E01018841 | E01018816 | E01018841 | E01018816 | E01018850 | E01018848 |
| Folkestone/Hythe | Shepway | E01024506 | E01024490 | E01024498 | E01024523 | E01024549 | E01024512 |
| Great Yarmouth | Great Yarmouth | E01026625 | E01026587 | E01026619 | E01026611 | E01026609 | E01026639 |
| Hastings/Bexhill | Hastings | E01020989 | E01020970 | E01020972 | E01020970 | E01020970 | E01021013 |
| Ilfracombe | North Devon | E01020112 | E01020127 | E01020103 | E01020128 | E01020100 | E01020105 |
| Isle of Wight | Isle of Wight | E01017336 | E01017351 | E01017332 | E01017316 | E01017297 | E01017344 |
| Lowestoft | Waveney | E01030258 | E01030237 | E01030277 | E01030224 | E01030285 | E01030288 |
| Minehead | West Somerset | E01029344 | E01029338 | E01029344 | E01029335 | E01029338 | E01029332 |
| Morecambe/Heysham | Lancaster | E01025110 | E01025105 | E01025156 | E01025103 | E01025132 | E01025098 |

| Town | LA name | Health & Disability: Most deprived LSOA | Health & Disability: Least deprived LSOA | Education, Skills & Training: Most deprived LSOA | Education, Skills & Training: Least deprived LSOA | Barriers to Housing & Services: Most deprived LSOA | Barriers to Housing & Services: Least deprived LSOA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Newquay | Restormel | E01019041 | E01019017 | E01019055 | E01019017 | E01019060 | E01019072 |
| Penzance | Penwith | E01018997 | E01018985 | E01018997 | E01019011 | E01019006 | E01018993 |
| Scarborough | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027814 | E01027874 | E01027855 | E01027857 | E01027871 |
| Sidmouth | East Devon | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019938 | E01019948 |
| Skegness | East Lindsey | E01026073 | E01026098 | E01026083 | E01026119 | E01026082 | E01026054 |
| Southend-on-Sea | Southend-on-Sea | E01015842 | E01015908 | E01015842 | E01015908 | E01015827 | E01015910 |
| Southport | Sefton | E01007009 | E01006985 | E01007019 | E01006974 | E01007038 | E01007102 |
| St. Ives | East Dorset | E01020393 | E01020415 | E01020393 | E01020380 | E01020396 | E01020426 |
| St. Ives | Penwith | E01018997 | E01018985 | E01018997 | E01019011 | E01019006 | E01018993 |
| Swanage | Purbeck | E01020485 | E01020470 | E01020471 | E01020470 | E01020490 | E01020492 |
| Thanet | Thanet | E01024676 | E01024635 | E01024682 | E01024642 | E01024703 | E01024655 |
| Torbay | Torbay | E01015217 | E01015208 | E01015266 | E01015271 | E01015190 | E01015211 |
| Weston-super-Mare | North Somerset | E01014832 | E01014850 | E01014831 | E01014766 | E01014766 | E01014816 |
| Weymouth | Weymouth and Portland | E01020554 | E01020560 | E01020552 | E01020558 | E01020569 | E01020588 |
| Whitby | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027814 | E01027874 | E01027855 | E01027857 | E01027871 |
| Whitley Bay | North Tyneside | E01008545 | E01008546 | E01008484 | E01008563 | E01008480 | E01008546 |
| Whitstable/Herne Bay | Canterbury | E01024092 | E01024056 | E01024047 | E01024131 | E01024054 | E01024115 |
| Worthing | Worthing | E01031790 | E01031824 | E01031819 | E01031803 | E01031832 | E01031797 |

| Town | LA name | Crime & Disorder: Most deprived LSOA | Crime & Disorder: Least deprived LSOA | Living Environment: Most deprived LSOA | Living Environment: Least deprived LSOA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Blackpool | Blackpool | E01012736 | E01012662 | E01012673 | E01012722 |
| Bognor Regis | Arun | E01031454 | E01031458 | E01031427 | E01031383 |
| Bournemouth | Bournemouth | E01015367 | E01015315 | E01015279 | E01015315 |
| Bridlington | East Riding of Yorkshire | E01013000 | E01013122 | E01012948 | E01012939 |
| Brighton | Brighton and Hove | E01016952 | E01016998 | E01016952 | E01017008 |
| Burnham-on-Sea | Sedgemoor | E01029098 | E01029103 | E01029095 | E01029115 |
| Clacton | Tendring | E01021988 | E01022012 | E01021988 | E01022004 |
| Dawlish/Teignmouth | Teignbridge | E01020269 | E01020193 | E01020224 | E01020215 |
| Deal | Dover | E01024241 | E01024213 | E01024215 | E01024256 |
| Eastbourne | Eastbourne | E01020912 | E01020948 | E01020912 | E01020926 |
| Exmouth | East Devon | E01019918 | E01019897 | E01019916 | E01019905 |
| Falmouth | Carrick | E01018809 | E01018827 | E01018836 | E01018813 |
| Folkestone/Hythe | Shepway | E01024504 | E01024536 | E01024504 | E01024542 |
| Great Yarmouth | Great Yarmouth | E01026626 | E01026629 | E01026626 | E01026582 |
| Hastings/Bexhill | Hastings | E01020979 | E01020971 | E01020984 | E01020995 |
| Ilfracombe | North Devon | E01020113 | E01020107 | E01020112 | E01020085 |
| Isle of Wight | Isle of Wight | E01017336 | E01017298 | E01017340 | E01017352 |
| Lowestoft | Waveney | E01030258 | E01030245 | E01030250 | E01030239 |
| Minehead | West Somerset | E01029330 | E01029327 | E01029338 | E01029331 |
| Morecambe/Heysham | Lancaster | E01025139 | E01025160 | E01025117 | E01025158 |
| Newquay | Restormel | E01019029 | E01019045 | E01019056 | E01019018 |
| Penzance | Penwith | E01018999 | E01018975 | E01019012 | E01018983 |
| Scarborough | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027834 | E01027804 | E01027855 |
| Sidmouth | East Devon | E01019918 | E01019897 | E01019916 | E01019905 |
| Skegness | East Lindsey | E01026069 | E01026098 | E01026093 | E01026085 |
| Southend-on-Sea | Southend-on-Sea | E01015841 | E01015866 | E01015852 | E01015885 |
| Southport | Sefton | E01007051 | E01007093 | E01007003 | E01006991 |
| St. Ives | East Dorset | E01020392 | E01020378 | E01020396 | E01020374 |
| St. Ives | Penwith | E01018999 | E01018975 | E01019012 | E01018983 |
| Swanage | Purbeck | E01020472 | E01020491 | E01020490 | E01020470 |
| Thanet | Thanet | E01024676 | E01024644 | E01024676 | E01024637 |
| Torbay | Torbay | E01015267 | E01015251 | E01015231 | E01015226 |
| Weston-super-Mare | North Somerset | E01014801 | E01014793 | E01014802 | E01014793 |
| Weymouth | Weymouth and Portland | E01020554 | E01020559 | E01020554 | E01020560 |
| Whitby | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027834 | E01027804 | E01027855 |
| Whitley Bay | North Tyneside | E01008584 | E01008518 | E01008572 | E01008551 |
| Whitstable/Herne Bay | Canterbury | E01024080 | E01024054 | E01024080 | E01024056 |
| Worthing | Worthing | E01031787 | E01031804 | E01031810 | E01031820 |

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 18 November 2008*

## WALES

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many external consultants work for his Department. [237144]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** None.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much surplus land his Department owns; and what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated monetary value of each site is. [236424]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** None.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237497]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** None.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Portcullis House: Repairs and Maintenance

**Michael Fabricant:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission on what percentage of sitting days in the last 12 months have *(a)* one and *(b)* both water features in the Portcullis House Atrium been out of operation; for what reason the water features have not been in operation; what steps have been taken to restore them to working order; and if he will make a statement. [235313]

**Nick Harvey:** Both Portcullis House Atrium water features were out of service for one sitting day during the last 12 months on 10 November 2008, which represents 0.67 per cent. of sitting days. The water features were decommissioned for routine maintenance and repairs over the weekend of 8 and 9 November and the contractor failed to recommission them at the prescribed time, prior to the start of business on 10 November.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many Questions for written answer were tabled to him in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235384]

**Ann McKechin:** Details are as follows:

| *Session* | *Number of written PQs tabled* | *Number not fully answered on grounds of disproportionate cost* | *Number answered half factually and half at disproportionate cost* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 128 | 1 | 0 |
| 2003-04 | 121 | 0 | 2 |
| 2004-05 | 120 | 0 | 3 |
| 2005-06 | 185 | 1 | 2 |
| 2006-07 | 258 | 1 | 1 |
| 2007-08[1] | 381 | 0 | 2 |

[1] Until 31 October 2008

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Committees

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Leader of the House what estimate she has made of the annual cost of the proposed *(a)* regional Select Committees and *(b)* regional Grand Committees, including remuneration for Committee Chairs. [236179]

**Chris Bryant:** The House of Commons Management Board has produced estimated costs of regional select committees, which were distributed in the Vote Office in advance of the debate in the House on 12 November, as an Explanatory Memorandum relating to the Government's motions.

The House decided on 12 November that there should be no pay for regional Select Committee Chairs.

The estimated costs, excluding pay for Select Committee Chairmen, are as follows:

*(a)* select committees: £924,348

*(b)* grand committees: £312,080

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Leader of the House how many Questions for written answer were tabled to her and her predecessors in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235388]

**Chris Bryant:** The information is as follows:

| *Session* | *Total number of questions answered* | *Number of questions where whole or part of the answer could not be provided due to disproportionate cost* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 146 | 8 |
| 2003-04 | 106 | 3 |
| 2004-05 | 53 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 261 | 3 |
| 2006-07 | 205 | 9 |
| 2007-08 (to date) | 228 | 11 |

### Early-Day Motions

**David Taylor:** To ask the Leader of the House what recent assessment she has made of the methods by which hon. Members may add their names to early-day motions. [235325]

**Chris Bryant:** Hon. Members may add their names to an early-day motion by signing a copy of the motion or a piece of paper with the EDM number; by asking another hon. Member to sign on their behalf; or by asking in person in the Table Office for their name to be added.

The Procedure Committee recommended in May 2007 that there should be no move towards the electronic tabling of early-day motions without significantly stronger authentication than is currently required for parliamentary questions (First Report of 2006-07, HC 513, paragraphs 93 to 96).

The House endorsed this approach in its debate on the Committee's Report on 25 October 2007.

The Procedure Committee is currently considering the issue of authentication as part of its inquiry into written questions.

### Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Leader of the House if she will bring forward proposals to allow hon. Members to table no more than one Question for oral Answer to each Department which answers substantive and topical Questions in respect of each answering day. [236847]

**Chris Bryant:** I have no current plans to do so but I will keep the operation of topical questions under review.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts Council England: Employment Agencies

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England spent on recruitment consultants in each of the last five years; and which companies provided these services. [231370]

**Barbara Follett:** Arts Council England has provided the information in the table for spend on recruitment consultants.

*Cost of recruitment consultants*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 141,381 |
| 2004-05 | 108,366 |
| 2005-06 | 77,669 |
| 2006-07 | 189,733 |
| 2007-08 | 190,027 |
| Total | 707,176 |

The recruitment consultants used by Arts Council England were: Adept Recruitment, AEM International, Accountancy Addit, Advantage Placement, Anderson Leigh Associates, Ann Pettengell Gold Helm Ltd, Baskenoch and Clark, Barkers Human Resources, Brand Recruitment Ltd, Buckley Prichard International Ltd, Capita Resourcing Ltd, Crystal UK Ltd, Eden Brown, Eventus Ltd, Facilities Recruitment Limited, Hays, HR Resourcing, Hudson Global Resources, Huntress Search Ltd, International Resources Group, JR Personnel, Key Personnel, Law Absolute, Macmillan Davies, Michael Page UK, Northern Recruitment Group PLC, Office Angels Ltd, Pan European Recruitment, Payroll Partnerships, Pure Resourcing Solutions, Robert Half Ltd, Roberts Knight SE, Select Appointments plc, Solutions Recruitment, Spherion UK, Synergy, Tate Appointments, The ID Group Ltd, The Principle Partnership, TFPL, Volt Europe.

### Departmental Internet

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for which Government websites his Department are responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [235041]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* Visitor figures for the period 2007-08 were supplied in my answer to the hon. Member for North East Hertfordshire the (Mr. Heald) on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 8-10W. Visitor figures for Breakout site are counted in the Culture (main departmental) website figures.

*(b)* Maintenance costs for DCMS websites are covered under one contract. In 2007-08 this figure was £8,741, in addition £4,800 was spent on editorial costs for the Breakout minisite.

### English Heritage: Planning

**Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which planning applications for renewable energy projects English Heritage have objected to in the last five years. [234843]

**Barbara Follett:** English Heritage has a statutory role in the planning process to provide advice to local authorities on planning applications that impact on the historic environment. English Heritage is consulted on approximately 16,000 planning cases a year. Since May 2004, English Heritage estimates it has been consulted on approximately 100 renewable energy projects and has raised concerns about just over 20 of these. Figures prior to this period are available only at disproportionate cost. The projects are set out in the following table.

| *Region* | *Formal applications consulted on* | *Number for which concerns raised* | *Project* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yorkshire | 41 | 5 | Ivy House, Rectory Road, Rowe, East Riding |
| | | | Hall Farm, Routh, East Riding |
| | | | Chelker Reservoir, Craven, North Yorks |
| | | | Brightenber Hill, Skipton, Craven, North Yorks |
| | | | Grange Wind Farm, Flixborough Grange, North Lincs |

| Region | Formal applications consulted on | Number for which concerns raised | Project |
|---|---|---|---|
| North West | 4 | 2 | Brownrigg Hall, Allonby, Allerdale, Cumbria |
| | | | Howes Farm, Skelton, Cumbria |
| North East | 11 | 4 | Green Rigg Fell, Ray Farm and Steadings, Tyneside (originally a single application but effectively became three interlinking schemes) |
| | | | Kiln Pit Hill, Tyneside |
| East Midlands | 8 | 3 | Thackson's Well Wind Farm, Long Bennington, South Kesteven, Lincs |
| | | | Ellands Farm, Barnwell Road, Hemington, East Northants |
| | | | Swinford Farm, Stanford, Leics |
| West Midlands | 3 | 1 | Lower Farm, Bearstone, Market Drayton, Shrops |
| South East | 6 | 2 | North Downs Wind Farm, Langdon, Dover |
| | | | Gas Pressure Reducing Station, Juggs Road, Kingston Near Lewes, East Sussex |
| East of England | 15 | 3 | Bradwell Wind Farm |
| | | | Hemsby, Yarmouth |
| | | | Nr Toseland Hall, Cambs |
| South West | 13 | 2 | Batsworthy Cross, Knowstone, North Devon |
| | | | Morwenstow, North Cornwall |
| London | 0 | 0 | |
| Total | 101 | 22 | |

**Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the policy is of English Heritage on planning applications for renewable energy projects. [234844]

**Barbara Follett:** English Heritage has a statutory role in the planning process to provide advice to local authorities on planning applications that impact on the historic environment. Within that context, English Heritage is supportive of renewable energy projects. It has been successfully encouraging pre-application discussion for all development proposals, including for renewable energy schemes, with the aim of ensuring that by the time a formal application is submitted, it takes full account of the historic environment and is therefore more likely to be successful.

## Public Libraries

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public libraries have opened in the last 10 years. [233046]

**Barbara Follett:** Information on the number of public library openings is not held centrally. But the data on the number of libraries open more than 10 hours is collected as part of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), Public Library Statistics. Therefore, the only way to obtain an accurate figure for the balance between library openings and closures is to consider the CIPFA statistics over this period, copies of which are available in the House Library.

In 1996-97, 3,572 libraries were open more than 10 hours. In 2006-07, 3,494 libraries were open more than 10 hours, a net difference of 78.

## Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236891]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** There have been no complaints of racial abuse relating to DCMS staff in the last 12 months.

## Television: Licensing

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many pensioners in Enfield North constituency received a free television licence in each year since the introduction of the scheme. [235412]

**Andy Burnham:** TV Licensing, which administers free television licences for people aged 75 or over as agents for the BBC, is not able to provide geographical breakdowns of the number of free licences issued.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what powers the Television Licensing Authority has to instruct bailiffs to collect unpaid television licence fees. [236181]

**Andy Burnham:** The Television Licensing Authority does not have powers to instruct bailiffs to collect unpaid television licence fees.

## OLYMPICS

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 635W, on departmental buildings, what the cost of this refurbishment was. [233880]

**Tessa Jowell:** The rooms in 26 Whitehall were redecorated as part of the redecoration programme covering the whole of the building (26 Whitehall). Further additional costs specifically relating to the relocation into the building by the Office of the Minister for the Olympics were incurred to a value of £8,485 plus VAT.

Since then, my office has moved to co-locate with officials from the Government Olympic Executive in 2-4 Cockspur street to enable more integrated and efficient work. Here a new office was constructed and furnished between July and September 2008, at a cost of £40,625 plus VAT. These costs cover both my own ministerial office and that occupied by my private office.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 30 September 2008 regarding a constituent. [234487]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* A letter of response has been sent to the hon. Member for Walsall, North today.

### Olympic Games 2012: Caravan Sites

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) what steps she *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to provide stop-overs for caravans on (i) the M20 and (ii) other routes from Channel ports to the Olympic venues; what recent representations she has received on this issue; and if she will make a statement; [235489]

(2) what steps she *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to provide campsites to cater for caravans, motor caravans and trailer tents for persons attending the Olympic Games in 2012; what recent representations she has received on this issue; and if she will make a statement; [235490]

(3) what recent discussions she has had with the Caravan Club about the provision of caravan sites for those attending the Olympic Games in 2012; and if she will make a statement; [235491]

(4) what discussions she has had since January 2008 with *(a)* the Mayor of London and *(b)* Transport for London on the provision of caravan sites for those attending the Olympic Games in 2012; and if she will make a statement. [235688]

**Tessa Jowell:** Along with the Greater London Authority, Transport for London and others the Government will be considering visitor plans as host city for the games.

We recognise that motor home and caravan users may wish to visit the UK for the 2012 games. The Olympic Delivery Authority has had initial discussions with the Caravan Club about existing and possible caravan sites with a view to considering how the provision of public transport and licensed sites can be integrated for 2012.

### Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics which contractors have won landscaping contracts for the London 2012 Olympics; in which *(a)* country and *(b)* county each is based; and what proportion of landscaping work on the site has been awarded to each. [235921]

**Tessa Jowell:** The landscaping management contract for the north of the Olympic Park has been awarded to BAM Nuttall Ltd., a UK-based company with offices in Surrey.

The contract covers approximately 42 hectares of hard and soft landscaping works on the Olympic Park. It is worth noting that this award provides for the Tier 1 management function only; the tier 2 works packages are yet to be let by BAM Nuttall and will offer the landscape industry further London 2012 opportunities.

The landscaping contract for the south of the Olympic Park is due to be awarded in 2009.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what *(a)* environmental and *(b)* other criteria were considered in deciding on the bids for landscaping contracts for the London 2012 Olympics. [235922]

**Tessa Jowell:** The North Park has been evaluated to date and environmental considerations taken into account in the selection of BAM Nuttall Ltd. as contractor for management of delivery the North Park.

The evaluation criteria used to award that contact fall under two main headings of Commercial and Technical. Under these two headings, the Technical evaluation is further broken down to consider Quality and Functionality, Experience and Capability and Project Delivery whilst the Commercial evaluation is further broken down to consider Price and acceptance of Contractual Terms.

Tier 2 works packages are yet to be let by BAM Nuttall and will be evaluated under ODA criteria for inclusion, equality and diversity, environment, and sustainability.

### Olympic Games 2012: Finance

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what outstanding requests from the Olympics Delivery Authority for resources from contingency funding are under consideration; and if she will make a statement. [229333]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* The next London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Report will be produced in January and will include fully updated financial information, including the outcomes of agreed contingency requests. Thereafter, we will publish a quarterly financial update which will include any changes to published budgets.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 690W, on Olympic Games: finance, how much is to be given to each Home Country Sports Council; and to what types of projects the money will be allocated. [232277]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Home Country Sports Councils' contribution of £290 million to elite and community sport as part of the overall Olympic budget is from their existing national lottery resources.

It is for the Home Country Sports Councils to determine how this money is spent on support for elite athletes and coaches, facilities for elite and community use, and community sport programmes. Sport England, for example, have provided funding for the Lee Valley Athletics Centre, which is used by the local community and elite athletes, contributing to our world class performance goals as well as to the legacy goal of getting 2 million people more active by 2012, including 1 million through sport.

### Performance Appraisal

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many staff for whom she is responsible did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235215]

**Tessa Jowell:** None.

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which her Office is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236903]

**Tessa Jowell:** There have been no complaints of racial abuse investigated or upheld in relation to any of my staff in the last 12 months.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Older Workers

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people over the age of *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 were recruited to his Department in the last 12 months; and what percentage of all recruits this represented in each case. [234256]

**Paul Goggins:** Of the 58 people recruited to the Northern Ireland Office in the last 12 months, one (1.7 per cent.) has been aged between 55 and 60 years of age. None has been over the age of 60.

Until recently, age requirements for appointment to the Civil Service were that appointees should have reached the age of 16 on or before 1 July prior to the date of appointment, and be less than 65 years of age at the date of appointment. This policy has recently been reviewed and, with effect from 1 September 2008, there is no longer an upper age limit for appointees.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of hours of work lost through sickness absence on the part of staff working in his Department in the last 12 months. [234258]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office records sickness absence in days and not in hours; the estimated figure relating to working days lost by NIO staff for the 12 month period from 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 is 15,287.57 days.

### Drugs: Crime

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of measures to combat drug-related crime in Northern Ireland. [233492]

**Paul Goggins:** Drug misuse in Northern Ireland, which has a lower incidence of Class A drug use than elsewhere in the UK, is falling. However, Government take the harm caused by drugs very seriously and will continue to prioritise the targeting of criminal gangs involved in the supply of illegal drugs.

The PSNI is committed to building on recent successes in disrupting the supply of drugs in Northern Ireland with an increased number of significant arrests and seizures. During 2007-08 the PSNI were responsible for frustrating, disrupting and dismantling 58 crime gangs involved in importing drugs into Northern Ireland and supplying them onto the streets. The PSNI and NIO work in partnership with devolved Departments, agencies and community and voluntary organisations to tackle alcohol and drug misuse, as part of the DHSSPS 'New Strategic Direction for Dugs and Alcohol'.

Tackling the supply and sale of illegal drugs in Northern Ireland is a key priority for the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF). OCTF partners work closely together with their counterparts in the rest of the UK and the Republic of Ireland to tackle the scourge of drugs. Government's focus is on closing down the supply chain and stopping drugs reaching our streets.

Since the beginning of 2008 the PSNI have uncovered 77 cannabis factories; as a result of these operations, drugs to the value of £15.5 million have been seized and 72 people charged.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* First Minister and *(b)* Deputy First Minister on Northern Ireland's contribution to the 2012 Olympics. [234296]

**Mr. Woodward:** I have had had no recent discussions with the First and Deputy First Ministers on this matter.

### Plain English

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on Plain English Campaign training courses in each year since 2005. [231234]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office has not commissioned or delivered Plain English Campaign courses from 2005 to date.

### Saville Inquiry

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Saville Inquiry has cost to date; and how much it is expected to cost. [234177]

**Mr. Woodward:** I am advised that the cost of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry is £184.9 million up to the end of October 2008. The Inquiry's most recent estimate of the final cost is £191 million. The Inquiry is working with the Northern Ireland Office to introduce additional measures controlling future costs as a matter of urgency. If this estimate alters, I undertake to notify the House.

## TRANSPORT

### Airports: Construction

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's planned spend on matters related to the expansion of Heathrow and Stansted airports is in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [234800]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The 2003 Future of Air Transport White Paper made clear that the Government would not fund airport development. That would be the responsibility of the airport operator. However, we are committed to the delivery of the policies in the White Paper and for 2008-09 our non-staff costs for Heathrow and Stansted expansion related work is budgeted at £1.5 million. This includes provision for follow-up work to the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation exercise and preparation for the Department's potential involvement in the Stansted second runway planning inquiry.

Resources for subsequent years are currently the subject of internal business planning which will take account of the latest position on developments with both airports.

### Aviation

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what [illegible]rage number of passengers on internal flights [illegible]n Great Britain in the last period for which figures are available is, expressed *(a)* in passenger numbers and *(b)* as a percentage of passenger-carrying capacity; [234340]

(2) how many internal flights within Great Britain there were in 2007; and what estimate he has made of the overall number of passengers who travelled on such flights. [234341]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** In 2007, there were 293,000 passenger flights departing airports in Great Britain to fly to another airport in Great Britain. These flights carried 17.2 million passengers. This equates to an average of 59 passengers per flight, equivalent to 64 per cent. of estimated seat capacity.

### Aviation: Certification

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many type approval certificates for aircraft were issued by the Civil Aviation Authority in each of the last three years; [236845]

(2) what the average time taken for the Civil Aviation Authority to give type approval for usage to an aircraft has been in the last three years. [236846]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Under EC Regulation 216/2008 the type certification of the majority of aircraft manufactured or registered in EU member states is the responsibility of the European Aviation Safety Agency. This has been the position since 2003 when the agency came into being. However, certain aircraft types listed in Annex II to the regulation are not covered by the agency's remit. The aviation authority of the member state in which any such aircraft is registered remains responsible for its type certification or, in the case of aircraft not eligible for a type certificate, the approval of a permit to fly.

The CAA has not issued any type certificates for aircraft covered by Annex II to Regulation 216/2008 in the last three years. However, the CAA has issued seven type approvals for a permit to fly in that time. The time taken to process applications for such type approvals is very much dependent on the quality of information provided by the applicant. For CAA type approvals involving a UK manufacturer, past experience shows that the average time taken for the approval process is approximately nine months.

### British Railways Board (Residuary): Finance

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department provided to the British Railways Residuary Board in 2008-09. [234897]

**Paul Clark:** As at 11 November 2008, British Railways Residuary Board Ltd. has required no funding from the Department for Transport in this financial year.

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which local authorities offer free bus travel before 9.30 am to pensioners. [234996]

**Paul Clark:** A list of the 186 authorities in England that offered free travel before 9.30 am as at 30 June 2008 has been placed in the House Library.

Concessionary travel schemes in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are the responsibility of the devolved administrations.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with local authorities on the provision of central Government funding to local authorities for free bus travel for pensioners. [236274]

**Paul Clark:** Written representations have been received from a number of local authorities but to date there have been no direct meetings. Officials have met with several local authorities, and representatives from local government are present at our regular stakeholder working groups, where funding is a regular subject for discussion.

The Government remain confident that the total funding package of approximately £1 billion funding for statutory concessionary travel is sufficient, in total, to meet the cost to local authorities.

### Congestion Performance Reward Fund

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the criteria are for making awards from the Congestion Performance Reward Fund. [234899]

**Paul Clark:** The Congestion Performance Fund was established to incentivise the 10 largest urban areas in England to outperform their local congestion targets.

Reward funding is available from the fund, up to a total of £60 million over four years. The first set of payments, totalling £5 million, were made in 2007-08, reflecting the fact that areas had produced delivery plans giving confidence that their targets would be met or exceeded.

The first set of performance-related payments was announced in 2008-09 to areas that statistically significantly exceeded their expected performance, based on 2006-07 journey time data. Areas that did not exceed their target trajectory were eligible for a reduced payment if they could demonstrate that they were actively delivering the programme of work set out in their delivery plans.

Future payments from the fund will reflect the extent to which an area's performance data show that they are on track to do better than their local target.

### Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority: Telephone Numbering

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority has considered changing its 084 telephone numbers for the public to 03 numbers; and if he will make a statement. [236166]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has never provided public services that are accessed by use of an 084 number.

### Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre: Databases

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many local authorities accessed records held by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency via the web enabled enquiry system in 2007-08; and for what purposes. [235014]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** During the financial year 2007-08, DVLA vehicle records were accessed by 355 local authorities via the web enabled inquiry system. The purposes for the requests were for investigations into:

Abandoned vehicles;
Fly tipping;
Untaxed vehicles;
Noise nuisance as a result of the vehicle/its use;
Dog fouling;
Fly posting;
Bus lane violations
Nuisance vehicles;
Damage to street furniture.

### Electric Vehicles

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a list of attendees at the International Experts' Meeting held *(a)* in London on 27 October 2008 and *(b)* at Millbrook, Bedfordshire on 28 October 2008. [234720]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

A copy of the list of attendees at the International Experts Meeting on Electric Vehicles, held on the 27 and 28 of October 2008, will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Freedom of Information

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when he expects his Department to complete the internal review regarding the freedom of information request E0004045; and if he will make a statement; [236797]

(2) when he expects his Department to complete the internal review regarding the freedom of information request *(a)* E0004073 and *(b)* E0004295; and if he will make a statement. [236798]

**Mr. Hoon:** These requests for an internal review of previous freedom of information decisions are being handled in accordance with departmental procedures. A decision will be reached as soon as possible, within the timescale allowed for in the Information Commissioner's guidance.

### Heavy Goods Vehicles

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles heavy goods vehicles of over 3.5 tonnes travelled in Great Britain in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [234339]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Goods vehicles of over 3.5 tonnes gross weight travelled 18.1 billion vehicle miles in 2006 and 18.3 billion vehicle miles in 2007.

Road traffic by vehicle type data are published in table 2.1 of "Road Statistics 2007: Traffic, Speeds and Congestion" annual bulletin. Copies of the bulletin have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. This table can also be found on the Department's website at the following web address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roadstraffic/speedscongestion/roadstatstsc/roadstats07tsc

### Motor Vehicles: Crime

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce the numbers of road users who drive without valid *(a)* driving licences and *(b)* MOT certificates. [236331]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** It is clearly important to keep unlicensed drivers and unroadworthy cars off the road—and we do all that we can to assist the police in detecting and prosecuting offenders.

A significant step has been in providing 24-hour roadside access for the police to driver licensing information (including access to a photograph where one is available). Another followed the introduction of central computerised records of MOT test results—which means that the police can also check MOT status at the roadside. This means the police are able to identify unlicensed drivers and vehicles without a valid MOT and take appropriate action.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government has taken to prosecute vehicle owners who do not have valid car tax. [236332]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) operates a comprehensive package of measures to make vehicle excise licensing easy to comply with but very hard to evade. DVLA's approach to combating vehicle excise duty (VED) evasion ranges from the issue of penalties directly from the vehicle record, out of court settlement letters and magistrates court prosecution of evaders, through to direct roadside enforcement action to wheel clamp and impound unlicensed vehicles. DVLA also works in close partnership with the police and local authorities on initiatives to tackle evaders. This approach is proving highly effective as demonstrated by the results of the most recent statistical survey showing an overall compliance rate of 98.5 per cent. by revenue collected.

### Official Cars

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the annual budget of the Government Car and Despatch Agency is for providing transport for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* senior civil servants, *(c)* other members of the Government and *(d)* the wider public sector. [234904]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) is an executive agency of the Department for Transport and is required to recover all the cost of its activities through charges to its customers. It does not therefore have an annual budget. GCDA has to compete with others to provide services to its customers, ensuring that the Agency operates as efficiently and as cost effectively as possible.

In addition, I refer the hon. Member my answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 643-4W.

### Public Transport

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work has been conducted by his Department to encourage and facilitate the use of intelligent transport systems; and from which budgets such work has been funded in each case. [234901]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport is one of three sponsor partners of the Future Intelligent Transport Systems (FITS) programme which is looking into innovative ways to solve transport problems.

To facilitate the deployment of ITS applications, the Department has developed a web based ITS Toolkit which contains case studies and guidance on monitoring of ITS related schemes. Both of these initiatives are funded through the Transport Technology and Standards Division programme budget.

The Department also provides funding and support to research and development for a number of transport technologies that have the potential to help deliver its objectives. Examples include real time bus information, journey planning and better traffic management and control systems. These activities are usually funded through the budget of the sponsoring division.

### Public Transport: Concessions

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will meet representatives of the Youth Parliament to discuss concessionary fares on public transport for young people aged 11 to 18 years old who are in full-time education. [235320]

**Paul Clark:** There are no plans at present to extend statutory concessionary travel to young people aged 11 to 18-years-old who are in full-time education. However, I value the work of the UK Youth Parliament and I will consider any requests to meet that I receive from their representatives.

### Public Transport: Visually Impaired

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 837W, on public transport: visually impaired, if his Department will instigate collections of data on the number of visually impaired people injured whilst using public transport; and if he will make a statement. [235654]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There are no plans to instigate collection of such data. Any such collection would place a burden on public transport providers as well as presenting practical difficulties in ensuring the collection of reliable and comparable information.

### Railway Heritage Committee

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* role and *(b)* remit is of the Railway Heritage Committee; what projects it is conducting; and from what budgets the costs of each such project are met. [234908]

**Paul Clark:** The Railway Heritage Committee exists to designate railway records and artefacts held by specified bodies within the rail industry which are historically significant and worthy of permanent preservation. It also agrees which institution should hold those records and artefacts when they are no longer needed by the business that owns them and the terms on which they should be offered for preservation.

The Committee meets at regular intervals to consider the case for designation of particular items but is not itself responsible for any preservation projects. Its costs are met by the Department for Transport. Its annual budget for 2008-09 is £120,000.

## Railways

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail passenger journeys were made in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007 (i) England and (ii) from Blundellsands and Crosby railway station. [236696]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport does not hold information on rail passenger journeys from Blundellsands and Crosby railway station. This information may be available from Merseyrail, the Train Operating Company running services from this station, whose website address is:

www.merseyrail.org.

In addition, statistics on rail passenger journeys are published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in the National Rail Trends Yearbook, which is available in the House Library, or from the ORR website:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk.

## Railways: Expenditure

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much capital expenditure his Department incurred in relation to rail travel in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007; [236698]

(2) how much his Department plans to spend on the maintenance and development of railway stations in *(a)* Crosby constituency and *(b)* England in the next three years; [236715]

(3) how much capital expenditure his Department incurred in relation to railway stations in Crosby constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [236699]

**Paul Clark:** Details of total Government expenditure on the railway are published by the Office of Rail Regulation in National Rail Trends (NRT). Copies of this are available in the Library of the House. National Rail Trends states that in 1997-98, Government expenditure on rail travel was £1,829 million and rose to £5,147 million in 2007-08.

The Department for Transport does not hold details of capital expenditure on railway stations as this is the responsibility of the relevant train operating company or Network Rail.

## Roads

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the number of vehicle miles travelled on (i) motorways and (ii) other roads annually. [236844]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport produces estimates of road traffic in Great Britain each year. This involves commissioning about 10,000 manual traffic counts each year. Each count lasts from 7am to 7pm on a weekday outside of holiday periods. The manual counts are combined with data from around 180 automatic traffic counters which count continuously throughout the year.

Data from both sources are combined to calculate annual estimates of the total distance travelled by type of vehicle, road class and geographical area.

The methodology used for the road traffic estimates was subject to a National Statistics Quality Review in 2006. This was published in January 2007 and is available at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/quality/reviews/transport.asp

It is estimated that vehicles in Great Britain travelled 63 billion vehicle miles on motorways and 256 billion vehicle miles on other roads during 2007. This is the most recent year for which data are available.

Further information and data for previous years are available at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roadstraffic/speedscongestion/roadstatstsc/roadstats07tsc

## Roads: Accidents

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged between 17 and 21 years were killed in road traffic accidents in (i) Hemel Hempstead, (ii) Hertfordshire and (iii) England in each of the last three years. [237123]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is given in the table:

*Number of fatalities*

| | *2005* | | | *2006* | | | *2007* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* |
| Hemel Hempstead constituency[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hertfordshire | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| England | 362 | 94 | 456 | 373 | 95 | 468 | 333 | 92 | 425 |

[1] Based on 2004 parliamentary boundaries

## Roads: Finance

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Highways Agency has budgeted for expenditure on major road projects in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12, *(d)* 2012-13, *(e)* 2013-14 and *(f)* 2014-15. [234338]

**Paul Clark:** The following table sets out the current Highways Agency major projects spending plans for the remainder of the CSR 07 period.

| | *£ billion* |
|---|---|
| 2009-10 | 0.8 |
| 2010-11 | 1.2 |

In July, the then Secretary of State announced a £6 billion investment package up to 2014 to improve and make better use of strategic roads. Detailed spending plans and annual budgets have not yet been determined and will be set in the light of progress on individual projects.

### South West Trains: Tickets

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce a decision in response to the application by South West Trains to change its ticket office opening hours. [237184]

**Paul Clark:** A formal application to review ticket office hours has been received from South West Trains under the major change procedure and is subject to consideration by the Secretary of State under normal industry processes.

### Speed Limits: Motorcycles

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to deploy average speed cameras to detect motorcycles travelling at excess speed; and if he will make a statement. [236323]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport is not responsible for speed camera deployment which is entirely a matter for local road safety partnerships. Evidence shows average speed cameras are effective at reducing road casualties and reducing the speed of all types of vehicle. Traffic law enforcement devices require type approval by the Home Office before they can be used. At the moment there are four average speed cameras going through the type approval process. As type approval depends on the outcome of tests and manufacturers' reactions, it is not possible to guarantee that any particular device will be successful or that type approval will be granted within any specific time scale.

### Stansted Airport: Air Pollution

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of adjacent green field land in mitigating air borne pollution from Stansted Airport. [234837]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government have not made any detailed assessment of this matter. The Government's policies in respect of Stansted airport were set out in the 2003 'Future of Air Transport' White Paper, and take account of its environmental impacts as well as its economic and other benefits.

### Traffic Radio

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the annual budget for Traffic Radio on DAB digital radio is for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [234903]

**Paul Clark:** The Traffic Radio budget for the years 2008-2011 is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 2,945,000 |
| 2009-10 | 2,431,000 |
| 2010-11 | 2,488,000 |

These figures include for the provision of content production, DAB bandwidth (MUX) purchase, management fees, communications and cost to deliver the service via the internet.

### Transport: Local Authorities

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what transport grants are to be provided by his Department to local authorities in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [234898]

**Paul Clark:** The main capital and revenue transport allocations from the Department for Transport to local authorities in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are provided in the following table.

*£ million*

| | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Integrated Transport Block Funding | 576.791 | 589.383 | 602.383 |
| Highways Maintenance formulaic funding | 652.997 | 693.003 | 763.008 |
| Highways maintenance non-formulaic | 50.212 | 62.614 | 45.609 |
| Major projects[1] | 752 | 767 | 783 |
| Capital de-trunking schemes | 34.937 | 32.284 | 33.782 |
| Capital road safety grant | 17.527 | 17.382 | 17.201 |
| Urban congestion performance funding | 15 | 20 | 20 |
| Concessionary Fares | 212 | 217 | 223 |
| Tyne and Wear Metro specific grant | 27.074 | 41.970 | n/a |
| Transport for London[2] | 2669 | 2793 | 3017 |
| Cycling England[3] | 20 | 60 | 60 |

[1] Major projects allocations include provision for Highways Agency regional schemes as well as local authority schemes. It is for individual regions to advise on the balance.
[2] Grant to Transport for London (TfL) includes provision for resource spend which for authorities outside London is supported by the Department for Communities and Local Government through formula grant.
[3] Cycling England allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 include £15 million each year from DCSF.

Revenue funding for de-trunking, road safety and rural bus subsidy is delivered to local authorities via the Department for Communities and Local Government's area-based grant. Allocations for 2008-11 can be found at:

http:///www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/xls/770696.xls

**Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Recruitment**

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who is the employer of staff within the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. [234780]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** All those who work in Government Departments or agencies are employed by the Crown and have the rights and obligations which attach to that status, but for the purposes of rights under specific legislation the Department or agency may be the employer in accordance with its delegated powers or be treated as the employer for the purpose of exercising delegated functions.

**Waterloo Station**

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when he expects the work on linking one of the former Eurostar platforms at Waterloo International to the main domestic Waterloo terminal to be completed; and how long after the completion date it will be before the first new train services are using the new platform 20 at Waterloo; [235670]

(2) how much it has cost in total to link the former Eurostar platform at Waterloo International to the domestic Waterloo terminal; [235671]

(3) what plans he has for bringing the remaining four Eurostar platforms at Waterloo International into use by domestic trains after the first of these platforms is linked to the domestic Waterloo terminal; and if he will make a statement; [235672]

(4) what the annual cost of maintaining the platforms at Waterloo International Terminal without any train services is expected to be; and if he will make a statement; [235673]

(5) what feasibility studies his Department has commissioned on the future of Waterloo Terminal and Waterloo International Terminal; when these are expected to report; whether they have been asked to look into a long-term option of a 24-platform station, with each platform capable of accommodating 12 car trains; and if he will make a statement; [235674]

(6) when he will announce a decision on new train services into Waterloo, following the decision to link one platform of the former Eurostar platforms to the main station; and if he will make a statement; [235681]

(7) how many extra trains per day into Waterloo will be made possible as a result of the decision to create a platform 20 from one of the former Eurostar platforms. [235682]

**Paul Clark:** Works to convert platform 20 of Waterloo International for domestic usage will be completed by December 2008. This will provide the capability to operate domestic trains into this platform from this time. The Department for Transport has sought to engage with South West Trains to seek their agreement to operate train services into this platform. The cost of the works to link the former Eurostar platform at Waterloo International to the domestic Waterloo terminal is in the region of £2.9 million.

Beyond this, it is primarily the railway infrastructure on the approaches to Waterloo rather than the number of platforms that limits the number of trains that can use Waterloo station as a whole. Therefore, we are seeking to run longer trains rather than more trains. This is in accordance with the strategy set out in the White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" published in July 2007.

Network Rail are seeking to provide the necessary additional capacity on the South Western network by extending platforms at stations where required, and are currently taking forward detailed feasibility studies into making all the platforms at Waterloo long enough to accommodate 10 car trains. They will also need to modify the junction layouts on the approaches to the station. It also includes making full use of the remainder of the Waterloo International platforms.

Such a large and complex scheme would allow the use of longer trains than currently use the short platforms and would result in a large increase in capacity on the South Western network to address crowding. The infrastructure works are planned to be completed by 2014. Additionally, for the longer term, Network Rail is also considering how to upgrade the station to accommodate 12-car rolling stock.

Discussions are under way with South West Trains to determine the scope, timing and cost of providing the additional rolling stock that will deliver our strategy. Any proposals made by South West Trains will be evaluated to contractualise the requirements. However, as you would expect, this is subject to concluding value for money negotiations with the train operator.

The platforms at Waterloo International are an integral part of the terminal, building which is operated and managed by BRB (Residuary) Ltd. (BRBR) as a single site. As such it is not possible to accurately allocate the cost of the platforms on a stand alone basis. The total annual costs of managing the entire facility are in the order of £2.5 million. These costs are partially offset by rental income of approximately £340,000 per annum and BRBR are looking for further opportunities to generate income while the terminal is non-operational.

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimates his Department has made of the number of passengers travelling into Waterloo in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009, *(d)* 2010, *(e)* 2011, *(f)* 2015, *(g)* 2020, *(h)* 2025 and *(i)* 2030; and what the basis is for such estimates; [235677]

(2) what recent representations his Department has received from organisations in the rail industry on his forecasts for passenger numbers travelling into Waterloo; and if he will make a statement; [235678]

(3) whether he plans to revise his forecasts of future passenger numbers travelling into Waterloo; and if he will make a statement; [235679]

(4) if he will review the accuracy of the methodology and base figures used to forecast future passenger numbers travelling into Waterloo; and if he will make a statement. [235680]

**Paul Clark:** We have made a series of estimates of the overall volumes of passengers forecast to travel. The basis of these estimates is the Network Modelling Framework, a forecasting system that incorporates standard industry agreed demand forecasting methodology.

No representations have been received on the overall forecasts.

Forecasts of the overall volumes of arriving passengers at Waterloo during the morning peak were published as part of the HLOS. We have reviewed our forecasts for the CP4 period and concluded that no changes should be made to the extra peak demand to be accommodated by 2013-14. We will monitor actual outturn against forecasts over CP4.

The industry methodology used to forecast rail passenger demand is reviewed on a regular basis. The HLOS forecasts used a base year of 2004-05. There are no plans to revise these base figures.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans the Government has to provide humanitarian aid to the displaced people of the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. [235179]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 116-17W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham).

### Television

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the television licence fee in his official Ministerial residence is paid for from public funds. [235344]

**Mr. Thomas:** Ministers in the Department for International Development do not have the use of an official ministerial residence.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Academies: Kettering

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils he expects to attend the two new planned academies in Kettering. [237201]

**Jim Knight:** Under the proposals which are currently being developed, the following number of places are planned: *(a)* 30 nursery and 840 primary school places and *(b)* 2,700 secondary school places (including 500 post-16 places).

### Education Maintenance Allowance: Telephone Services

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the numbers of calls to the Learner Support Helpline that went unanswered in each month since January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [236805]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and contract with Liberata to deliver EMA and the helpline and assessment payment body. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

### Pre-school Education: Standards

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of early years settings have been found to be *(a)* outstanding, *(b)* good, *(c)* satisfactory and *(d)* inadequate by Ofsted since 1st September 2008; [233559]

(2) how many Ofsted inspections have been completed in early years settings since 1st September 2008. [233562]

**Beverley Hughes** *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* These are matters for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the Library.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 11 November 2008:*

*Parliamentary Question Number 233559: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many and what proportions of early years settings have been found to be (a) outstanding, (b) good, (c) satisfactory and (d) inadequate by Ofsted since 1st September 2008.*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

The numbers and proportions of settings receiving each inspection grade are shown in the table below. These figures are taken from provision inspected between 1 September 2008 and 31 October 2008 and include only active providers on the early years register. Our figures use the most recent inspection visits, where the reports have been quality assured or have not been withdrawn from publication. Therefore, there is a discrepancy between the total number of inspections given here and in the response to Parliamentary Question 233562, which includes all inspections including some that have not been quality assured or published.

*Number and percentages of Early Years Register (EYR) inspections between 1 September 2008 and 31 October 2008*

| *Grade* | *Number of inspections* | *Proportion of total inspections (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| Outstanding | 110 | 6 |
| Good | 1,052 | 55 |
| Satisfactory | 629 | 33 |
| Inadequate | 131 | 7 |
| Total | 1,922 | |

Please note that, as the selection of provision for inspection each year is not random, these figures should not be used to make judgements about the standards of national early years provision.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 11 November 2008:*

*Parliamentary Question Number 233562: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many Ofsted inspections have been completed in early years settings since 1st September 2008.*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

There were 2,549 inspections of provision recorded on the early years register (EYR) between 1 September 2008 and 31 October 2008. The early years register comprises those settings which provide care for children in the early years age group (aged from birth to the 31 August following a child's fifth birthday) where at least one individual child attends for more than two hours a day. There are a number of exemptions from registration, including schools that make provision for pupils aged three. The full list of exemptions is available from Ofsted's leaflet Registration not required, available at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofstedhome/Formsandguidance/Browseallby/Other/General/Registration-not-required/(language)/eng-GB

The total number of inspections is taken from the figures available on the first working day of November and includes all inspections of active providers, including some that have not been quality assured or published. Therefore, there is a discrepancy between the total number of inspections given here and in the response to Parliamentary Question 233559, which gives outcomes of inspection and only includes those that have been quality assured or published.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

### Schools: Finance

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the per pupil average dedicated school grant will be in *(a)* each local authority in England and *(b)* England for the 2009-10 academic year. [236987]

**Jim Knight:** The Department allocates education funding to local authorities on a financial year basis. For the 2009-10 dedicated schools grant, the guaranteed units of funding for pupils in all local authorities and the England average can be found in the revised 2009-11 indicative DSG allocations file at the following link:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=13059

This link works and is maintained regularly, being the location where the figures are officially published, and where any further information relating to the guaranteed units of funding and dedicated schools grant for 2009-10 will be updated.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Adult Education: Finance

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on the Adult Education and Skills Strategy in *(a)* the most recent year for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the previous five years, broken down by main budget heading. [232396]

**Mr. Simon:** The majority of funding for adult further education and skills is managed by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and included in the LSC budget. Some funding is spent outside the LSC and included in other lines. A breakdown of expenditure from 2002-03 to 2007-08 included in the Adult Education and Skills Strategy line in Annex 2, Table 11 of the 2008 Departmental Report is set out in the following table.

*Outturn (£ million)*

| | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adult Education and Skills Strategy | 245 | 172 | 182 | 191 | 168 | 176 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| Skills Funding for Regional Development Agencies | 42 | 42 | 43 | 43 | 44 | 45 |
| Skills For Life Development (non-LSC)[1] | 47 | 46 | 46 | 60 | 27 | 25 |
| Capital Funding for UK Online Centres and Wired Up Communities | 90 | | | | | |
| Sector Skills Development Agency | 17 | 35 | 70 | 68 | 75 | 81 |
| Learndirect and Adult Guidance(non-LSC) | 19 | 18 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 9 |
| Investors in People UK | 2 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| UK Skills Sponsorship | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Other Adult Education and Skills Strategy | 24 | 23 | 11 | 6 | 3 | 5 |

[1] Estimated

[2] These lines do not show the full expenditure on these programmes as some expenditure is included in the LSC budget. In particular where funding reduces significantly, this is because funding has been transferred to LSC.

*Source:*

The figures for total expenditure on the adult education and the skills strategy line are taken from Table 11, Annex 2 of the 2008 Departmental Report for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

### Airwave Service

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234699]

**Mr. Simon:** As far as we are aware none of the organisations for which DIUS is responsible use, or are planning to use, Airwave handsets.

### Apprentices

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of apprentices *(a)* were school leavers, *(b)* were further education college leavers, *(c)* were already employed by the employer providing the apprenticeship, *(d)* had been in employment with a different employer and *(e)* were from another category in each year since 2002. [235175]

**Mr. Simon:** Information on what route apprentices have come from is not currently available. However, a national apprenticeships vacancy matching service is being developed by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to provide a high quality service to employers wishing to recruit apprentices, and to young people and adults considering an apprenticeship. This service will help deliver the objective outlined in World-class Apprenticeships to expand and improve the quality of our apprenticeships programme. The service will be available across England by April 2009. Part of the future role of the service will be to provide the new National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) with management information on apprenticeships.

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* large employers, *(b)* medium-sized employers and *(c)* small employers in England offered apprenticeships in each year since 2002; [235176]

(2) how many and what proportion of advanced apprenticeship places in England were with *(a)* large employers, *(b)* medium-sized employers and *(c)* small employers in each year since 2002; [235177]

(3) how many and what proportion of level 2 apprenticeship places in England were with *(a)* large employers, *(b)* medium-sized employers and *(c)* small employers in each year since 2002. [235178]

**Mr. Simon:** Data on the number and size of the employers supporting apprentices are not collected via the individualised learner record (ILR) and hence the information requested is not currently available.

From the 2009/10 academic year, this information will be available on the ILR when a unique employer identifier will have to be provided by all employers of apprentices.

We can provide an estimate of the size of employers that offer and have recruited apprentices from the National Employer Skills Survey (NESS). These data are based on over 79,000 establishments that were surveyed April and July 2007.

Findings of the NESS show that (from Table 1) 6 per cent. of all employers surveyed have recruited an apprentice. 15 per cent. of employers with between 100 and 199 employees have recruited an apprentice, while 26 per cent. of employers with over 500 employees have recruited an apprentice.

From Table 2, 14 per cent. of all employers surveyed have offered an apprenticeship. 25 per cent. of employers with between 100 and 199 employees have offered an apprenticeship, while 40 per cent. of employers surveyed with over 500 employees have offered an apprenticeship.

*Table 1: Percentage of employers that have recruited an apprentice*

| | | Number of employees of employer | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All employers* | *2-4* | *5-24* | *25-99* | *100-199* | *200-499* | *500+* |
| Percentage of employers that have recruited an apprentice | 6 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 15 | 19 | 26 |

*Source:*
NESS

*Table 2: Percentage of employers that have offered an apprenticeship*

| | | Number of employees of employer | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All employers* | *2-4* | *5-24* | *25-99* | *100-199* | *200-499* | *500+* |
| Percentage of employers that have offered an apprenticeship | 14 | 10 | 17 | 21 | 25 | 30 | 40 |

*Source:*
NESS

## Counterfeit Manufacturing: Internet

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps are being taken to tackle the trade in counterfeit goods on internet auction sites. [235829]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Government's plan for the creative industries, Creative Britain: New Talents for the New Economy, PP1067, published in February 2008 and available in the Library of the House, recognised online infringement of intellectual property rights as a particular concern. That document set out the Government's general action plan for intellectual property enforcement, of which online enforcement forms an important segment. The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) is now leading in the Government's delivery of that plan. In line with the plan, local authority trading standards officers have been given expanded powers to deal with intellectual property crime. The Government have just completed a consultation on introducing exceptional summary (above £5,000) fines in magistrates' courts. The consultation is designed to align the penalties for online and physical copyright offences. And there is ever growing cooperation between law enforcement agencies and internet service providers. For example, eBay work closely with officials at the IPO and the enforcement agencies. During 2007, eBay trained some 7,000 law enforcement officials globally, assisted in over 66,000 investigations and the arrest or conviction of over 500 individuals.

## Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 527-28W, on departmental buildings, what the cost of the refurbishment was. [233877]

**Mr. Simon:** The cost of the refurbishment at Kingsgate house, undertaken by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on behalf of the

Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, was £5.1 million. This provided a cost-effective working environment, with flexible desking on the basis of eight desks for every 10 people, movement-activated lighting to reduce power consumption and video conferencing facilities to reduce travel costs.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* universal serial bus flash memory data storage devices, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* personal digital assistants and *(d)* laptop computers, used to store restricted or confidential data have been lost by or stolen from his Department in each year since 2001. [235332]

**Mr. Simon:** The following table shows how many items used to store restricted or confidential information which have been lost or stolen by the Department since it was created in June 2007. The records do not distinguish between lost and stolen items. Before June 2007, the functions which make up the Department were part of other Government Departments, and records are retained by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

| | *2007* | *2008 (to date)* |
|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Universal serial bus flash memory data storage devices | 0 | 0 |
| *(b)* Mobile telephones | 0 | 0 |
| *(c)* Personal digital assistants | 2 | 1 |
| *(d)* Laptop computers | [1] | 0 |

[1] Lost and subsequently recovered.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies. [230763]

**Mr. Simon:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* There are currently 12 permanent Press Officers and one temporary Press Officer supplied through the Central Office of Information in the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. There are 30 Communications Officers employed by the Department in its central communications function.

*(b)* and *(c)* For much of its business, the Department operates through a number of arm's length bodies including 20 non-departmental public bodies and other agencies. It is the responsibility of each body to manage its staff and costs. Therefore the Department does not hold the information requested centrally and there would be a disproportionate cost to gather the information requested.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2007-08. [235324]

**Mr. Simon:** DIUS was formed following Machinery of Government Changes on 28 June 2007. Prior to the current website being launched in October 2007, a temporary DIUS site existed for which website statistics are not available. Between October 2007 and March 2008 the DIUS website has received:

*(a)* 5,429,920 hits

and

*(b)* 494,596 unique visitors.

### Departmental Older Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228752]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department was formed as part of the Machinery of Government changes announced on 28 June 2007. Figures are available from 28 June 2007 to 30 September 2008. The information is set out as follows:

| | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Over 55 | 6 | |
| Over 60 | 1 | |
| Percentage of new recruits (over 55) | | 4 |
| Percentage of new recruits (over 60) | | 1 |

### Departmental Pensions

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many civil servants working in his Department and its agencies have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229549]

**Mr. Simon:** It is not appropriate to disclose pension information for civil servants other than Board Members whose details are shown in the Remuneration Report in annual Resource Accounts. A copy of the Innovation, Universities and Skills Resource Accounts for financial year 2007-8 can be found in the Library or accessed electronically using the following link:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications/DIUSResourceAccounts2007-08.pdf

Similar information for the Department's agencies can also be accessed electronically:

*National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML):*

http://www.nwml.gov.uk/Admin/Documents/annual%20report%20and%20accounts%202007/08%20web%20version.pdf

and

*Intellectual Property Office (IPO):*

http://www.ipo.gov.uk/about-anrep0708.pdf

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy in 2007-08. [228899]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department does not hold public relations or consultancy spend data at the level of detail sought. To determine the public relations consultancy

spend would be at disproportionate cost. Entertainment and advertising and promotion spend for 2007-08 was as follows:

| | £000 | Percentage of total spend |
|---|---|---|
| Entertainment | 81 | 0.0003951 |
| Advertising and Promotion | 470 | 0.0022930 |

The total spend for 2007-08 was £20,505,604,000 as reported in the 2007-08 Resource Accounts.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of successful undergraduate university applicants from (*a*) the UK, (*b*) EU member states other than the UK and (*c*) non-EU states were accepted for a science, technology, engineering or mathematics course in each year since 2002. [232268]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest information is shown in the following table. Figures for the 2008 year of entry will be available in January 2009.

The figures are taken from data collected by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) which are limited to students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via the UCAS application system. The figures do not therefore cover part-time students, nor those full-time students who apply directly to higher education institutions.

*Accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses by subject group and home domicile 2002 to 2007*

| | Year of Entry | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| UK acceptances (number) | 331,725 | 333,982 | 334,795 | 360,264 | 345,964 | 364,548 |
| STEM[1] (percentage) | 36.5 | 36.2 | 37.7 | 37.5 | 37.9 | 37.4 |
| Non-STEM (percentage) | 63.5 | 63.8 | 62.3 | 62.5 | 62.1 | 62.6 |
| | | | | | | |
| EU acceptances (number) | 11,992 | 12,572 | 15,452 | 17,247 | 19,289 | 20,661 |
| STEM[1] (percentage) | 39.7 | 40.5 | 39.7 | 37.5 | 39.2 | 38.8 |
| Non-STEM (percentage) | 60.3 | 59.5 | 60.3 | 62.5 | 60.8 | 61.2 |
| | | | | | | |
| Non-EU acceptances (number) | 24,398 | 27,793 | 27,797 | 27,878 | 27,646 | 28,225 |
| STEM[1] (percentage) | 43.5 | 42.3 | 43.6 | 43.9 | 42.3 | 42.0 |
| Non-STEM (percentage) | 56.5 | 57.7 | 56.4 | 57.0 | 57.7 | 58.0 |

[1] STEM subjects include Combined Science courses.
Source:
UCAS

### Higher Education: Finance

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of the income of each university in England derives from funding provided by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. [235318]

**Mr. Lammy:** The table sets out the figures for 2006/07 which is the latest year for which data are available. The data are derived from institutions' returns to the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Total England | 37 |
| | |
| Anglia Ruskin University | 44 |
| Aston University | 35 |
| Bath Spa University | 59 |
| The University of Bath | 35 |
| University of Bedfordshire | 46 |
| Birkbeck College | 51 |
| Birmingham City University | 36 |
| Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies | 61 |
| The University of Birmingham | 34 |
| Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln | 63 |
| The University of Bolton | 54 |
| The Arts Institute at Bournemouth | 64 |
| Bournemouth University | 45 |

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| The University of Bradford | 36 |
| The University of Brighton | 50 |
| The University of Bristol | 39 |
| Brunel University | 38 |
| Buckinghamshire New University | 43 |
| The University of Cambridge | 39 |
| The Institute of Cancer Research | 25 |
| Canterbury Christ Church University | 43 |
| The University of Central Lancashire | 44 |
| Central School of Speech and Drama | 59 |
| University of Chester | 47 |
| The University of Chichester | 54 |
| The City University | 22 |
| Conservatoire for Dance and Drama | 78 |
| Courtauld Institute of Art | 29 |
| Coventry University | 42 |
| Cranfield University | 16 |
| The University College for the Creative Arts | 59 |
| Cumbria Institute of the Arts | 63 |
| Durlington College of Arts | 69 |
| De Montfort University | 51 |
| University of Derby | 52 |
| University of Durham | 36 |
| The University of East Anglia | 37 |
| The University of East London | 43 |
| Edge Hill University | 55 |
| The University of Essex | 37 |
| The University of Exeter | 37 |

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| University College Falmouth | 47 |
| University of Gloucestershire | 52 |
| Goldsmiths College | 49 |
| The University of Greenwich | 44 |
| Guildhall School of Music and Drama | ? |
| Harper Adams University College | 52 |
| University of Hertfordshire | 55 |
| Heythrop College | 15 |
| The University of Huddersfield | 52 |
| The University of Hull | 49 |
| Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine | 29 |
| Institute of Education | 31 |
| The University of Keele | 36 |
| The University of Kent | 39 |
| King's College London | 34 |
| Kingston University | 46 |
| The University of Lancaster | 30 |
| Leeds College of Music | 59 |
| Leeds Metropolitan University | 53 |
| The University of Leeds | 34 |
| Leeds Trinity and All Saints | 54 |
| The University of Leicester | 34 |
| The University of Lincoln | 50 |
| Liverpool Hope University | 44 |
| Liverpool John Moores University | 49 |
| The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts | 45 |
| The University of Liverpool | 35 |
| University of the Arts, London | 50 |
| London Business School | 9 |
| University of London (Institutes and activities) | 39 |
| London Metropolitan University | 51 |
| London South Bank University | 57 |
| London School of Economics and Political Science | 17 |
| London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine | 39 |
| Loughborough University | 34 |
| The Manchester Metropolitan University | 46 |
| The University of Manchester | 29 |
| Middlesex University | 43 |
| The University of Newcastle upon Tyne | 30 |
| Newman College of Higher Education | 64 |
| The University of Northampton | 46 |
| The University of Northumbria at Newcastle | 40 |
| Norwich School of Art and Design | 60 |
| The University of Nottingham | 30 |
| The Nottingham Trent University | 49 |
| The Open University | 36 |
| Oxford Brookes University | 34 |
| The University of Oxford | 27 |
| University College Plymouth St. Mark and St. John | 49 |
| The University of Plymouth | 55 |
| The University of Portsmouth | 49 |
| Queen Mary and Westfield College | 39 |
| Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication | 67 |
| The University of Reading | 35 |
| Roehampton University | 56 |
| Rose Bruford College | 66 |
| Royal Academy of Music | 31 |
| Royal Agricultural College | 58 |
| Royal College of Art | 36 |
| Royal College of Music | 29 |
| The Royal College of Nursing | 34 |
| Royal Holloway and Bedford New College | 34 |

| | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Royal Northern College of Music | 45 |
| The Royal Veterinary College | 46 |
| St. George's Hospital Medical School | 34 |
| St. Martin's College | 44 |
| St. Mary's University College, Twickenham | 54 |
| The University of Salford | 38 |
| The School of Oriental and African Studies | 34 |
| The School of Pharmacy | 46 |
| Sheffield Hallam University | 46 |
| The University of Sheffield | 34 |
| Southampton Solent University | 48 |
| The University of Southampton | 34 |
| Staffordshire University | 53 |
| The University of Sunderland | 44 |
| The University of Surrey | 24 |
| The University of Sussex | 41 |
| The University of Teesside | 52 |
| Thames Valley University | 53 |
| Trinity Laban | 49 |
| University College London | 30 |
| The University of Warwick | 26 |
| University of the West of England, Bristol | 40 |
| The University of Westminster | 45 |
| The University of Winchester | 49 |
| The University of Wolverhampton | 45 |
| The University of Worcester | 49 |
| Writtle College | 55 |
| York St. John University | 48 |
| The University of York | 29 |

## Higher Education: Further Education

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of higher education representation at regional level of further education colleges who are providing higher education. [236564]

**Mr. Lammy:** Further education colleges which also provide higher education can offer a distinctive form of excellence for some students who may not otherwise participate in higher education. We are satisfied that there is good co-operation and collaboration at national, regional and local level between providers of further and higher education in order to help learners realise their full potential. However, it is for the institutions within particular regions to decide for themselves on how they should be represented at regional level.

## Higher Education: North West

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent meetings his officials have had with organisations from the north west to discuss widening access to higher education in the region. [235947]

**Mr. Lammy:** Ministers and officials speak to many institutions and organisations about issues that affect individuals' progression to higher education. Widening access to higher education is a Government priority. Our policy initiatives are taken forward by our stakeholders who work closely with organisations at local level.

There are five Aimhigher Area Partnerships in the north west which engage with a wide range of schools, colleges and higher education institutions in the region. The Aimhigher programme's primary purpose is to widen participation in higher education.

Furthermore, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the North West Universities Association (NWUA) are both members of the Regional Skills and Employment Board. The Board membership also includes the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the North West Development Agency (NWDA), the Alliance of Sector Skills Councils and Government Office North West etc. The Board last met at the start of October to discuss key regional priorities/challenges. The need to upskill very significant numbers of those already in work to Level 4+ was one of the issues discussed.

The LSC also sits on the Steering Group for the NWUA-led Higher Level Skills Pathfinder which meets monthly. The Pathfinder (funded by HEFCE/NWDA) seeks to increase the capacity of HEIs to deliver higher-level skills in the workplace.

HEFCE has recently received a report from Action on Access (the national co-ordination team for widening participation in higher education) providing an analysis by region of applications and entry to HE from all areas across the country using the Index of Multiple Deprivation as a measure. That report shows that between 2002-03 and 2006-07 the total number of entrants to higher education has increased by 8.9 per cent. in the north west. This growth largely comes from the 20 per cent. most deprived groups with participation from the most deprived neighbourhoods increased by 28.3 per cent.

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what discussions he has had with the Learning and Skills Council on its working relationship with the Higher Education Funding Council for England in the North West; [236358]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Learning and Skills Council on its regional higher education strategies, with particular reference to the North West region. [236359]

**Mr. Simon:** Ministers from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) hold regular meetings with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to discuss a wide range of issues. Although there have been no recent discussions with Ministers relating to higher education in the north-west, Mark Haysom, the chief executive of the LSC, holds regular meetings with his regional directors to review progress on regional skills priorities, including on the regional contribution of the LSC to higher education skills. There are also regular formal meetings between the LSC and HEFCE chief executives and chairmen.

The forthcoming Grant Letter to the LSC will underline the continuing importance of close engagement between the LSC and HEFCE to ensure that more people can progress into higher education and to provide the higher level skills that employers need to remain competitive.

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what arrangements the Higher Education Funding Council for England has for working with further education colleges that operate in conjunction with higher education providers in the North West region. [236374]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Council works effectively with all institutions which help learners to acquire higher level skills. Progression from further to higher education is important in enabling learners to realise their full potential. HEFCE officers meet with senior staff from both further education colleges which provide higher education and higher education institutions in the North West in the normal course of HEFCE business. The Council's policies and practices are designed to facilitate close collaboration between different providers in the interests of learners and those seeking higher skills.

### Students: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency received (*a*) adult learning grants and (*b*) career development loans in the last period for which figures are available; and what the total monetary value was of such grants and loans. [236459]

**Mr. Simon:** The Learning and Skills Council administer the adult learning grant and career development loans (through three high street banks), on behalf of the Department.

So far in the 2008-09 academic year, six individuals have received support from an adult learning grant in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency. The total value of adult learning grant paid to those individuals so far is around £1,140.

For the period 6 April 2008 to 12 November 2008, a total of 11 career development loans have been issued to individuals residing in Bexleyheath and Crayford. The total value of these loans is £74,174.

### Union Learning Fund: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many workplaces in Crosby constituency are in receipt of funding from the Union Learning Fund; and how much the fund has spent in Crosby constituency since its establishment. [236719]

**Mr. Simon:** Trade unions have a key role to play in promoting the development of learning and skills in the workplace. To help them do this more effectively we introduced the Union Learning Fund in 1998. This source of funding is helping trade unions use their influence with employers, employees and training providers to encourage greater take up of learning at work and boost their own capacity as learning organisations.

With the help of the Union Learning Fund, trade unions and their union learning representatives have been able to develop successful partnerships with employers to raise skill levels in the workplace. There are now over 20,500 trained union learning reps who have helped more than 600,000 workers back into learning since the fund was introduced. Over 200,000 were helped last year, many from those hard to reach groups, who employers and training providers find it so difficult to engage with, including over 34,000 workers with poor basic literacy and numeracy skills.

Union Learning Fund resources are allocated directly to trade unions at a national or regional level. Detailed information on the number of workplaces involved and the associated level of funding at a constituency level is not held by the Department.

### Vocational Training

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with the Higher Education Funding Council for England on the effectiveness of prioritisation of skills funding at higher levels through its Strategic Development Fund. [235920]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) set out its specific priorities for advancing its strategic aims and objectives through its Strategic Development Fund (SDF) at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/finance/fundinghe/sdf/spp.htm

with its criteria for SDF bids published at:

www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefec/2007/0722/.

The SDF currently offers funding for four specific priority programmes, one of which is 'employer engagement'. This supports a broad programme of high level skills activities in response to Government's priorities set out in the 2008 grant letter, and in order to create the platform for achieving the higher skills ambition set out in the Leitch report.

My officials are in regular contact with HEFCE regarding employer engagement activities funded through the SDF and receive periodic updates on progress and new developments.

## TREASURY

### 11 Downing Street: Utilities

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on *(a)* heating, *(b)* electricity and *(c)* water bills for (i) No. 11 Downing street and (ii) Dorneywood in each of the last five years. [221190]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested in respect of No. 11 Downing street is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Dorneywood is owned and operated by the Dorneywood Trust, a registered charity, at no cost to public funds.

### Bank Services

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will take steps to restore assets belonging to UK depositors of Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man) following the freezing of Icelandic assets; [233556]

(2) what estimate he has made of the losses in excess of £50,000 incurred by UK depositors in Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man) following the freezing of Icelandic assets; and if he will make a statement. [233557]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* On 8 October, the Treasury made Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008 in order to freeze funds and financial assets relating to Landsbanki. Landsbanki is the only Icelandic bank which has been made the subject of a freezing order.

### Bank Services: Pensions

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on pension funds of major banks ceasing to pay dividends. [228544]

**Ian Pearson:** Pension fund exposure to these assets, while not insignificant, is unlikely to be large relative to their total holdings. None the less, these are volatile times for financial markets and the Government are committed to doing whatever it takes to stabilise the banking system, protect savers and taxpayers and support the wider economy.

### Banks: Government Shareholding

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the ordinary shares in *(a)* HBOS plc, *(b)* RBS plc and *(c)* Lloyds TSB plc purchased by the Commissioners of HM Treasury are ordinary voting shares; whether ordinary dividends may be paid before all shares held by the Government are redeemed or sold in each case; how many directors the Government will be able to appoint to the Board of Directors in each case; and what restrictions will be put on the emoluments of the directors of each of these banks; [229573]

(2) whether the preference shares purchased by the Commissioners of HM Treasury in *(a)* HBOS plc, *(b)* RBS Group plc and Lloyds TSB plc are (i) redeemable, (ii) fixed rate, (iii) non-cumulative and (iv) non-voting shares; what the (A) nominal value and (B) rate of dividend is of each type of preference shares; and what the (1) earliest date the company can redeem the shares and (2) latest date the shares have to be redeemed is for each type of share. [229574]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* The Government have agreed to underwrite issues of ordinary shares in RBS, Lloyds TSB and HBOS totalling £28 billion. The Government will buy any shares which are not purchased by existing or new shareholders. These shares are voting shares.

The Government are also purchasing preference shares in the firms. The preference shares, which HM Treasury has agreed to invest in RBS, Lloyds TSB and HBOS are redeemable, fixed rate, non-cumulative and non-voting shares. As soon as the preference shares have been repaid, payment of ordinary dividends would be permitted.

The Government's investment is subject to certain conditions, details of which are available in the agreements with the banks. Copies are in the Library.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date each of the different share categories under the £37 billion purchase by the Commissioners of HM Treasury in *(a)* HBOS plc, *(b)* RBS Group plc and *(c)* Lloyds TSB plc will be subscribed. [229576]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* The indicative timetable included in the circular issued to shareholders by Lloyds TSB shows that they expect the ordinary shares in the merged entity to be issued on

19 January 2009, subject to shareholder approvals. The RBS circular similarly indicates that they expect the ordinary shares to be issued on 1 December 2008. We expect the new preference shares to be purchased on the same day as the ordinary shares are issued.

**Banks: Italy**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department has provided to public authorities on the safety of placing deposits in Italian banks. [236086]

**Ian Pearson:** As a matter of course, HM Treasury does not comment on individual financial institutions.

**Banks: Republic of Ireland**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the *(a)* safety, *(b)* risk profile and *(c)* security of deposits made by local authorities in Irish-owned banks operating in the Republic of Ireland. [236091]

**Ian Pearson:** As a matter of course, HM Treasury does not comment on individual financial institutions.

**Betting: Regulation**

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1083W, on betting: regulation, what plans there are to transfer the regulation of spread betting from the Financial Services Authority to the Gambling Commission. [236976]

**Angela Eagle:** The Government currently have no such plans.

**Departmental ICT**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 778-80W, on departmental ICT, for what reasons *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency were not listed in the answer. [236025]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is a non-ministerial Department, and the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) is an agency of HMRC. Neither HMRC nor VOA are agencies of HM Treasury.

**Departmental Visits Abroad**

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent in 2007 on visits by its staff to Brussels; and how many such visits were made by *(a)* air and *(b)* rail. [234387]

**Angela Eagle:** In 2007-08, the Treasury spent £232,000 on official visits to Brussels representing 1,270 visits, of which 19 were by air and 1,251 by rail.

**Financial Services Authority: ICT**

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many complaints have been received concerning the Gathering Better Regulatory Information Electronically electronic reporting system, in the last 12 months broken down by subject of complaint; [236840]

(2) what the *(a)* original budget and *(b)* final costs for the design and implementation of the Gathering Better Regulatory Information Electronically system; [236841]

(3) which IT systems the Gathering Better Regulatory Information Electronically system has replaced; [236842]

(4) how much his Department has spent on the design and implementation of the Gathering Better Regulatory Information Electronically IT project. [236843]

**Ian Pearson:** The matters are the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, whose day to day operations are independent from Government control and influence.

**Government Departments: Property**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2184W, on Government Departments: property, what area of actual vacant space is recorded on the e-PIMS database, aggregated to include sensitive and non-sensitive records in a non-identifiable manner. [235856]

**Angela Eagle:** The current total area of actual vacant space recorded on e-PIMS as at the end of October 2008 is 274,357 sq m. Of this, the area of vacant space marked as sensitive totals 644 sq m.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2184W, on Government Departments: property, if he will place in the Library a list of the names and addresses of the current non-sensitive vacant space recorded on the e-PIMS database and the area vacant for each address. [235857]

**Angela Eagle:** The list has been placed in the Libraries.

**Housing: Valuation**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 988W, on housing: valuation, when the boundaries of the localities were last amended or updated. [235867]

**Mr. Timms:** Update and amendment of individual locality boundaries occurs frequently on a care and maintenance basis. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Amendments to localities do not affect current council tax bands.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1393W, on housing: valuation, when the numerical co-efficient values were last amended or updated. [235876]

**Mr. Timms:** Update and amendment of individual locality coefficients occur frequently on a care and maintenance basis and do not affect current council tax bands. The information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many domestic dwellings in England are marked with a property details activity code of *(a)* 30, *(b)* 60 and *(c)* 70 according to the Valuation Office Agency's records. [236184]

**Mr. Timms:** These activity codes have been applied to dwellings in England between April 2003 and October 2008:

| *Code* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 30 | 1,205,756 |
| 60 | 1,225,299 |
| 70 | 259,193 |

### Lloyds TSB

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what elements of Government support for Lloyds TSB are conditional on that company completing its proposed merger with HBOS; and if he will make a statement. [229247]

**Ian Pearson:** The boards of both HBOS and Lloyds TSB decided it was in their interests to merge, and it was in the expectation of the merger going ahead that the terms of the package were agreed with both firms. If for any reason the merger did not go ahead, it would be a matter for both firms to agree with the FSA their capital needs.

### National Association of Estate Agents

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department have had with the National Association of Estate Agents in the last 12 months; and on what dates. [235079]

**Angela Eagle:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the effect of the introduction of empty property business rates on the attractiveness to overseas investors of real estate investment trusts. [236145]

**Angela Eagle:** The Department of Communities and Local Government published an impact assessment of the empty property rate relief reforms in May 2007 alongside the primary legislation.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/ratingempty

On 26 February this year, the Minister for Local Government laid a further assessment before the House, alongside the regulations.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/em/uksiem_20080386_en.pdf

### Plain English

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent by his Department on Plain English Campaign training courses for its staff in each year since 2005. [230613]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury does not hold a central record of Plain English Campaign training courses attended by staff and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Private Finance Initiative: Local Government

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the effect of the current financial situation on the viability of local authority private finance initiative projects. [236094]

**Angela Eagle:** Local authority private finance initiative transactions have continued to close this year but conditions in the banking market are putting some current projects under pressure. This is the result of limited liquidity in the banking market rather than the structure of the projects themselves. The Treasury is working with procuring authorities and departments to ensure that projects in the late stages of procurement are able to achieve contract close.

### Regional Economic Council

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration has been given to including local authority representatives on the Regional Economic Council. [236104]

**Yvette Cooper:** Local authorities are represented at the Regional Economic Council through representatives nominated by the Local Government Association.

Local government representatives were invited from all nine regions for the first meeting as well as the leader of the Local Government Association, Margaret Eaton.

### Regional Government: Finance

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the budget for the *(a)* Council of Regional Ministers and *(b)* Regional Economic Council is in the first year of operation. [236081]

**Yvette Cooper:** The REC and CRM do not have discrete allocated budgets. BERR, CLG and HMT provide the secretariat resource for these committees from within existing resources.

### Taxation: Inspections

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many new tax inspectors his Department appointed in each of the last five years; how many it plans to appoint in 2008-09; how many tax inspectors appointed in the last five years have been seconded for training purposes; to which businesses they were seconded; and how many tax inspectors appointed in the last five years were recruited from *(a)* accounting firms and *(b)* law firms. [233624]

**Mr. Timms:** There are currently over 10,000 tax professional staff within HMRC across a number of disciplines. Staff are recruited into these roles both internally from non-tax professional staff within the Department and externally.

HMRC does not second tax professionals specifically for training purposes, however tax professional staff do spend varying periods with organisations to widen their understanding.

The number of new tax professional staff recruited in each of the last five years and a breakdown of whether tax professionals were recruited from law firms, accountancy firms, or other organisations could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fully qualified tax inspectors worked in his Department's *(a)* large business service, *(b)* teams dealing with tax avoidance schemes and *(c)* teams dealing with offshore tax havens in each of the last five years; and how many were so deployed on the latest date for which figures are available. [233668]

**Mr. Timms:** The term 'tax inspector' is a former Inland Revenue term which is no longer used in HMRC. Staff work flexibly to meet business needs, holding a range of qualifications across a number of disciplines.

There are currently over ten thousand staff in tax professional roles across the Department. Records of tax professional staff are not broken down by directorate and precise numbers could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Staff across many directorates deal with tax avoidance schemes in their work and similarly a number of areas of the Department's compliance activity involve inquiring into tax issues relating to offshore jurisdictions, but HMRC does not record the resources spent on this work separately.

### Taxation: Prisoners

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax and national insurance had been paid by prisoners employed in the Howard League for Penal Reform social enterprise in HMP Coldingley at the point of its closure; and how much has been refunded. [236802]

**Mr. Timms:** As for other individuals, the personal tax affairs of prisoners are covered by rules of confidentiality.

### Valuation Office: Contracts

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency has access to an electronic tendering system. [236091]

**Mr. Timms:** The Valuation Office Agency does not have direct access to an electronic tendering system, but is able to commission the HMRC commercial Directorate to undertake work for VOA through their system.

### Valuation Office: Geographical Information Systems

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 314W, on the Valuation Office, which four companies were invited to tender; and what criteria were used in the decision to invite those companies. [236031]

**Mr. Timms:** In accordance with the terms of HM Revenue and Customs' contract with Aspire, the tender process was handled by Aspire. The identify of the companies invited to tender is commercially confidential.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will make a substantive reply to Question *(a)* 229574 on preference shares, *(b)* 229573, on ordinary shares, *(c)* 229576, on subscription of the different share categories and *(d)* 229577, on the Lloyds TSB and HBOS merger, tabled on 20 October 2008 for named day answer on 23 October. [236985]

**Ian Pearson:** I answered *(a)*, *(b)* and *(c)* on 18 November and *(d)* on 17 November.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Abandoned Vehicles

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to tackle the problems of abandoned cars since 2002. [234913]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 amended the Refuse Disposal Amenity Act 1978 and Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 in relation to the offence, removal and disposal of abandoned vehicles.

A local authority no longer has to affix a 24-hour notice of removal of an abandoned vehicle it considers is only fit for destruction. It is now possible to remove an abandoned vehicle immediately from any road, including roads on private housing estates. Abandoned vehicles that are only fit for destruction or do not display a licence or number plate can be destroyed immediately.

In all other cases, the local authority will try to find the owner; if they fail, or the owner does not collect the vehicle within seven days of being contacted, the vehicle can be disposed of without the need to wait for the license to expire. Local authorities can recoup the value

of the license from the DVLA. Local authorities can also impose fixed penalties of £200, in lieu of prosecution, if the owner of an abandoned vehicle can be identified.

### Agriculture: Research

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding from the public purse has been allocated for research into new farming systems in each of the last five years, broken down by main category of expenditure. [234154]

**Jane Kennedy:** DEFRA has invested in research activities in several programmes since 2003-04 that contribute to development of sustainable farming systems. Industry have joint funded some of the work within LINK programmes, a mechanism co-funding collaborative research between industry and the public sector.

Total spend in each programme for each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

£

*Programme*

| *Financial year* | *Integrated farming systems*[1] | *Integrated systems*[2] | *LINK (including organic LINK)*[3] | *Organic farming*[4] | *Grand total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | | 941,848 | 1,374,876 | 1,890,119 | 4,206,843 |
| 2004-05 | | 1,318,345 | 2,064,689 | 1,538,977 | 4,922,011 |
| 2005-06 | | 930,055 | 2,176,249 | 1,422,150 | 4,528,454 |
| 2006-07 | 946,594 | 780,377 | 2,762,759 | 844,103 | 5,333,833 |
| 2007-08 | 2,476,806 | 467,014 | 2,749,883 | 878,875 | 6,572,578 |
| 2008-09 | 2,894,125 | 363,581 | 2,736,520 | 851,927 | 6,846,153 |
| Grand total | 6,317,525 | 4,801,220 | 13,864,976 | 7,426,151 | 32,409,872 |

[1] Integrated Farming Systems

This programme was formed in 2006 to fund system-based approaches to farm production and land management; contribution of integrated farming techniques to policy outcomes or resource use efficiency; reduction of negative environmental footprint of agriculture; sustaining and enhancing environment, biodiversity and soils associated with farmland. It incorporates new work related to the former Integrated Systems programme.

[2] Integrated Systems

This programme funded work that cut across the former commodity programmes (arable, livestock and horticulture) and the Agricultural Environmental Protection programme to cover joint interests. The programme was closed to new work in 2005-06 but projects commissioned before that time are ongoing.

[3] LINK

LINK is a mechanism for co-funding collaborative research between industry and the public sector. The LINK programmes are: Food LINK, Horticulture LINK, Renewable Materials LINK, Sustainable Arable LINK, and Sustainable Livestock Production LINK. Much of the systems based research funded through LINK is in the Sustainable Arable LINK programme which is included in the table.

[4] Organic Farming

This includes projects on organic systems in the Organic Farming Production and Economics programme which became a sub-programme of the new Sustainable Farming Systems programme in 2005-06.

*Note:*

These figures are taken from the DEFRA Science Information System database.

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent inspection report of the Rural Payments Agency by the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner that is held by the Rural Payments Agency. [235065]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The last report on the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) by the Office of Surveillance Commissioner (OSC) was in 2004. As the report includes sensitive information on the areas and use of covert investigation techniques under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA), including the resources available, it would be inappropriate to place the report in the Library.

The Interception of Communications Commissioner, the Chief Surveillance Commissioner and the Intelligence Service Commissioner, who each have particular inspection and oversight responsibilities under RIPA, publish annual reports. The latest reports were laid before Parliament and copies placed in the House Library on 22 July. The figures provided in the reports for use of specific covert techniques are not broken down by individual public authority. The question of further disclosure for any particular public authority is a matter for the relevant commissioner.

**Mr. Morley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of proposals under the CAP Health Check to remove cross-compliance rules which allow for a reduction in payments for claimants who permit their land to be used for illegal poisoning of birds of prey. [235937]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The protection of wild birds, their eggs and nests is currently subject to cross compliance rules. The CAP Health Check will not remove the requirement relating to the deliberate killing (including killing by poisoning) of wild birds. However, the requirements to prohibit the taking of wild birds' eggs, keeping wild birds and using non-selective means of hunting, capture or killing are likely to be removed. The Government accept that farmers are unlikely to take wild birds eggs or take birds from the wild for keeping in captivity, however, the Government have argued against the removal of the prohibition on non-selective means of hunting, capture or killing birds. My Department considers that this aspect may be beneficial in dealing

with cases of illegal poisoning in addition to the main offence of deliberate killing. However, this is not a view widely held by other member states or the European Commission.

The UK has not yet conducted an impact assessment, but may do so when the Health Check concludes in December.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 the taking and killing of wild birds using poison remains an offence, with penalties of up to £5,000 and/or up to six months imprisonment.

### Badgers

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the use of rodenators to control badgers. [236223]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is prohibited to use any explosive other than ammunition for a firearm for the purpose of killing or taking any wild animal. My Department believes that the product called the Rodenator and similar devices are explosive devices and their use for these purposes is thus prohibited.

The 1981 Act includes provisions for the granting of licences allowing the use of prohibited methods for certain purposes where suitably justified. The assessment of individual applications would be carried out on DEFRA's behalf by Natural England within a policy framework set by DEFRA. DEFRA's policy is that licences should be considered only if it can be demonstrated to DEFRA's satisfaction that the method is humane and effective. DEFRA's position statement on Rodenator and similar devices can be found on our website.

Under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 it is prohibited, without a licence, to wilfully take or kill a badger, or to interfere with a badger sett. Therefore a licence under the 1992 Act would also be needed to use the Rodenator to take or kill badgers, or to interfere with a badger sett. The assessment of individual applications is carried out on DEFRA's behalf by Natural England within a policy framework set by DEFRA. This policy document is also available on our website.

### Carbon Emissions: New Forest

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 769-70W, on carbon emissions: New Forest, (1) what the effect of the technical constraints is on the policy of whether traffic on the A31 trunk road should be included in the carbon footprint of the New Forest National Park Authority; [236526]

(2) what carbon footprint figures are available for the A31 trunk road; [236530]

(3) whether carbon footprint figures are available for any parts of *(a)* the New Forest National Park, *(b)* the New Forest District Council area and *(c)* the Hampshire County Council area; [236531]

(4) what the technical hurdles referred to are; and when they were first identified. [236532]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The technical hurdles to producing carbon dioxide emissions figures for the New Forest National Park concern aggregation of available spatially disaggregated data to the boundaries of the park, and merging data for emissions and removals due to land use with other emissions. These issues have been known generically for a long time and apply in general to producing geographically disaggregated estimates. My Department routinely produces estimates for local authority areas, but not national park boundaries. I anticipate that the technical constraints will not prevent inclusion of emission from the A31 Trunk Road in the carbon footprint of the national park, and it should be possible to produce emissions estimates for other sections of the A31. My response later in the year, promised in my previous answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 769-70W, will set out these issues in more detail.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on entertainment by his Department in 2007-08; and how much of that sum is accounted for by expenditure on *(a)* food, *(b)* alcohol, *(c)* staff and *(d)* accommodation. [233255]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The core-Department holds no information centrally on the expenditure category of entertainment.

### Departmental Energy

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* electricity and *(b)* heating in each month of each of the last five years. [235366]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* The Secretary of State is unable to provide data broken down by month but can provide costs for electricity, gas and oil over the five-year period as shown in the following table:

£

| | *Electricity cost* | *Gas cost* | *Oil cost* | *Total cost* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 5,761,472 | 2,693,817 | 80,233 | 8,535,522 |
| 2005-06 | 4,160,771 | 2,043,127 | 101,369 | 6,305,267 |
| 2004-05 | 2,779,828 | 1,565,374 | 62,085 | 4,407,287 |
| 2003-04 | 2,361,546 | 1,550,061 | 72,089 | 3,983,696 |
| 2002-06 | 2,583,077 | 1,471,808 | 99,671 | 4,154,556 |

The Sustainable Development Commission has not yet verified energy data for 2007-08 so we are unable to provide this information.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's expenditure was on consultants for *(a)* management, *(b)* media and public relations, *(c)* design, *(d)* information technology, *(e)* recruitment, *(f)* research, *(g)* marketing, *(h)* public affairs and *(i)* training in each year since 2001. [233590]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I refer the hon. Member to pages 133 and 141 of DEFRA's Departmental Report 2008.

### Departmental Internet

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many unique visitors there were to his Departmental website in the latest period for which figures are available. [231940]

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many page hits his Department's website received in 2007-08; and how many visitors it had. [233250]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Details of page views, and unique visitors, to www.defra.gov.uk are as follows for the period from January 2007 to March 2008:

| *Month* | *Page views* | *Unique visitors* |
|---|---|---|
| January 2007 | 7,897,493 | 463,278 |
| February 2007 | 7,168,703 | 454,404 |
| March 2007 | 6,305,847 | 464,599 |
| April 2007 | 5,923,718 | 440,434 |
| May 2007 | 6,123,164 | 472,407 |
| June 2007 | 5,887,534 | 397,278 |
| July 2007 | 3,702,581 | 281,650 |
| August 2007 | 7,465,179 | 563,665 |
| September 2007 | 7,127,162 | 549,364 |
| October 2007 | 6,515,290 | 538,359 |
| November 2007 | 6,239,148 | 489,447 |
| December 2007 | 5,298,042 | 352,346 |
| January 2008 | 6,232,896 | 471,100 |
| February 2008 | 5,162,162 | 464,058 |
| March 2008 | 5,576,376 | 490,557 |

### Departmental Liability

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates in each of the last five years his Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to his Department or its non-departmental public bodies. [232729]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Within the five year period 2004 to 2008, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs informed the House of a contingent liability by laying a specific minute on only one occasion. On 6 October 2008, the Department informed the House that we wished to issue a Letter of Comfort to the Covent Garden Market Authority.

The notes to the Department's annual resource accounts also identify contingent liabilities and these were laid before the House on the following dates:

| *Accounts* | *Date* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 28 October 2004 |
| 2004-05 | 10 October 2005 |
| 2005-06 | 30 October 2006 |
| 2006-07 | 29 October 2007 |
| 2007-08 | 17 July 2008 |

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work and *(b)* provide assistance for his Department. [233252]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA currently employs 16 full-time press office and media relations staff and one part-time press officer.

### Departmental Official Visits

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228769]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** From information held centrally, the core-Department's VAT inclusive expenditure on overnight accommodation for the period July 2007 to June 2008 inclusive was £2,643,363.32. Information on overnight accommodation by all of DEFRA's executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Planning Permission

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1484W, on departmental planning permission, what the address of the building was for each application; what type of permission was applied for in each case; and what licensing hours were requested in the licensing application. [233587]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The addresses of each site for the Departmental planning applications, included in the answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1484W, and the type of application submitted are set out in the following table.

The licensing hours requested for the site club bar at the Epsom Road, Guildford site were 24 hours, seven days a week. This was to bring the sports and social club into line with new licensing laws. The site has now been sold.

| *Romeon number* | *Address* | *Town* | *Type* | *Works* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 640 | Kings House | Reading | Full | Chiller installation |
| 640 | Kings House | Reading | Full | Reception refurbishment |
| 101 | VLA Thirsk | Thirsk | Full | Internal rearrangement |
| 516 | Foss House, Kings Pool | York | Full | Cycle storage and reception |

| Romeon number | Address | Town | Type | Works |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 516 | Foss House, Kings Pool | York | Full | Temporary accommodation |
| 516 | Foss House, Kings Pool | York | Full | Solar panels and access modifications |
| 174 | Lion House | Alnwick | Full | New build |
| 174 | Lion House | Alnwick | Full | New build |
| 174 | Lion House | Alnwick | Full | Wind turbines |
| 174 | Lion House | Alnwick | Full | Biomass boiler |
| 103 | VLA Penrith | Penrith | Full | Biomass boiler |
| 272 | VLA Newcastle | Newcastle | Full | Biomass boiler |
| 101 | VLA Thirsk | Thirsk | Full | Biomass boiler |
| 643 | Lancaster House | Newcastle | Full | Reception extension |
| 143 | Epsom Road | Guildford | Outline | Change of use to residential |
| 129 | Block C, Government Building | Worcester | Temporary | Temporary accommodation |
| 129 | Block C, Government Building | Worcester | Full | Infill extension |
| 129 | Block C, Government Building | Worcester | Full | Infill extension |
| 129 | Block C, Government Building | Worcester | Full | Infill extension |
| 177 | Edenbridge House | Carlisle | Temporary | Portacabin |
| 598 | FMD Watchtree | Carlisle | Full | Storage tank |
| 557 | Chapel Bank Works BCMS | Workington | Full | New spur |
| 81 | Barton Hall | Preston | Full | Biomass boiler |
| 81 | Barton Hall | Preston | Full | Conservatory and kitchen area |
| 557 | Chapel Bank Works BCMS | Workington | Full | Wind turbine |
| 81 | AH Preston, Baston Hall | Preston | Full | Extension and car parking scheme |
| 196 | Nobel House | London | Full | Garden lightwell stairs |
| 87 | VLA Weybridge | Weybridge | Full | Wind turbines |
| 87 | VLA Weybridge | Weybridge | Full | Stores building |
| 707 | Southampton Road | Lyndhurst | Temporary | Portacabin |

## Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small- and medium-sized businesses were paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [226494]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Unless otherwise negotiated as part of contract agreement(s), DEFRA's standard terms of payment for all suppliers are the payment of valid and agreed invoices within 30 days of date of receipt. From information held centrally, and the core Department's financial system, prompt payment performance for the financial year 2007-08 for the core Department and those executive agencies for which information is held is as follows:

| | Percentage paid within terms |
|---|---|
| Core DEFRA | 91.9 |
| Animal Health | 92.2 |
| Government Decontamination Service | 96.7 |
| Marine Fisheries Agency | 90.3 |
| Veterinary Laboratories Agency | 87.7 |

Information on the proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized business paid within 30 days of receipt could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information on the Rural Payments Agency prompt payment performance is being compiled and I will place this in the Library of the House when available.

## Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil servants in his Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229181]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** As of the 30 of September 2008 we have 155 staff that joined through the Fast Stream. The average salary of these civil servants is £35,704.

## Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1487W, on domestic wastes: contracts, when copies of projects WR0103 and WR0104 will be placed in the Library; [235004]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1487W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's Review of Environmental and Health Effects of Waste Management; [235006]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of the research report commissioned by his Department Waste Strategy Review - SD0328; [235064]

(4) if he will place in the Library a copy of the research report commissioned by his Department, OU Household Waste Survey - EV01011; [235069]

(5) if he will place in the Library a copy of the report Household Waste Prevention commissioned by his Department from Eunomia. [235093]

**Jane Kennedy:** All the reports requested are publicly available on DEFRA's website.

### Eco-towns

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what studies his Department has commissioned into the suitability of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Stoughton Farm Estate in Harborough for horticulture as part of its work on eco-towns. [235871]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* Neither this Department nor its agencies (Natural England and the Environment Agency) have carried out an assessment of the suitability of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's Stoughton Farm Estate for horticulture as part of its work on eco-towns.

### Environment Protection

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to his Department's press release of 16 September 2008, on local environment quality surveys; if he will place in the Library an electronic version of the datasets for all the 175 local authorities in an Excel format. [235016]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Information on surveys of English local authorities' local environment surveys is available in pdf format on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/reports/index.htm

It is not possible to provide this information in excel format without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Fisheries

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on fisheries protection in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008. [236533]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Monitoring and protection and surveillance of marine fisheries is undertaken at sea, on the land and in the air. Since 1 October 2005, the responsibility in England and Wales has been undertaken by the Marine and Fisheries Agency, an Executive agency of DEFRA.

In particular, fisheries protection at sea is undertaken by the Royal Navy Fisheries Protection Squadron on behalf of the MFA. The cost to the MFA of providing that service in 2007-08 was £6.1 million. Information on the costs incurred in 1997 are not readily available.

### Flood Control

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has made to Ofwat with respect to the future pricing review on *(a)* sewage flooding, *(b)* preventing flooding from storm water drains and *(c)* other matters. [235661]

**Jane Kennedy:** DEFRA has issued statutory Social and Environmental Guidance to Ofwat. This provides Ofwat with a steer on the key environmental and social policies that the Government expects it to contribute to in carrying out its role as the independent economic regulator of the water industry. It includes guidance on flooding and resilience. A copy is available on the DEFRA website.

### Forests

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to increase public access to woodland. [235477]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Forestry Commission aims to increase the proportion of the population in priority areas that have access to woodland within four kilometres of where they live. It has a target for an additional 750,000 people to gain access to woodland over the next three years. It will work to achieve this through the targeting of incentives available through the English Woodland Grant scheme and through partnerships. Increased public access will be provided by the opening of access to existing woodland, the creation of new woodland on agricultural land and the regeneration of derelict and unused land to woodland.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to increase woodland cover in England. [235478]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Our forestry policy, 'A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests', includes the objective to plant trees and create new woodland in priority places. Under the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13 we have committed to creating 15,400 hectares of new woodlands with support from the English Woodland Grant scheme administered by the Forestry Commission. In addition there will be a contribution from smaller woodlands planted as part of Environmental Stewardship, the agri-environment grant scheme administered by Natural England.

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals that no one should live more than 500 metres from a two hectare wood and four kilometres from a 20 hectare wood. [235479]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Forestry Commission is utilising the Woodland Access Standard in its targeting of incentives offered for management of existing woodland and creation of new woodland under the English Woodland Grant Scheme that will increase public access. It also uses this standard to help the monitoring and evaluation of its work.

### Genetically Modified Organisms: Imports

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for which genetically modified varieties of *(a)* soya, *(b)* maize and *(c)* rapeseed approval has been given for import in the UK for use in animal feed in the form of (i) oil, (ii) meal and (iii) whole grain. [236558]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The following list gives the types of GM soya, maize and oilseed rape products that have EU approval for import into the EU for use in animal feed in any form. Details of all approved GM crops are available on the European Commission website.

*Soybean*
- A2704
- MON 40-3-2

*Maize*
- GA21
- 59122
- 1507xNK603
- NK603xMON810
- Bt11
- NK603
- MON810
- T25
- 1507
- MON863
- MON863xMON810
- MON863xNK603

*Oilseed rape*
- Ms8xRf3
- GT73
- T45

### Inland Waterways

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with British Waterways on progress towards its target to expand its waterways network by 2012. [236325]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** I have had discussions with British Waterways on the strategic approach to getting best benefit from its waterways. The Government remain fully supportive of British Waterways' ambition to expand its network, provided this is not at the expense of compromising its ability to maintain its existing network through creating additional on-going financial liabilities.

British Waterways is currently leading on a number of major waterway network expansion projects around the country, including the Bow Back Rivers in London's Olympic Park, the Liverpool Link, the Droitwich Canals and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal.

### Inspections

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many inspectors were employed by his Department in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228091]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA was created in June 2001, and the following information relates to the period since then.

In 2007-08, DEFRA, excluding the Executive agencies, employed 24 drinking water inspectors and 86 plant health and seeds inspectors.

Information on the number of Inspectors working in DEFRA's Executive agencies over this period could be provided only by incurring disproportionate cost.

### Mussels

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will instruct the Fish Health Inspectorate to reduce the five working days' notice required for a visual inspection of mussels on the seabed in an approved zone in the open sea west of Brixham harbour so as to provide an EU health certificate under Commission Decision 2007/104/EC. [236191]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The Fish Health Inspectorate's requirement for five working days notice is a long standing arrangement and part of their citizens charter. The Fish Health Inspectorate guarantee to provide a visual inspection service within this time period, but will endeavour to meet shorter deadlines where possible, through dialogue with the exporter.

### Nanotechnology

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many submissions to the voluntary reporting scheme for engineered nanoscale materials his Department received from *(a)* industry and *(b)* universities. [235128]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* DEFRA received 12 submissions to the UK voluntary reporting scheme for engineered nanomaterials; 10 from industry and two from universities.

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department's review of the voluntary reporting scheme for engineered nanoscale materials will conclude; and when he expects to report its findings. [235129]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* DEFRA, in partnership with the UK Technology Strategy Board, funded a survey of industry and researcher views of the scheme by the Nanotechnology Knowledge Transfer Network. This concluded in October and will be published on the DEFRA website in due course. The ministerial group on nanotechnologies will next meet in December and will consider future options for the scheme, reflecting upon the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's report and taking into account the European Commission's review of existing regulations.

### Nature Conservation: EU Law

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether compensatory habitats for large developments provided for under the EU Habitats Directive may be located in a member state other than the one where the development takes place. [235336]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** In circumstances where a development is allowed despite an assessment that it will have a significant adverse effect on a Natura 2000 site, the Habitats Directive requires the member state to take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network is protected.

The directive provides no further details, although non-statutory guidance from the European Commission states that compensatory habitat should relate to the same biogeographical region in the same member state and should be as close as possible to the habitat adversely affected by the development.

### Nature Conservation: Madagascar

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to protect endangered animal species in Madagascar. [233949]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** My Department's Darwin Initiative, our annual grants programme intended to use UK-based biodiversity expertise to assist countries rich in biodiversity but less so in resources, has funded 10 projects in Madagascar over the last 12 years. These include three on bat conservation, a wetlands project, a project on small vertebrates in the Tsingy Beneraha National Park, one on chameleon conservation within local communities, one on littoral forests, and two projects on training in biodiversity. A further two projects are under consideration.

Investment under the Darwin Initiative towards projects in Madagascar has totalled just over £900,000.

Another mechanism by which DEFRA funds species conservation projects is the Flagship Species Fund (FSF). Launched in 2001 in partnership with Fauna and Flora International, the FSF provides practical support for the conservation of endangered species and their habitats in developing countries. The FSF has funded a number of projects in Madagascar, including one on golden frogs, flying foxes and the conservation of 'orphan forests' in 2007.

Although not funded by DEFRA, we are also aware that the British High Commission in Mauritius (responsible for the UK's relations with Madagascar) has funded several smaller reforestation projects out of their Bilateral fund. The High Commission also supports the Madagascar Action Plan (MAP), Madagascar's strategic five year plan. The plan includes eight commitments which aim to eradicate poverty and focus on medium and long-term development, one of which is conservation of the environment.

### Noise: Oxfordshire

**John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made in conducting noise mapping of the M40 at Milton Common in Oxfordshire in accordance with the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006; what consultations he has held on this matter; and when new noise levels will be set. [235639]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* I can confirm that this section of road has been noise mapped. Results are available on DEFRA's noise mapping website. No consultations have been held yet. A consultation will be held on the noise action plan for major roads soon.

### Parliament Square: Demonstrations

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the written answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 748W, on noise pollution, whether the repeal of restrictions on demonstrations in Parliament Square will result in *(a)* permanent encampments and *(b)* unrestricted amplified broadcast noise being permitted. [228445]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* The Report of the Joint Committee on the Draft Constitutional Renewal Bill, published on 31 July 2008, included a number of recommendations on the Government's proposals to repeal sections 132-138 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 which pertain to demonstrations around Parliament. The recommendations of the Joint Committee addressed both permanent protests and noise nuisance and the Government will be responding imminently to the Report.

### Performance Appraisal

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235225]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Eight staff in DEFRA (excluding the executive agencies) did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their 2007-08 annual report.

### Pesticides

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding is available from the public purse to support the registration of crop protection products for off-label use. [236560]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The Government's long-term policy is that off-label applications should not benefit from funding from the public purse. However, as an interim measure, a small

amount of Government support is provided in respect of those applications which, for legal reasons, cannot benefit from the subsidy available through the levy on pesticide sales.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the total cost of the current process of registering crop protection products for off-label use. [236561]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]*: The current cost of processing an off-label approval is £1,700. Around 150 off-label applications are processed each year indicating a total cost for the process of £255,000 per year.

### Pesticides: EU Action

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the implementation of proposed EU regulations on crop protection chemicals; and if he will make a statement. [235564]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The proposed regulation on the marketing of plant protection products will apply directly in UK law, though there will need to be some national implementing measures. Where national measures are required, they will be adopted in secondary legislation. The Department will consult on any implementing measures in the usual way at the appropriate stage.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with UK Members of the European Parliament on European Commission proposals for new regulations on pesticides. [236221]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** My predecessor, Phil Woolas, discussed the proposals in Brussels with UK members of the Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee. Officials have been in regular contact with UK MEPs about the proposals and have provided detailed briefing on the Parliament's proposed amendments.

### Pesticides: Licensing

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the pesticide Imidacloprid was licensed for use in the UK. [236214]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Imidacloprid was first authorised for experimental use on 16 July 1991, and for commercial use on 24 June 1993.

### Plain English

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231117]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** My Department does submit documents for approval for Crystal Mark Status. However, information on the number of documents submitted and approved is not collated centrally and the figures could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Plants: EU Action

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what response he has made to the European Parliament's proposals on the draft Regulation concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market; and if he will make a statement. [234830]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The European Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee adopted its second reading report on 5 November 2008. It contains many amendments, which we are still examining in detail. It is, however, clear that they have moderated the first reading amendments which would have had the greatest impact on the availability of plant protection products.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he is taking to ensure an assessment of the impact of the proposed EU regulation on the "placing of plant protection products on the market on the UK ornamental horticulture and gardening industry is made prior to any implementation; and if he will make a statement; [234654]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential impact on UK producers, suppliers and distributors of plant protection products as a consequence of the European Parliament's position on the proposal for a Regulation concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market. [234656]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Pesticides Safety Directorate is revising its previous impact assessment (published in May 2008) in light of the second reading report adopted by the Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee on 5 November 2008.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that the derogation contained in the Council of Ministers' Common Position of the proposal for a Regulation concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market for emergency use of plant protection products for up to five years will continue; and if he will make a statement. [234655]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The United Kingdom will support retention of the derogation during the second reading negotiations with the European Parliament.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the zoning proposals contained in the draft EU Regulation concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market; whether he is seeking any changes to these zones; and if he will make a statement. [234657]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The United Kingdom welcomed the concept of zonal authorisation in the Commission's proposal and supports the compromise provisions adopted as part of the common position of the Agriculture Council in June 2008.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission a further analysis by experts of the proposed zones in regards to the proposed EU Regulation concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market; and if he will make a statement. [234858]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The United Kingdom is satisfied with the analysis prepared in 2006 by the Commission for their proposed regulation. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to address the potential impact on the British horticulture industry of the European Parliament's proposals on substitution contained in its position on the proposed EU Regulation concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market; and if he will make a statement. [234859]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Parliament's first reading report included amendments for identifying and approving candidates for substitution which could ultimately have eliminated a large number of active substances. The Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee adopted its second reading report on the proposed regulation on 5 November 2008. It included modified amendments on candidates for substitution which would allow these substances to remain on the market until replacements were available. Consequently, these provisions would not be expected to have any significant impact on the British horticulture industry.

### Property: Forestry Commission

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Forestry Commission has spent on maintaining its properties in each of the last five years. [236513]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The Forestry Commission holds a wide range of property across England including offices, depots, visitor centres, agricultural buildings and domestic properties. The estimated cost of maintaining these over the last five years is:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 1.347 |
| 2004-05 | 1.469 |
| 2005-06 | 1.456 |
| 2006-07 | 1.427 |
| 2007-08 | 1.639 |

### Smoking: Departmental Co-ordination

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Department of Health on the effect of the public smoking ban on levels of *(a)* noise nuisance and *(b)* smoking-related litter. [235008]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** I have had no discussions with the Department of Health on the effects of the smoking ban on levels of noise nuisance or litter. However, DEFRA and the Department of Health have in place a partnership agreement, a key component of which is a senior official level working group who, along with key delivery partners, provide a framework to improve the quality and appropriateness of the work between the two Departments. The working group held their second meeting in October.

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil servants in his Department were seconded to work for *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since 2003. [229099]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The information requested could be provided only by incurring disproportionate cost.

### Tuna: Conservation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to suspend bluefin tuna fishing in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean until such time as the contracting parties to the International Convention on Atlantic Tuna fully comply with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna recommendations on bluefin. [235561]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The annual meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) takes place in Marrakech from 17-24 November 2008. The UK's aim at this meeting will be to agree a total allowable catch for blue fin tuna that does not go above the limit recommended by the ICCAT Scientific Committee. In addition we will fully support the EU Commission in seeking enhanced control measures in the fishery including identifying spawning areas and setting a uniform fishing season and minimum landing size. We would hope that enhanced control measures could be agreed and implemented in time for the 2009 fishing season.

### Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the proposed "pilot waste incentive schemes for the collection of household waste will include houses in multiple occupation. [235148]

**Jane Kennedy:** It will be for local authorities piloting waste incentive schemes to determine which households they wish a proposed waste reduction scheme to cover.

within the legal framework set out in the Climate Change Bill. DEFRA published draft guidance for authorities in the summer, which considers this issue in more detail. We plan to publish the final version after Royal Assent to the Bill.

### Waste Management

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates his Department's Waste Incentives Project Board has met to date; and what the membership of the Board is. [235132]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Waste Incentive Project Board has met on the following dates:

19 December 2007

17 January 2008

29 February 2008

23 April 2008

27 June 2008

14 August 2008

17 October 2008.

The board is comprised of DEFRA officials and representatives of the Local Government Association, Waste and Resources Action Programme, Department of Communities and Local Government, HM Treasury and Cabinet Office.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the relationship there will be between regional waste strategy boards if established and joint waste authorities. [235145]

**Jane Kennedy:** Regional waste strategy boards are not created under legislation. There is no statutory relationship between them and joint waste authorities. It is anticipated that joint waste authorities will work constructively with regional waste strategy boards, should boards be established.

### Water: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the remit is of Ofwat in relation to pricing for low income groups; and if he will make a statement. [235658]

**Jane Kennedy:** Ofwat is the independent economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales.

In 1999 Ofwat received guidance from the Secretary of State of the then Department for the Environment, Transport and Regions on protecting vulnerable groups, including those on income related benefits.

In approving charges schemes Ofwat has to have regard to section 2 of the Water Industry Act 1999, which includes a reference to the interests of certain types of customers including those with low incomes.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Border and Immigration Agency

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) operations there were in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* the last 10 years; what records her Department maintains on (i) the number of arrests made during BIA operations and (ii) the number of BIA operations which take place during which no arrests are made; what approval from whom is required for BIA operations; what notice an establishment receives before a BIA operation takes place on its premises; what the maximum number of times an establishment may be raided in a 12 month period is; what obligations there are upon the BIA to avoid unnecessary disruption of business activities during its operations; and if she will make a statement. [207175]

**Mr. Woolas:** Information on how many United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) operations there were in 2007 and in the last 10 years and details of records maintained on the number of arrests made during UKBA operations are set out in the following table.

| *Operational activity* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total enforcement visits | 11,884 | 14,443 | 15,512 |
| Number of arrests made | 12,363 | 11,522 | 10,750 |
| Number of operations where no arrests made | [1] | 8,793 | 9,975 |

[1] Data not recorded prior to 2007-08

Prior to April 2005 the UKBA did not produce regular reports on numbers of individuals arrested. The data provided are management information. They may be subject to change and do not represent published national statistics.

All UKBA operations are authorised in advance. Operations are grouped into three tiers (lower, middle and upper) and each tier is authorised at a different level. All UKBA operations are intelligence led. There is no limit on the number of times premises can be visited and the UKBA is under no obligation to avoid unnecessary disruption of the employer's business activities during its operations. Officers will always try to ensure that any disruption to members of the public during such operations is kept to a minimum.

Employers can work in co-operation with UKBA. However, in certain cases employers may be reluctant to assist UKBA officials in the identification of illegal workers. In these instances no notice is given and officers are advised to obtain a warrant in order to gain entry to the premises.

Chapter 31.5 of Enforcement Instructions and Guidance details the levels of authority for operations. Chapters 18.6 and 18.7 provide illegal working guidance. Copies of the document are placed in the Library of the House. It is also available to view at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/oemsection

## Departmental Official Visits

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location and *(c)* purpose was of the meetings she had while in the United States in February 2008; and who attended each meeting. [188841]

**Mr. Coaker:** My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary visited the US from 10 to 12 February 2008. In Washington DC she had meetings with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drugs Enforcement Administration. In New York she met senior New York police officials, and visited the Gangs Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Project.

The meetings were to enhance co-operation and understanding between the UK and the US on issues such as tackling terrorism and organised crime.

She was accompanied on her visit by senior officials from the Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism, the International Directorate, the Serious Organised Crime Agency, Press Office and members of her Private Office.

## Departmental Pay

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of employees in her Department who received a performance-related bonus at their last appraisal were *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* from an ethnic minority, *(d)* disabled and *(e)* not heterosexual; and if she will make a statement. [208378]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information required is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on targeted initiatives in *(a)* inner cities, *(b)* rural areas and *(c)* seaside towns in each of the last 16 years. [235702]

**Meg Hillier:** Home Office accounting systems do not hold the information in the form required by the question.

## Departmental Sick Leave

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of her Department's staff took more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, broken down by pay grade. [198978]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Home Office staff sickness tables from 2003-04 to 2007-08 are shown in the following tables.

The information is drawn from Home Office HQ, United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) and Identity and Passport Service (IPS) personnel information management system, respectively. The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) is unable to provide a response without incurring disproportionate cost.

Home Office and UKBA's data before 2005 is unavailable due to data migration to a new system which is reflected in the lower 2003-04 and 2004-05 figures. Calculations are based on a 12-month rolling period for an accurate representation of working days lost to stress-related sickness within each year.

In 2006-07, the Home Office HQ included the following Departments: Communities Group, NOMS and OCJR, which have now all transferred following machinery of government changes. NOMS and OCJR left in May 2007 to join Ministry of Justice, and therefore have been included for year 2005-06 and 2006-07. Communities Group transferred to DCLG in May 2006 and is included in year 2005-06 sickness calculation.

*Table 1: Home Office sickness for 2003-04*

| | Days | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *>5 and <=10* | *>10 and <=15* | *>15 and <=20* | *>20 and <=25* | *>25 and <=30* | *>30 and <=35* | *>35 and <=40* | *>40* |
| AA | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| AO | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| EO | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| HEO | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| SEO | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| G7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| G6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SCS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 14 |

*Table 2: Home Office sickness for 2004-05*

| | Days | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *>5 and <=10* | *>10 and <=15* | *>15 and <=20* | *>20 and <=25* | *>25 and <=30* | *>30 and <=35* | *>35 and <=40* | *>40* |
| AA | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| AO | 11 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 10 |
| EO | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| HEO | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SEO | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| G7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Table 2: Home Office sickness for 2004-05*

| | Days | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *≥5 and ≤>10* | *≥10 and ≤>15* | *≥15 and ≤>20* | *≥20 and ≤>25* | *≥25 and ≤>30* | *≥30 and ≤>35* | *≥35 and ≤>40* | *≥40* |
| G6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SCS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 18 | 7 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 18 |

*Table 3: Home Office sickness for 2005-06*

| | Days | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *≥5 and ≤>10* | *≥10 and ≤>15* | *≥15 and ≤>20* | *≥20 and ≤>25* | *≥25 and ≤>30* | *≥30 and ≤>35* | *≥35 and ≤>40* | *≥40* |
| AA | 13 | 18 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 20 |
| AO | 41 | 39 | 27 | 15 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 60 |
| EO | 45 | 34 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 20 | 5 | 71 |
| HEO | 13 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 22 |
| SEO | 5 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 11 |
| G7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| G6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| SCS | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Other | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Total | 121 | 104 | 61 | 46 | 31 | 36 | 22 | 195 |

*Table 4: Home Office sickness for 2006-07*

| | Days | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *≥5 and ≤>10* | *≥10 and ≤>15* | *≥15 and ≤>20* | *≥20 and ≤>25* | *≥25 and ≤>30* | *≥30 and ≤>35* | *≥35 and ≤>40* | *≥40* |
| AA | 19 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 21 |
| AO | 55 | 38 | 27 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 75 |
| EO | 61 | 27 | 25 | 21 | 14 | 11 | 13 | 74 |
| HEO | 14 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 23 |
| SEO | 10 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 15 |
| G7 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| G6 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| SCS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Other | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| Total | 163 | 94 | 83 | 61 | 37 | 29 | 25 | 226 |

*Table 5: Home Office sickness for 2007-08*

| | Days | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Grade* | *≥5 and ≤>10* | *≥10 and ≤>15* | *≥15 and ≤>20* | *≥20 and ≤>25* | *≥25 and ≤>30* | *≥30 and ≤>35* | *≥35 and ≤>40* | *≥40* |
| AA | 15 | 11 | 7 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 19 |
| AO | 34 | 49 | 40 | 21 | 13 | 17 | 11 | 79 |
| EO | 57 | 45 | 26 | 18 | 22 | 14 | 8 | 115 |
| HEO | 16 | 14 | 12 | 16 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 38 |
| SEO | 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 18 |
| G7 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| G6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| SCS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 11 |
| Total | 133 | 125 | 94 | 72 | 54 | 42 | 29 | 287 |

### Departmental Telecommunications

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on telecommunication costs in each year since 1997. [234452]

**Mr. Woolas:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 45-46W.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many questions for written answer were tabled to her Department in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235392]

**Mr. Coaker:** This information is not held centrally.

### Deportation: Standards

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis is for statements by Ministers in her Department that somebody is removed from the United Kingdom every eight minutes. [227553]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* There were 63,365 removals, including voluntary departures, from the UK in 2007. As the UK Border Agency operates 24 hours a day and seven days a week this equates to a removal taking place, on average, every eight minutes

National Statistics on removals from the UK are published in table 6.1 of the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2007 bulletin. Copies of this publication are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1008.pdf.

The removals figure includes enforced removals, persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

This figure is rounded to the nearest five and is provisional.

### Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children are held at Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre. [221810]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* On 30 October 2008, there were two children with their mother in detention at Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre. Children are only ever held with their parents and normally spend no longer than 72 hours in the centre.

### Entry Clearances

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for further leave to remain have been received in each of the last 10 years; how many applications were granted; how many applicants came originally *(a)* for the purposes of work, *(b)* to study and *(c)* for other reasons; and for each category, how many dependants were brought to the UK. [232203]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The following shows the number of applications made since January 2002, and of those how many were granted. This is the date from when fully electronic consideration and recording commenced. Prior to that paper based records were in use. The data are separated out by year, case type group and main/Dependant applications.

Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

Because of rounding, figures may not add up to total shown.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

*In country leave to remain applications received each year since January 2002 (and of those the quantity subsequently granted)*

| | | Main applicant applications | | Dependant applications | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Type | Granted | Total received | Granted | Total received |
| 2002 | Employment | 81,665 | 94,350 | 19,190 | 21,710 |
| | Student | 124,095 | 146,095 | 14,055 | 18,960 |
| | Other | 50,345 | 76,175 | 11,340 | 17,205 |
| | Total | 256,100 | 316,620 | 44,590 | 57,875 |
| 2003 | Employment | 104,865 | 122,520 | 29,780 | 32,840 |
| | Student | 175,790 | 210,745 | 20,335 | 25,380 |
| | Other | 54,715 | 86,280 | 13,950 | 21,355 |
| | Total | 335,375 | 419,545 | 64,070 | 79,570 |
| 2004 | Employment | 92,540 | 114,960 | 42,215 | 47,855 |
| | Student | 149,165 | 183,225 | 20,235 | 25,445 |
| | Other | 52,135 | 76,520 | 13,455 | 19,490 |
| | Total | 293,840 | 374,705 | 75,905 | 92,790 |
| 2005 | Employment | 78,840 | 92,985 | 44,490 | 49,345 |
| | Student | 127,850 | 157,340 | 19,855 | 24,665 |
| | Other | 43,640 | 62,390 | 10,085 | 14,785 |
| | Total | 250,330 | 312,715 | 74,435 | 88,790 |
| 2006 | Employment | 97,200 | 110,250 | 59,820 | 65,255 |
| | Student | 131,560 | 158,485 | 22,115 | 26,710 |
| | Other | 38,450 | 55,840 | 6,195 | 10,195 |
| | Total | 267,205 | 324,58 | 88,130 | 102,165 |
| 2007 | Employment | 84,400 | 102,715 | 45,715 | 52,980 |
| | Student | 131,855 | 164,785 | 24,460 | 30,580 |
| | Other | 52,155 | 75,180 | 6,655 | 11,325 |
| | Total | 268,410 | 342,680 | 76,825 | 84,885 |
| 2008 | Employment | 46,475 | 54,325 | 27,690 | 31,340 |
| | Student | 67,235 | 91,825 | 14,070 | 18,675 |
| | Other | 42,895 | 62,410 | 5,990 | 9,815 |
| | Total | 156,605 | 208,565 | 47,750 | 59,825 |
| | Grand total | 1,827,860 | 2,299,405 | 471,700 | 575,900 |

*Notes:*
1. The data provided cover applications made between 1 January 2002 and the 30 September 2008. Therefore the data for 2008 are for an incomplete year.
2. The data are based on in country non-asylum leave to remain applications made between the above dates (not Indefinite Leave to Remain).
3. Granted in the table refers to a grant of limited leave to Remain only (not indefinite leave to remain)
4. "Type" in the table refers to the case type of the application made and actually represent the grouping of many different immigration casetypes.
5. This data differ from that published under the National Statistics Protocol in that they are based on date of application rather than date of despatch.
6. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5
7. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to total shown.
8. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many universities, further education colleges and other educational institutions had applied for licences to sponsor foreign students by 1 October 2008. [234787]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 11 November 2008]:* The number of educational establishments which have applied for licences to sponsor foreign students under the points based system is 541.

The breakdown is:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Universities | 19 |
| Further education colleges | 169 |
| Other educational establishments | 353 |

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

### Essex Police Authority: Freedom of Information

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussion *(a)* she, *(b)* Ministers in her Department and *(c)* officials in her Department have had with Essex Police Authority on the release of information by them under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and if she will make a statement. [233918]

**Mr. Coaker:** Neither the Home Secretary, nor Home Office Ministers and officials have had any recent discussions with Essex police authority on the release of information by them under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### Foreign Workers: Health Services

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data her Department holds on the number of economic migrants working in the care and health sectors. [232453]

**Mr. Woolas:** Applications to work in care and health sectors are not separately identified in employment routes databases. However, volumes can be reported using the following categories:

Health and Medical Services;
Social Worker;
Acupuncturist;
Biomedical Scientist;
Chiropodist/Podiatrist;
Chiropractor;
Dental Surgeon;
Assistant Dentist;
Dental Anaesthetist;
Dietician;
Optician;
Assistant Optometrist;
Medical Practitioner;
Midwife;
Nurse;
Physiotherapist;
Psychiatrist;
Psychologist;
Pharmacist;
Occupational Therapist;
Radiographer;
Speech Therapist;
Social Worker;
Other Health/Medical Occ;
Doctor;
Hospital Consultant;
Senior Carer;
Dental Nurse;
Senior House Officer;
Specialist Registrar;
Foundation Programme Doctor;
Alternative/complementary medicine specialist;
Anaesthetist;
Care assistants and home carers;
Consultant, hospital;
Dental Hygienist;
General Practitioner;
Manager, care home;
Manager, health and social services;
Nursing auxiliaries and assistants;
Optician;
Researcher (medical);
Residential wardens and Houseparents;
Surgeon;
Technician, medical;
Ward Sister; and
Warden (care home).

### Human Rights

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Ministry of Justice in relation to the universal periodic review by the UN Human Rights Council. [204276]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Home Office has been in discussion with the Ministry of Justice about the review since December 2007. Home Office Ministers saw the National Report prior to publication, which formed the basis for discussion at the oral hearing.

### Illegal Immigrants: Plymouth

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has received reports on whether an illegal immigrant and alleged murderer is working in a care home in Plymouth. [199319]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* In 2005 an intelligence assessment was carried out covering the south and south west of England. Its subject was illegal employment by foreign nationals. The assessment appeared in *The Sunday Times* on 30 March 2008 as a result of a leak.

Intelligence contained in the report suggested that a person who had previously worked at a care home in Plymouth was a Filipino national who had false references and may be wanted for murder in the Philippines.

Subsequent inquiries suggested that the person who had been employed at the care home was not the same person who was wanted for murder.

### Immigrants: Housing

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1827W on immigration: housing, what record is kept of the number of private sector providers of property for the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) transferring existing property to the private rented market; how many private sector providers provided property to NASS in each year since its inception; and how many private sector properties were provided for NASS in the same period. [208764]

**Mr. Woolas:** The United Kingdom Border Agency does not keep a record of the numbers of properties transferred to the private rented market. However I do refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 336W.

The number of private sector accommodation providers used since the inception of the National Asylum Support Service in 2000 has changed over the years. During the whole period 2000 to 2003 there were 10 private sector providers providing property to NASS. The numbers of private providers reduced to nine in 2004 and the original 10 providers reduced to seven in 2005. In 2006 replacement accommodation contracts were awarded to nine private sector providers. This figure has recently reduced to eight.

We do not hold records of the numbers of properties procured by accommodation providers because the contracts are framed in terms of outcomes.

### Immigration

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how she proposes to give effect to the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal's decision in the case of Mrs E.K., wife of Mr S.Z. of Aylesbury, and the Entry Clearance Officer, Islamabad (reference OA 52562/2007). [236204]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The Tribunal's decision was received in Islamabad on 7 November. A letter was sent to the applicant on 13 November asking her to submit her passport and a TB certificate. The visa will be issued on receipt of these documents.

### Immigration Controls

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were applying for settlement in the UK under each employment route when the qualifying period for settlement was increased from four to five years in April 2006. [225195]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following table shows the number of applications for settlement in the year prior to the qualifying period being increased (1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006) and in the year post the qualifying period being increased (1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007) broken down by each employment route.

The criteria include main applicants only and exclude dependants.

The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

| *Employment route* | *Pre-rule change (1 April 2005-31 March 2006)* | *Post-rule change (1 April 2006-31 March 2007)* |
|---|---|---|
| Airline employees | 10 | 5 |
| Armed Forces | 1,340 | 2,720 |
| Business | 45 | 15 |
| BUS under EC Association Agreement | 2,235 | 260 |
| Highly Skilled Migrants | 760 | 205 |
| Innovator | 15 | 5 |
| Investors | 50 | 5 |
| MOR, Missionaries/Members of religious orders | 550 | 135 |
| Overseas Domestic Workers | 950 | 255 |
| Overseas Dom Worker in diplomatic households | 65 | 25 |
| Overseas government employees | 25 | 25 |
| Reps of overseas news Agency | 15 | 5 |
| Retired persons of Independent means | 25 | 5 |
| Sole Representative | 55 | 10 |
| UK Ancestry | 5,650 | 570 |
| Work Permit Employment | 28,780 | 5,015 |
| Writers, composers and artists | 40 | 10 |
| Total | 40,620 | 9,265 |

**Meg Munn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans *(a)* she and *(b)* the UK Border Agency has to hold information sessions for hon. Members and their caseworkers on the points-based scoring system in locations other than London. [235719]

**Mr. Woolas:** The UK Border Agency held information sessions for MPs and their caseworkers on the points based system in London in July.

Two further events are planned in London on 19 November. Where there is a demand, the UK Border Agency will arrange further information sessions outside London.

### Immigration Controls: Higher Education

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether universities will be permitted to be licence holders for sponsored researchers under the points-based migration system. [235945]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* Under the points-based system, sponsored researchers could come to the UK through the Tier 5: Temporary Workers—Government Authorised Exchange sub-category. The policy framework for this category requires an overarching body to act as sponsor of a scheme, as well as the support of a UK Government Department for the scheme and sponsor. Individual employers are not permitted to act as sponsors of migrants participating in schemes, and universities will not be permitted to become licensed sponsors under this category.

### Immigration Officers: Sick Leave

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* immigration officers and *(b)* other Border and Immigration Agency staff took long-term sick leave in each of the last five years. [193119]

**Mr. Woolas:** The numbers of Immigration Officers and other UK Border Agency staff who have taken long term sick leave in each of the last three calendar years as recorded on our personnel system (Adelphi) are shown in the following table. The figures reflect improvements in recording and monitoring and should be judged in this context.

We are unable to provide accurate data previous to 2005 as these were not recorded centrally.

*Number*

| | *Immigration officers* | *All other border and immigration agency staff* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 274 | 1,125 |
| 2006 | 282 | 1,194 |
| 2007 | 503 | 1,959 |

### Islam: Marriage

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many mosques *(a)* were registered and *(b)* had applied for registration to perform joint civil and religious marriage ceremonies at the most recent date for which figures are available. [234592]

**Meg Hillier:** The Places of Worship Registration Act 1855 provides for places of religious worship, except those of the established Church, to be certified to the Registrar General. A building has to be certified as a place of religious worship before it can be registered for marriages by the Registrar General under the Marriage Act 1949.

The total number of buildings currently recorded by the Registrar General as certified places of meeting for religious worship by those professing the Muslim religion in England and Wales is 809. Of those 159 buildings are registered for marriage.

The Marriage Act draws a distinction between civil and religious marriages. Where a marriage is conducted in a registered building it may be solemnized according to such form and ceremony as the persons contracting the marriage see fit to adopt. Civil marriages may only take place in a register office or other building approved for that purpose by the local authority in which it is situated.

The register of buildings registered for marriage is not held in a format that can provide the total number of applications since the 1855 Act was implemented.

### Members: Correspondence

**Clare Short:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration plans to reply to the enquiry from the right hon. Member from Birmingham, Ladywood of 7 October 2008 on the allowed appeal and issue of a visa to Ahmed Sharif Ali (Post reference: 92727 Addis Ababa). [234772]

**Mr. Woolas:** A reply was sent from Visa Services Directorate on 11 November 2008.

**John Penrose:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letters of 10 September and 9 October 2005 from the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare on behalf of his constituent Mr Gordon Butcher. [235321]

**Mr. Woolas:** The chief executive of the United Kingdom Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 12 November 2008.

### Oleg Deripaska

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether information held by the US authorities on Oleg Deripaska was available to the UK authorities before a visa was issued to him; and if she will make a statement. [229955]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* It is not Home Office policy to comment on individual cases.

### Passports: Pensioners

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pensioners in Enfield North constituency have received a free passport in each year since the introduction of the policy. [235434]

**Meg Hillier:** The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) does not ask passport holders to keep their address up to date on our database. Therefore, IPS cannot identify the number of current residents by geographical area that have taken advantage of the scheme to issue free passports to those applicants born on or before 2 September 1929.

Over 520,000 free passports have been issued since the scheme was introduced in 2004 as a way of recognising all those who had contributed to the national effort during the second world war.

### Police: Finance

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the expenditure on *(a)* direct staff cost, *(b)* operational support cost, *(c)* business support cost and *(d)* cost excluding sustaining overhead under activity-based costing analysis was on (i) reducing crime, (ii) investigating crime, (iii) promoting public safety and (iv) providing assistance in each financial year since 2004-05. [200338]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Department's expenditure on crime for the last three years, for which there are audited figures, is shown in the following table.

*Crime reduction and community safety group*

£000

| | Outturn | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| *Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)* | | | |
| *Cut crime, especially violent, drug and alcohol related crime* | 428,230 | 347,800 | 381,184 |
| *Of which:* | | | |
| Crime Reduction | 210,206 | 161,155 | 193,059 |
| Criminal Records Bureau | -999 | -18,202 | -25,394 |
| Firearms Compensation | 6 | — | — |
| Drugs | 206,904 | 200,382 | 211,472 |
| Security Industry Authority | 12,113 | 4,465 | 2,047 |
| *Lead visible, responsive and accountable policing* | 5,515,366 | 5,955,449 | 6,028,158 |
| *Of which:* | | | |
| Police (inc grants) | 4,987,320 | 5,393,649 | 5,335,705 |
| Independent Police Complaints Commission | 24,086 | 26,374 | 31,272 |
| Central Police Training and Development Agency | 83,283 | 102,799 | 70,559 |
| Police Information Technology Organisation | 167,814 | 196,113 | 203,569 |
| National Criminal Intelligence Service | 83,835 | 77,906 | — |
| National Crime Squad | 161,767 | 152,070 | — |
| Serious Organised Crime Agency | 7,261 | 6,538 | 387,053 |
| *Capital DEL* | | | |
| *Cut crime, especially violent, drug and alcohol related crime* | 30,971 | 25,036 | 33,879 |
| *Of which:* | | | |
| Crime Reduction | 24,785 | 23,805 | 11,717 |
| Drugs | 2,174 | 800 | 20,262 |
| Security Industry Authority | 4,012 | 431 | 1,900 |
| *Lead visible, responsive and accountable policing* | 410,923 | 444,438 | 423,008 |
| *Of which:* | | | |
| Police (inc grants) | 307,594 | 342,128 | 173,249 |
| Independent Police Complaints Commission | 3,744 | 540 | 5 |
| Central Police Training and Development Agency | 15,777 | 6,747 | 132,573 |
| Police Information Technology Organisation | 62,808 | 83,422 | 2,175 |
| National Criminal Intelligence Service | 4,905 | 2,439 | 73,320 |
| National Crime Squad | 8,977 | 6,845 | — |
| Serious Organised Crime Agency | 7,118 | 2,317 | 41,686 |
| *Administration budget* | | | |
| *Cut crime, especially violent, drug and alcohol related crime* | 17,881 | 6,340 | 10,168 |
| *Lead visible, responsive and accountable policing* | 27,834 | 35,857 | 31,671 |
| *UK Border Agency (UKBA)* | | | |
| *Enforcement and compliance* | | 147,211 | 178,208 |
| *Criminal casework* | | 3,003 | 13,559 |

To provide the detail requested in the question could not be done without incurring disproportionate cost. Figures for UKBA 2004-05 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Police: Misconduct**

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of procedures in place for the investigation of alleged misconduct by the police; what recent representations she has received on this issue; what response was given; and if she will make a statement. [235519]

**Mr. Coaker:** In 2004, the then Home Secretary commissioned a review of the current arrangements for dealing with police misconduct. The Review of Police Disciplinary Arrangements was the review conducted by William Taylor CBE QPM into the effectiveness of disciplinary arrangements for police officers. It made a number of recommendations, including that the procedures for dealing with the unsatisfactory performance of police officers should be reviewed. It was published in 2005 and its recommendations were accepted by Ministers. The Police Advisory Board for England and Wales (PABEW) took forward the process for implementing the recommendations. As a result, new Police (Performance) Regulations 2008, Police (Conduct) Regulations 2008 and Police Appeals Tribunals Rules 2008 were approved by both Houses of Parliament and the new procedures will come into force on 1 December 2008.

**Police: Training**

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what programmes there are for police officers to be posted overseas to help train overseas police forces in *(a)* secure and *(b)* insecure environments. [236068]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* UK police officers engage in a wide range of training and other police assistance activities, both short and long term, throughout the world. The environments in which they operate will vary, from stable countries to countries where the UK is contributing to Peace Support Operations, including Iraq and Afghanistan. In these cases, risk assessments will have been carried out prior to deployment and arrangements made to safeguard the officers' security as far as possible while delivering the assistance.

**Police: Wales**

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police community support officers and *(b)* civilian support officers there were in (i) Vale of Clwyd constituency and (ii) North Wales (A) in 1997 and (B) at the latest date for which figures are available; and what the policing budget was in each area in (1) 1997 and (2) 2007 in real terms. [235559]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available data for North Wales are given in the following table. Police personnel data are not collected by parliamentary constituency.

The net budget requirement for North Wales Police Authority in 1997-98 was £71.3 million, increasing to £124.8 million in 2007-08. This is a real terms increase of 37.8 per cent.

Resource for the Vale of Clwyd is an operational matter for the chief constable and police authority.

*Police community support officer strength (FTE)[1] and police staff[2] strength (FTE)[1] for North Wales police*

| As at 31 March each year | PCSOs[3] | Staff |
|---|---|---|
| 1997[3] | | 476 |
| 2003[4] | 0 | 703 |
| 2008 | 159 | 774 |

[1] Total strength is based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, because of rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between these totals and the totals in other tables.
[2] Civilian staff have been referred to as police staff since March 2003. Figures exclude traffic wardens, police community support officers and designated officers (s.38).
[3] Figures exclude those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity.
[4] Strength figures as at 31 March 2003 onwards include those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore these figures are not comparable with those provided for other years in the table.
[5] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data are not available prior to 2002-03.

### UK Border Agency: Lost Property

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of case files of asylum and immigration applicants lost by the UK Border Agency or its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years. [235349]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information is not available in the format requested. The level of UK Border Agency case files not currently shown with a clear location is less than 0.2 per cent. of the Agency's total holding.

## JUSTICE

### Bill of Rights

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish his Green Paper on a British Bill of Rights; and if he will make a statement. [235484]

**Mr. Straw:** The Government have noted with interest the recent Report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights in relation to a Bill of Rights for the UK and expects to publish a paper on rights and responsibilities shortly.

### Civil Service Commission: Payments

**Mr. O'Hara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements there are for the Civil Service Commission to transfer payments to *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* its staff in circumstances where the payment has not been made on the due date. [220884]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

I understand the hon. Member is referring to the Office of the Civil Service Commissioners. The Cabinet Office administers payments in respect of the Office's suppliers and staff.

The Cabinet Office's procedures are designed to support its policy to pay undisputed invoices within the terms of the contract; salaries on the due date; and valid staff expenses within five working days.

### Compensation: Industrial Diseases

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish the Government's response to the consultation on pleural plaques; and if he will make a statement. [235485]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Government's consultation on pleural plaques closed on 1 October, and the responses are currently being analysed. We will seek to publish a response paper outlining the way forward as soon as possible.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many responses he has received to the consultation on pleural plaques; how many were from *(a)* trades unions, *(b)* members of the public and *(c)* insurers; and if he will make a statement. [235487]

**Bridget Prentice:** A total of 224 responses were received to the consultation paper. Of these, 125 responses were received from individuals and 30 from the legal profession. 18 responses were received from insurers and defendant organisations. There were 15 responses from trade union bodies, and 12 from Members of Parliament. Seven responses were received from employers and business organisations; four from medical professionals; four from organisations representing asbestos victims; and two from academics. In addition there were responses from a devolved administration; a non departmental public body; a constituency political party; an actuarial body; a charity for education in health and safety; a statutory public body; and a consultancy firm specialising in occupational environmental and public health risks.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the consultation on pleural plaques, how many responses were in favour of *(a)* the status quo, *(b)* a compensation scheme and *(c)* a change in the law to permit damages claims; and if he will make a statement. [235488]

**Bridget Prentice:** The responses to the questions contained in the consultation paper are currently being analysed. A full summary together with the Government's response will be published as soon as possible.

### Courts Service: Costs

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the Courts Service of litigants in person was in each year since 1997. [235907]

**Bridget Prentice:** There are no data held centrally on the costs to Her Majesty's Courts Service of litigants in person.

### Courts: Control Orders

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on point 8 of the then Prime Minister's security measures announced on 5 August 2005, on the expansion of court capacity to deal with control orders. [233535]

**Bridget Prentice:** We monitor the volume of control orders to ensure that we continue to have the capacity to deal with any increase in volumes. My Department has led and managed a Works Programme, which has provided 14 high security courtrooms to deal with terrorist cases at key locations across England and Wales. We keep under review the volume of control orders and our capacity to hear all terrorist cases, particularly those that require a higher level of security in order to ensure that our estate can meet any increased workload in the future. We are satisfied that at present the courts have sufficient capacity and that enough judges have been identified to deal with these Orders.

### Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the recent presentation by Sir Suma Chakrabarti to senior officials in his Department on cost savings across his Department. [233374]

**Mr. Straw:** I refer the right hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for Cambridge (David Howarth) on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 20W.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2007-08. [235300]

**Mr. Malik:** The Ministry of Justice website:

www.justice.gov.uk

was launched on 9 May 2007. Monthly page impressions and visits figures for the year from May 2007 to March 2008 are as follows:

| | *Page impressions* | *Visits* |
|---|---|---|
| May (from 9 May) | 490,722 | 140,891 |
| June | 609,632 | 182,358 |
| July | 659,066 | 198,045 |
| August | 605,483 | 186,261 |
| September | 682,046 | 193,475 |
| October | 832,057 | 267,060 |
| November | 815,189 | 264,258 |
| December | 613,200 | 197,628 |
| January | 906,944 | 291,477 |
| February | 830,664 | 272,590 |
| March | 819,528 | 278,226 |
| Total | 7,864,531 | 2,472,269 |

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many questions for written answer were tabled to his Department and its predecessor in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235389]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice and its predecessor Departments have electronic records since the 2004-05 Session, therefore, the information for 2002-03 and 2003-04 is not available. The following table shows the number of ordinary written and named day Commons questions tabled to my Department and its predecessors from the 2004 Session.

| *Session* | *House of Commons ordinary written and named day questions tabled* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 501 |
| 2005-06 | 2,700 |
| 2006-07 | 2,560 |
| 2007—14 November 2008 | 4,247 |

The information requested on how many questions were answered substantively and those that were not answered due to disproportionate costs are not held centrally, however, we are looking to adapt our database so the information is recorded from the new session.

### Electoral Register

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the proportion of the electorate who have declined to have their details published in the edited version of the electoral register. [236515]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of the proportion of the electorate who have declined to have their details published in the edited version of the electoral register. (236515)

The latest figures for the number of people who registered to vote in the United Kingdom, for local government and European elections, relate to 1 December 2007. At this date the proportion of the electorate who declined to have their details published in the edited version of the register was 39 per cent.

### Islam: Legal Systems

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to write to the hon. Member for Wycombe in fulfilment of the commitment given by the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 661, on Sharia law. [236986]

**Bridget Prentice:** I will respond to the hon. Member before the end of November.

### Licensing: Television

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been fined for television licence fee evasion in each of the last five years; and how much was collected in fines in each such year. [235705]

**Maria Eagle:** The available information is shown in the following table.

*Number of offenders fined and sum of all fines for offences relating to television licence evasion[1], 2002 to 2006*

| | *Number of offenders fined* | *Sum of fines imposed (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 94,569 | 10,448,919 |
| 2003 | 78,813 | 9,043,774 |
| 2004 | 96,155 | 11,164,361 |
| 2005 | 117,907 | 14,362,466 |
| 2006 | 113,874 | 14,748,188 |

[1] The TV licensing provisions of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 were replaced by new provisions in the Communications Act 2003 which came into effect on 1 April 2004.

*Notes*

1. These data are on the principle offence basis.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
3. Following quality checks, data for certain police force areas within corresponding regions are not considered reliable enough for publication.

*Source:*

OMS Analytical Services.

The overall payment rate for all financial penalties by financial year is shown in the following table. These data are not collected by offence.

| | *Payment rate (Percentage)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 80 |
| 2005-06 | 83 |
| 2006-07 | 92 |
| 2007-08 | 95 |

Data prior to April 2003 are not available in a comparable format.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in late November.

### Prison Service: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers were dismissed in connection with drug-related offences in each year since 1997. [235957]

**Mr. Hanson:** According to records held centrally by the National Offender Management Service, the numbers of public sector prison officers dismissed in connection with drug-related offences in each year since 2005, is contained in the following table:

| *Calendar year* | *Dismissals* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 4 |
| 2006 | 3 |
| 2007 | 1 |
| 2008[1] | 3 |
| Total | 11 |

[1] This covers the period to 30 October 2008 and does not include any cases which are subject to internal appeal.

Information on disciplinary cases before 2005 is not held centrally by the National Offender Management Service and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by contact each of the 138 prisons across the service.

There will have been occasions where drugs offences were referred immediately to the police (e.g. where staff were found in possession of items, which were believed to be drugs, during an entry or exit search) and no internal disciplinary action was taken, other than to dismiss the member of staff for receipt of a criminal conviction. These cases are not always reported centrally as drug offences and, as such, may not be included in the information provided. In addition, the central database does not include cases where staff have resigned before the conclusion of internal disciplinary proceedings.

### Prisoner Escapes

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have escaped while under escort from prison in each year since 1997; and how many of those escapes were from *(a)* private taxis and *(b)* custom-built cellular vehicles. [235504]

**Mr. Hanson:** Most prisoner transfers are made by secure cellular vehicle. On occasions it is necessary to use taxis for transporting prisoners, mainly to hospital. On these occasions a risk assessment is conducted to ensure that the use of a taxi is appropriate. Only one prisoner has escaped while being transported by taxi in this period.

Data in the following table show the number of prisoners in England and Wales who have escaped from escort between April 1997 and March 2008 broken down by *(a)* private taxi hire *(b)* custom built cellular vehicles.

| | *Total KPI escapes from escort* | | *Of which: escapes from taxis and cellular vehicles* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Financial year* | *HMPS escort* | *Contractor escort* | *Private taxi hire* | *Contractor secure cellular vehicle* | *Prison secure cellular vehicle* |
| 1997-98 | 10 | 72 | | 11 | |
| 1998-99 | 7 | 55 | | 4 | |
| 1999-2000 | 8 | 59 | | 9 | |
| 2000-01 | 8 | 58 | | 17 | |
| 2001-02 | 11 | 40 | | 2 | |
| 2002-03 | 12 | 33 | | 7 | 1 |
| 2003-04 | 6 | 33 | | 1 | |
| 2004-05 | 8 | 28 | 1 | 1 | |
| 2005-06 | 8 | 17 | | 5 | 1 |
| 2006-07 | 6 | 19 | | 1 | |
| 2007-08 | 2 | 16 | | 2 | |

*Note:*

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Further information can be found at the Prison Service website:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/assets/documents/10003541prison_escapes_dec_07.pdf

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/assets/documents/10003542prison_escort_escapes_dec_07.pdf

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/assets/documents/10003543contracted_escort_escapes_dec_07.pdf

## Prisoners: Drugs

**Paul Holmes:** To ask, the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners entered prison needing treatment for drug addiction in each year since 1997. [235953]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information requested is not recorded centrally by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and could be obtained only by surveying 138 establishments, which could be done only at disproportionate cost. Drug treatment need is determined on a local basis. NOMS relies on epidemiological surveys to make central estimates of treatment need. These surveys suggest that on average 55 per cent. of prison entrants have a serious drug problem.

## Prisoners: Employment

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will meet representatives of the Howard League for Penal Reform to discuss the findings of the independent evaluation carried out by Professor Penny Green at King's College London into its social enterprise employing prisoners in HMP Coldingley. [236801]

**Mr. Hanson:** I visited the Barbed design studio at HMP Coldingley and met Frances Crook, director of the Howard League for Penal Reform, to discuss its social enterprise venture in July 2007. I am willing to meet the Howard League again to discuss Professor Green's evaluation report.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the possible benefits of meaningful employment for long term prisoners, including the impact of any taxation contributions; what consideration was made of the Howard League for Penal Reform's social enterprise in HMP Coldingley in forming that assessment; and what assessment he has made of the consequences of the closure of the social enterprise at HMP Coldingley. [236803]

**Mr. Hanson:** The social benefits of providing employment in prisons, such as providing offenders with valuable skills to aid their resettlement back into the community and to reduce re-offending, have long been recognised.

Significant numbers of prisoners are meaningfully employed on a daily basis in a range of activities. This includes essential work producing a variety of goods for internal consumption and providing in-house services such as catering, cleaning and laundries. This reduces the cost of imprisonment and has an element of restitution while producing real work opportunities. Employment in prison also acts as an aid to good order and control and aids resettlement through skills and qualifications.

Increasingly, prisoners are employed to carry out work in partnership with other organisations and there are a number of employer partnerships with private industry that not only provide real employment and training but also employment on release. The Government are keen to grow these initiatives so that increasing number of prisoners and society can benefit. In addition to those working in individual prisons and probation areas there is also an existing corporate alliance with employers from the private, public and third sectors which informs strategy and delivery.

Ultimately it was the Howard League for Penal Reform that has taken the decision to close the small design studio workshop at HM Prison Coldingley. The Prison Service has been supportive of this project from the outset. Furthermore, the Service has been willing to give further consideration to any proposals to expand the same business model into other establishments. Despite widespread publicity, support from the Prison Service no other private or voluntary sector has shown interest in replicating all aspects of the Howard League work.

Although the Howard League closure is to be regretted the consequences on the number of prisoners employed is limited as the workshop currently employs some three prisoners and has never employed more than six prisoners at any one time. Workshop expansion at Coldingley is already planned and this will become operational early in 2009.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what hours were being worked each day by prisoners at the Howard League for Penal Reform social enterprise in HMP Coldingley in its *(a)* first month and *(b)* last month of operation; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the reduction of working hours at the prison. [236804]

**Mr. Hanson:** In October 2005, six prisoners were employed in the "Barbed" design studio workshop at HM Prison Coldingley, which was jointly established by the Howard League for Penal Reform and HM Prison Service. The working week was as follows:

*Monday to Thursday:*

8.15 am to 11.45 am

1.45 pm to 4.45 pm

*Friday:*

8.15 am to 11.45 am

These times include 15 minute movement time to work am and pm.

In October 2008, three prisoners were employed in the workshop. The working week was as follows:

*Monday to Thursday:*

8.45 am to 11.45 am

1.45pm to 4.45 pm

*Friday:*

8.30 am to 11.45 am

These times include 15 minute movement time to work am and pm.

## Prisons: Crimes of Violence

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prison officers have been assaulted whilst at work in female prisons in each year since 1997; [235502]

(2) how many prison officers have been assaulted whilst at work in male prisons in each year since 1997. [235503]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information is set out in the following table. It is subject to important qualifications. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) incident reporting system processes high volumes of data that are constantly being updated. The numbers provide an indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute. Assault data are complex and the numbers need to be interpreted with caution.

The recorded incidents of assaults on prison officers are not completely exclusive to officers; prison recording sometimes includes assaults on other prison staff in this category. The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents. The numbers refer to all incidents recorded as assaults; these may also include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids and other non-contact events and allegations.

Ministers, NOMS and the Prison Officers Association are collectively committed to ensuring that violence in prisons is not tolerated in any form. Since 2004, a national strategy has directed every public sector prison to have in place a local violence reduction strategy. From mid 2007, this has also been applied to the contracted out (or private) estate. A whole prison approach is encouraged, engaging all staff, all disciplines and prisoners in challenging unacceptable behaviour, problem-solving and personal safety.

Due to re-rolling of prisons over the years and the fact that some prisons have both male and female prisoners we do not have precise figures in the form requested. The approximate numbers of prisoner on officer assaults are as follows.

*Prisoner on officer assault incidents[1]*

| | Prison type | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Female* | *Male* | *Total* |
| 1997[2] | 146 | 1,564 | 1,710 |
| 1998[2] | 174 | 1,415 | 1,589 |
| 1999[2] | 159 | 1,708 | 1,867 |
| 2000 | 224 | 1,705 | 1,929 |
| 2001 | 206 | 2,132 | 2,338 |
| 2002 | 250 | 2,253 | 2,503 |
| 2003 | 257 | 2,265 | 2,522 |
| 2004 | 257 | 2,506 | 2,763 |
| 2005 | 392 | 2,699 | 3,091 |
| 2006 | 495 | 2,640 | 3,135 |
| 2007 | 573 | 2,497 | 2,870 |

[1] Excludes a small proportion of assaults by others such as visitors.

[2] There has been improved recording of assault incidents over the years particularly for fights. Figures reported for 1997, 1998 and 1999 are not directly comparable with those reported in later years.

While over recent years both male and female prisoner populations have increased, generally female prisoners make up about 5 per cent. of the total prison population. In the most recent complete calendar year (2007), about 13 per cent. of prisoner on officer assaults occurred in female prisons.

## Probation Service: Finance

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget of the Probation Service is in 2008-09; and what proportion of that budget is for the care and aftercare of young people in young offender institutions. [235972]

**Mr. Hanson:** The delegated budget for the probation service for 2008-09 is £914 million resource and £3 million capital. The detail of the proportion of the delegated budget spent on the care and after care of young people—the 18 to 21-year-old offenders—in young offender institutions is not held centrally, and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost because of the need to survey all 36 probation boards and the six probation trusts. The probation service is not responsible for the care or after care of offenders under 18 years old who are managed by the youth offending teams.

## Reoffenders

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the re-offending rate (*a*) within six months and (*b*) within 12 months for young men on release from young offender institutions was in each of the last four years. [235973]

**Mr. Hanson:** We do not collate figures on reoffending occurring within six months of leaving custody. On an annual basis we publish rates which measure reoffending over a 12-month period.

The following table shows the reoffending figures for juvenile male offenders (aged 10 to 17), who were released from custody in the first quarter of 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. The following table shows the proportion of offenders that committed at least one further offence and the number of further offences committed per 100 offenders.

*Males*

| | *Number of releases from custody* | *Proportion of offenders reoffending (1 year)* | *Number of offences per 100 offenders (1 year)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 740 | 75.7 | 458.8 |
| 2004 | 751 | 76.3 | 430.2 |
| 2005 | 768 | 75.3 | 426.2 |
| 2006 | 729 | 78.9 | 421.4 |

The figures include offenders released from young offender institutions, secure training centres and secure children's homes.

We are unable to break the figures down to show only offenders released form young offender institutions.

The latest reoffending statistics for juveniles, 'Reoffending of juveniles: results from the 2006 cohort', were published on 4 September 2008 and can be obtained from the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingjuveniles.htm

We have made significant progress in reducing juvenile reoffending. The frequency rate of juvenile reoffending fell by 18.7 per cent. between 2000 to 2006.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 874W, on reoffenders, how many offenders under 21 years old who had served (*a*) less than six months, (*b*) between six months and one year and (*c*) more than one year reoffended within six months of release since June 2007. [236333]

**Mr. Hanson:** We do not collate figures on reoffending occurring within six months of leaving custody. On an annual basis we publish rates which measure reoffending over a 12 month period. We also do not hold data on length of custodial sentence for the index offence for juveniles (aged under 18 years).

The following table shows the reoffending figures for offenders aged 18 to 20 who were released from custody in the first quarter of 2004, 2005 and 2006, by the length of sentence that they were given in court (time served in custody will be less than this). The table provides the proportion of offenders that committed at least one further offence and the number of further offences committed per 100 offenders. Offences which result in a conviction at court are counted as a reoffence.

| *Length of custodial sentence for index offence* | *Year* | *Number of releases from custody* | *Rate of reoffending (1 year)* | *Number of offences per 100 offenders (1 year)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Less than 6 months | 2004 | 1,870 | 71.5 | 180.0 |
| | 2005 | 1,830 | 72.2 | 173.5 |
| | 2006 | 933 | 68.9 | 156.7 |
| 6 months to less than 1 year | 2004 | 520 | 82.5 | 268.1 |
| | 2005 | 539 | 82.5 | 255.0 |
| | 2006 | 313 | 68.1 | 171.6 |
| 1 year and over | 2004 | 648 | 85.2 | 303.6 |
| | 2005 | 617 | 78.2 | 230.6 |
| | 2006 | 346 | 57.7 | 125.6 |

The latest reoffending statistics for juveniles, 'Reoffending of juveniles: results from the 2006 cohort', were published on 4 September 2008 and can be obtained from the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingjuveniles.htm

The latest reoffending statistics for adults, 'Reoffending of adults: results from the 2006 cohort', were published on the same date and can be obtained from:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

**Secure Training Centre Rules (Amendment) Rules 2007**

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when his Department will publish revised draft rules to replace the Secure Training Centre Rules (Amendment) Rules 2007. [235936]

**Mr. Hanson:** We have applied to the House of Lords for permission to appeal against the court's decision and await a decision on the application.

The effect of the Court of Appeal's decision to quash the Secure Training Centre (Amendment) Rules 2007 was to reinstate Rule 38 as it read before the 2007 amendment.

**Vandalism: Cemeteries**

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Jewish cemeteries in England and Wales have been desecrated in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [235692]

**Bridget Prentice:** This information is not recorded centrally. However we have been told by the Community Security Trust charity that they received reports of nine incidents of desecration of Jewish cemeteries in the United Kingdom in 2006 and six in 2007. For reasons of security and confidentiality they feel it would be inappropriate to make public details of the sites concerned.

## HEALTH

**Accidents: Cycling**

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the NHS of treating patients who were involved in cycling accidents and were not wearing a cycle helmet in the latest period for which figures are available; [235603]

(2) how many people were admitted to hospital as a result of cycling accidents in each of the last five financial years. [235607]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The national health service has not been asked to identify separately the costs of treating road traffic accident victims or those injured in cycling accidents because of the burden it would impose. Where a patient receives a compensation payment for their injuries, however incurred, the NHS is able to reclaim the costs of their treatment from whoever pays the compensation. In 2007-08, over £137 million was recovered in this way.

Information on admissions to hospital as a result of cycling accidents from 2002-03 to 2006-07 is shown in the following tables.

*Total admissions to hospital as a result of cycling accidents[a] from 2002-03 to 2006-07, NHS Hospitals England and activity performed in the Independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS*

| | *Total admissions to hospital as a result of cycling accidents* | *V10 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with pedestrian or animal* | *V11 Pedal cyclist injured in collision[a] with other pedal cycle* | *V12 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with 2-3 wheeled motor vehicle* | *V13 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with car pick-up truck or van* | *V14 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 13,368 | 89 | 208 | 62 | 1,873 | 129 |
| 2005-06 | 13,533 | 71 | 195 | 59 | 1,800 | 118 |

*Total admissions to hospital as a result of cycling accidents[a] from 2002-03 to 2006-07, NHS Hospitals England and activity performed in the Independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS*

| | *Total admissions to hospital as a result of cycling accidents* | *V10 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with pedestrian or animal* | *V11 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with other pedal cycle* | *V12 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with 2-3 wheeled motor vehicle* | *V13 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with car pick-up truck or van* | *V14 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 12,659 | 54 | 220 | 53 | 1,497 | 120 |
| 2005-06 | 12,049 | 50 | 176 | 54 | 1,471 | 118 |
| 2004-05 | 10,795 | 50 | 158 | 61 | 1471 | 117 |

| | *V14 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus* | *V15 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with railway train or railway vehicle* | *V16 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with other nonmotor vehicle* | *V17 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with fixed/ stationary object* | *V18 Pedal cyclist injured in noncollision transport accident* | *V19 Pedal cyclist injured in oth and unspc transport accident* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 129 | 1 | 18 | 518 | 9,191 | 1,279 |
| 2005-06 | 118 | 3 | 8 | 511 | 9,538 | 1,230 |
| 2004-05 | 120 | 2 | 19 | 412 | 9,119 | 1,163 |
| 2003-04 | 118 | 4 | 17 | 336 | 8,687 | 1,136 |
| 2002-03 | 117 | 0 | 20 | 377 | 7617 | 924 |

*Notes*

ICD-10 Clinical Codes External Cause Codes

V10 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with pedestrian or animal
V11 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with other pedal cycle
V12 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with 2-3 wheeled motor vehicle
V13 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with car pick-up truck or van
V14 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus
V15 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with railway train or railway vehicle
V16 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with other nonmotor vehicle
V17 Pedal cyclist injured in collision with fixed/stationary object
V18 Pedal cyclist injured in noncollision transport accident
V19 Pedal cyclist injured in oth and unspc transport accident

*Finished admission episodes*

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

*Cause code*

The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. The field within HES counts only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode.

*Data Quality*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*Ungrossed data*

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

*Assessing growth through time*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

### Ambulance Services: Motor Vehicles

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency response vehicles are operated by each NHS ambulance trust in England; and what the ratio is of such vehicles per 1,000 of the population. [236989]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on the number of ambulances operated by each NHS ambulance trusts is not held centrally.

### Ambulance Services: Per Capita Costs

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent per person on the provision of ambulance services for *(a)* each ambulance trust in England and *(b)* England for the latest period for which figures are available. [236988]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is listed in the following table:

| *Trust* | *Expenditure (£000)*[1] | *Population*[2] | *Spend per person (£)*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| North East Ambulance Service | 78,542 | 2,564,486 | 30.62 |
| North West Ambulance Service | 208,305 | 6,898,343 | 30.19 |
| Yorkshire Ambulance Service | 152,688 | 5,174,762 | 29.50 |
| East Midlands Ambulance Service | 132,242 | 4,368,025 | 30.27 |
| West Midlands Ambulance Service | 145,886 | 5,381,845 | 27.11 |
| East Of England Ambulance Service | 191,112 | 5,661,034 | 33.76 |
| London Ambulance Service | 232,451 | 7,556,930 | 30.76 |
| South East Coast Ambulance Service | 132,772 | 4,271,166 | 31.08 |

| Trust | Expenditure (£000)[1] | Population[2] | Spend per person (£)[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| South Central Ambulance Service | 105,714 | 4,032,749 | 26.21 |
| South Western Ambulance Service[2] | n/a | (2,893,487) | n/a |
| Great Western Ambulance Service (GWAS) | 66,193 | 2,289,205 | 28.91 |
| England[3] | [1]1,445,905 | [1]48,198,545 | [1]30.00 |

[1] Expenditure details from Annual Financial Returns of NHS Trusts, 2007-08.
Population data based on ONS Population Statistics database (mid year 2007 based on 2001 census) for equivalent strategic health authority regions. GWAS population figures calculated using primary care trust population data from Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, Bristol, North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire.
[2] Expenditure data for 2007-08 for South Western Ambulance Trust not yet received.
[3] Average based on total trust expenditure and total population figures, all excluding South Western Ambulance Trust.

## Aortic Aneurysm: Screening

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will publish a timetable for the introduction of the NHS abdominal aortic aneurysm screening programme; [236464]

(2) when he expects the NHS abdominal aortic aneurysm screening programme to cover all parts of England; and if he will make a statement; [236465]

(3) which NHS trusts have been selected to participate in the first round of pilots of the abdominal aortic aneurysm screening programme; and when they will begin their work; [236466]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of lives which will be saved in a year following the introduction of the NHS abdominal aortic aneurysm screening programme. [236467]

**Ann Keen:** Six early implementation sites have been identified and will start screening by summer 2009. The sites are West Sussex (Royal West Sussex NHS trust), Leicester (University Hospitals of Leicester NHS trust), Gloucester (Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS foundation trust), South Manchester (University Hospital of South Manchester NHS foundation trust), South Devon and Exeter (South Devon NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Devon and Exeter NHS foundation trust) and South West London (St George's Healthcare NHS trust). It is anticipated that full national roll out will be achieved by the end of March 2012; work is under way with strategic health authorities to plan for this.

Once fully implemented it is expected that the screening programme will save approximately 700 lives within the first 10 years of screening rising eventually to 1,600 per year.

## Arachnoiditis

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has carried out into possible links between arachnoiditis and depression. [235655]

**Dawn Primarolo:** None.

Both the Department's National Institute for Health Research and the Medical Research Council welcome high quality applications for support into any aspect of human health, and these are judged in open competition with other demands on funding.

## Cancer: Death

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of trends in mortality rates of *(a)* common cancers and *(b)* rarer cancers; and if he will make a statement. [232840]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what assessment has been made of trends in mortality rates of (a) common cancers and (b) rarer cancers. (232840)

The attached table provides the age-standardised mortality rates in England, by sex, for the period 1971 to 2005, for all cancers combined, and for each cancer for which this information is readily available.

A detailed description of trends in cancer incidence and mortality over the period 1950 to 2003 is available in the 'Cancer Atlas of the United Kingdom and Ireland, 1991-2000', chapter 2 (pp 7-38), entitled 'Geographical patterns in cancer in the UK and Ireland'. This publication is also available in the House of Commons library, and from the Office for National Statistics' website via the following link:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14059

An article examining trends in cancer in the UK and constituent countries over the period 1993-2004 for all cancers combined, and for the four most common cancers, was published in the Health Statistics Quarterly, volume 38, pp 33-46. This is available in the House of Commons library, and from the Office for National Statistics website via the following link:

www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?ID=2007&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=1

*Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population by cancer site and sex, England, 1971 to 2005[1]*

*Rate per 100,000 population*

| Sex | Site | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | All cancers | 284 | 286 | 286 | 288 | 284 | 289 | 285 | 286 | 287 | 285 | 284 | 281 |
| | Lung | 107 | 109 | 109 | 110 | 107 | 108 | 108 | 108 | 106 | 104 | 101 | 100 |
| | Colorectal | 34 | 34 | 33 | 34 | 33 | 34 | 33 | 32 | 32 | 31 | 31 | 30 |
| | Stomach | 32 | 31 | 31 | 30 | 30 | 29 | 28 | 28 | 27 | 26 | 25 | 24 |
| | Bladder | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| | Pancreas | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 11 |
| | Leukaemia | 8 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |

*Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population by cancer site and sex, England, 1971 to 2005*

*Rate per 100,000 population*

| Sex | Site | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Oesophagus | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| | Prostate | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | Brain | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| | Lip, mouth and pharynx | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| | Kidney | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| | Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | Larynx | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | Myeloma | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| | Hogkin's disease | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Testes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Melanoma | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Female | All cancers | 175 | 175 | 176 | 178 | 178 | 181 | 179 | 180 | 182 | 183 | 182 | 182 |
| | Breast | 39 | 39 | 40 | 39 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 41 | 41 |
| | Colorectal | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 25 | 25 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 22 |
| | Lung | 19 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 25 | 26 |
| | Stomach | 15 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 10 |
| | Ovary | 13 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 12 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| | Cervix | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| | Pancreas | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 8 |
| | Uterus | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| | Leukaemia | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | Oesophagus | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| | Bladder | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| | Brain | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | Myeloma | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| | Kidney | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | Lip, mouth and pharynx | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | Melanoma | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | Hogkin's disease | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Larynx | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

*Rate per 100,000 population*

| Sex | Site | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | All cancers | 286 | 285 | 283 | 277 | 278 | 279 | 276 | 275 | 274 | 271 | 269 | 264 |
| | Lung | 101 | 97 | 96 | 92 | 90 | 89 | 85 | 84 | 82 | 79 | 76 | 74 |
| | Colorectal | 31 | 31 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 28 |
| | Stomach | 25 | 23 | 22 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 20 | 19 | 18 | 18 | 16 | 16 |
| | Bladder | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 11 |
| | Pancreas | 12 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 10 |
| | Leukaemia | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | Oesophagus | 10 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 13 |
| | Prostate | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | Brain | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| | Lip, mouth and pharynx | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| | Kidney | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |

*Rate per 100,000 population*

| *Sex* | *Site* | *1983* | *1984* | *1985* | *1986* | *1987* | *1988* | *1989* | *1990* | *1991* | *1992* | *1993* | *1994* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Non Hodgkin's lymphoma | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| | Larynx | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| | Myeloma | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| | Hogkin's disease | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Testis | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Melanoma | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Female | All cancers | 183 | 185 | 185 | 184 | 185 | 186 | 186 | 183 | 182 | 180 | 180 | 178 |
| | Breast | 41 | 41 | 41 | 42 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 40 | 40 | 39 | 39 | 38 |
| | Colorectal | 23 | 22 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 19 |
| | Lung | 26 | 28 | 27 | 28 | 28 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 30 |
| | Stomach | 10 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | Ovary | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| | Cervix | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| | Pancreas | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| | Uterus | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | Leukaemia | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| | Oesophagus | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | Bladder | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| | Brain | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| | Non Hodgkin's lymphoma | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | Myeloma | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | Kidney | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | Lip, mouth and pharynx | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| | Melanoma | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | Hogkin's disease | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Larynx | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

*Rate per 100,000 population*

| *Sex* | *Site* | *1995* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | All cancers | 260 | 254 | 246 | 246 | 238 | 232 | 228 | 227 | 222 | 221 | 213 |
| | Lung | 71 | 68 | 65 | 64 | 61 | 59 | 57 | 56 | 54 | 52 | 51 |
| | Colorectal | 28 | 27 | 27 | 26 | 25 | 25 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 23 | 21 |
| | Stomach | 15 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 |
| | Bladder | 11 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 8 |
| | Pancreas | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| | Leukaemia | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | Oesophagus | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| | Prostate | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | Brain | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| | Lip, mouth and pharynx | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| | Kidney | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| | Non Hodgkin's lymphoma | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| | Larynx | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | Myeloma | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| | Hogkin's disease | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | Testis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Melanoma | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

| Sex | Site | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Rate per 100,000 population | | | | | | | | | | |
| Female | All cancers | 176 | 173 | 170 | 168 | 165 | 163 | 160 | 159 | 156 | 157 | 153 |
| | Breast | 37 | 35 | 34 | 34 | 33 | 32 | 31 | 30 | 29 | 28 | 28 |
| | Colorectal | 18 | 18 | 17 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 13 |
| | Lung | 29 | 29 | 28 | 29 | 29 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 29 | 28 | 29 |
| | Stomach | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| | Ovary | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 10 |
| | Cervix | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| | Pancreas | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| | Uterus | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| | Leukaemia | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| | Oesophagus | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | Bladder | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | Brain | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| | Non Hodgkin's lymphoma | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| | Myeloma | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| | Kidney | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | Lip, mouth and pharynx | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| | Melanoma | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | Hogkin's disease | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Larynx | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Cause of death for cancers was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Eighth Revision (ICD-8) for 1971 to 1978, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for 1979 to 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for codes 2001 to 2005. See the following table for specific.

| | ICD 8 | ICD 9 | ICD 10 |
|---|---|---|---|
| All cancers | 140-205 | 140-208 | C00-C97 |
| Bladder | 188 | 188 | C67 |
| Brain | 191 | 191 | C71 |
| Breast | 174 | 174 | C50 |
| Cervix | 180 | 180 | C53 |
| Colorectal | 153-154 | 153-154 | C18-21 |
| Hogkin's disease | 201 | 201 | C81 |
| Kidney | 189 | 189 | C64-66, C68 |
| Larynx | 161 | 161 | C32 |
| Leukaemia | 204-207 | 204-208 | C91-C95 x(C91.4 |
| Lip, mouth and pharynx | 140-149 | 140-149 | C00-C14 |
| Lung | 162 | 162 | C33-C34 |
| Melanoma | 172 | 172 | C43 |
| Myeloma | 203 | 203 | C88, C90 |
| Non Hodgkin's lymphoma | 200, 202 | 200, 202 | C82-C85, C91.4, C96 |
| Oesophagus | 150 | 150 | C15 |
| Ovary | 183 | 183 | C56-C57 |
| Pancreas | 157 | 157 | C25 |
| Prostate | 185 | 185 | C61 |
| Stomach | 151 | 151 | C16 |
| Testis | 186 | 186 | C62 |
| Uterus | 182 | 182 | C54-C55 |

## Congenital Abnormalities

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children of consanguineous unions were born with genetic abnormalities in each year since 2000. [236308]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not collect such data centrally.

## Dementia: Health Services

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish an estimate of the full average cost of caring for a dementia patient for 12 months before he publishes his national dementia care strategy. [235555]

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the NHS is taking to assist people suffering from dementia; and if he will make a statement. [235711]

**Phil Hope:** We aim to publish a National Dementia Strategy for England later in the year. This will build on the examples of best practice in dementia care across the national health service and social care and on the contributions we have had from a wide range of stakeholders in response to public consultation.

## Dental Services

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS *(a)* dentists and *(b)* orthodontists there were in each (i) strategic health authority and (ii) primary care trust area in England in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [235712]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available in the format requested. The following information relates to the primary care dental services.

The number of national health service dentists, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex E of the NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006. Information is available by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT).

This measure counted the number of NHS dentists recorded on PCT lists as at 31 March each year. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England. 2007-08" report. Information is provided by SHA and by PCT. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Further work is planned over the next few months to determine whether the new definition used under the new dental contractual arrangements can be applied to the years under the old contractual arrangements to produce a consistent time series.

Dentists undertaking orthodontic work will appear in the figures in both of the above reports; however, it is not possible to separately identify such dentists.

Both sets of published figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Tables 7a and 7b of the Dental Working Hours, England and Wales 2006-07 and 2007-08 report show working hours information for dentists identified as carrying out more orthodontic work than non-orthodontic work and vice versa.

This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalworkinghours0708

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* NHS dentist to patient and *(b)* NHS orthodontist to patient ratio is in each (i) strategic health authority and (ii) primary care trust area in England; and what those ratios were in each of the last five years. [235713]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available in the format requested. The following information relates to the primary care dental services.

The number of persons per national health service dentist in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex F of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006" report. The information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA).

This measure related to the number of NHS dentists recorded on PCT lists as at 31 March each year. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The number of dentists with NHS activity per 100,000 population, during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 is available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08" report. Information is available by SHA and by PCT. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. The revised methodology counts the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Dentists undertaking orthodontic work will appear in the figures in both of the aforementioned reports, however, it is not possible to separately identify such dentists.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 303W, on dental services, what items of information are supplied by dental providers on FP17 forms. [235726]

**Ann Keen:** This information is contained in dental form FP17, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 303W, on dental services, what the average patient recall interval was for dentists in each *(a)* primary care trust area and *(b)* strategic health authority region in the latest period for which figures are available. [235727]

**Ann Keen:** Information could be made available only in the form requested at disproportionate cost. Such management information as is available is set out in the table entitled 'Primary Dental Care Patient Re-Attendance Intervals' which has been placed in the Library. Information is provided for the period April to September 2008 by primary care trust. This is the latest period for which data are available.

## Diabetes: Children

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department has taken to ensure that primary care trusts provide appropriate support for children diagnosed with diabetes; and if he will make a statement; [235892]

(2) how much his Department has allocated for expenditure on support for children diagnosed with diabetes in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [235893]

**Ann Keen:** In April 2007, the Department published "Making Every Young Person with Diabetes Matter", the report of the Children and Young People with Diabetes working group, which looked at ways to improve diabetes services for children and young people. This report includes guidance to commissioners on the planning, design and provision of diabetes services for children and young people. A copy of this document has already been placed in the Library.

The group's recommendations are now being taken forward by an implementation group led by the National Clinical Director for Children. The group's membership includes Diabetes UK, parents of children with diabetes, clinicians and other key partners with an interest in children and diabetes.

Funding to support children with diabetes is included in baseline allocations to primary care trusts. It is for primary care trusts to determine the appropriate level of expenditure and commission services that meet the needs of their local population.

## Doctors: Career Structure

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors who qualified in each of the last five years have not practised medicine since qualification. [237221]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

## Doctors: Manpower

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed (i) by Sefton Primary Care Trust and (ii) by the NHS in England in (A) 1997 and (B) 2008. [236722]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows national health service staff in England and the Sefton Primary Care Trust (PCT) area as at 30 September for each specified year.

| | *2002* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|
| *England* | | |
| All doctors (excluding retainers) | 103,350 | 127,645 |
| General practitioners | 32,292 | 36,420 |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | 367,520 | 399,597 |
| *Of which:* | | |
| *Sefton PCT area* | | |
| All doctors (excluding retainers) | 3 | 6 |
| General practitioners | 183 | 179 |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | 516 | 669 |

*Notes:*
1. The Sefton PCT was formed in October 2006 from a complete merger of the Southport and Formby PCT and the South Sefton PCT. Figures for 2002 are an aggregate of these two predecessor organisations.
2. Data quality: Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

*Sources:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

## Drugs: Misuse

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he holds on the number of people aged 18 years or under who died as a direct or indirect result of abusing *(a)* cannabis, *(b)* cocaine, *(c)* ecstasy, *(d)* alcohol, *(e)* crystal methadone and *(f)* prescription drugs in (i) 2007 and (ii) 1997. [231945]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what information is held on the number of people aged 18 years or under who died as a direct or indirect result of abusing (a) cannabis, (b) cocaine, (c) ecstasy, (d) alcohol, (e) crystal methadone and (f) prescription drugs in (i) 2007 and (ii) 1997. (231945)

Table 1 attached shows the number of deaths of persons aged 18 years or under for which the underlying cause was drug poisoning and (a) cannabis, (b) cocaine or (c) ecstasy was mentioned on the death certificate either alone or together with other substances.

The common term (e) 'crystal meth' refers to methylamphetamine, an amphetamine, rather than to methadone, an opiate. Table 1 also includes figures for drug poisoning deaths mentioning amphetamines (other than ecstasy) or methadone. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of drug poisoning deaths by substance where the person died as an indirect result of abusing drugs.

The National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths only includes those causes regarded as being most directly due to alcohol consumption. It does not include external causes of death such as road traffic accidents, other accidents or violence, where alcohol may have been a contributory cause. Table 2 attached shows the number of deaths of persons aged 18 years or under where (d) an alcohol-related cause was the underlying cause of death or was mentioned as a contributory factor on the death certificate. Figures in all cases are provided for (i) 2007 and (ii) 1997.

ONS data on drug-related deaths identify all substances which were mentioned on the death record. However, since in some cases the same substance could be prescribed, bought legally, or obtained illegally, it is not possible to ascertain which deaths were due to (f) prescription drugs.

*Table 1: Number of deaths attributed to drug poisoning where cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy, any other amphetamine, or methadone was mentioned on the death certificate, persons aged 18 years and under, England and Wales, 1997 and 2007*[1,2]

| | Deaths (persons) | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1997 | 2007 |
| Cannabis | 1 | 0 |
| Cocaine | 0 | 4 |
| Ecstasy | 5 | 4 |
| Amphetamines (other than Ecstasy) | 6 | 1 |
| Methadone | 34 | 7 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in the following table) and where cannabis, cocaine, any amphetamine, ecstasy or methadone was mentioned on the death certificate.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

| Cause of death | ICD-10 code(s) |
|---|---|
| Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco) | F11–F16, F18–F19 |
| Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances | X40–X44 |
| Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances | X60–X64 |
| Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances | X85 |
| Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent | Y10–Y14 |

*Table 2: Number of deaths where an alcohol-related cause was mentioned on the death certificate, persons aged 18 years and under, England and Wales, 1997 and 2007*[1,2]

| | Deaths (persons) | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1997 | 2007 |
| Underlying cause of death | 13 | 2 |
| Mentioned as contributory factor | 38 | 30 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for 1997, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2007. The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, are shown in the following table.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

*Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death - International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9)*

| Cause of death | ICD-9 code(s) |
|---|---|
| Alcoholic psychoses | 291 |
| Alcohol dependence syndrome | 303 |
| Non-dependent abuse of alcohol | 305.0 |
| Alcoholic cardiomyopathy | 425.5 |
| Alcoholic fatty liver | 571.0 |
| Acute alcoholic hepatitis | 571.1 |
| Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver | 571.2 |
| Alcoholic liver damage, unspecified | 571.3 |
| Chronic hepatitis | 571.4 |
| Cirrhosis of liver without mention of alcohol | 571.5 |
| Other chronic nonalcoholic liver disease | 571.8 |
| Unspecified chronic liver disease without mention of alcohol | 571.9 |
| Accidental poisoning by alcohol | E860 |

*Box 2: Alcohol-related causes of death - International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)*

| Cause of death | ICD-10 code(s) |
|---|---|
| Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol | F10 |
| Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol | G31.2 |

*Box 2: Alcohol-related causes of death - International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)*

| Cause of death | ICD-10 code(s) |
|---|---|
| Alcoholic polyneuropathy | G62.1 |
| Alcoholic cardiomyopathy | I42.6 |
| Alcoholic gastritis | K29.2 |
| Alcoholic liver disease | K70 |
| Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified | K73 |
| Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis) | K74 (excl. K74.3–K74.5) |
| Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis | K86.0 |
| Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol | X45 |
| Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol | X65 |
| Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent | Y15 |

## Eyesight: Testing

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pensioners in Enfield North constituency have received free eye tests in each year since tests were introduced. [235439]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available by constituency.

Information on the number of General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) sight tests paid for by the NHS, by patient eligibility at primary care trust (PCT) level, will be available in the "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales: Year Ending 31 March 2008" report. This report is due to be published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care on 20 November 2008, and will be placed in the Library.

Information by patient eligibility will be provided at a national level from 1999-2000 (when NHS sight tests were extended to those aged 60 and over) and will be provided at PCT and strategic health authority (SHA) level for the year 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. Information on the number of sight tests by patient eligibility, at PCT and SHA level is not available for earlier years.

## Food: Standards

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Food Standards Agency has taken to ensure compatibility between the work of the Food Standards Agency and the European Food Safety Authority in relation to food standards; and if he will make a statement. [235601]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The remit of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) principally concerns the assessment and communication of risk relating to food and animal feed safety. Its scientific opinions underpin the regulatory framework put in place by the European Parliament and member states.

A key objective for EFSA is delivering its strategy on scientific cooperation. This strategy aims to assist member states in taking co-ordinated, effective and timely decisions in the field of food and feed safety, while avoiding duplication of work. The Food Standards Agency, as the lead Department in the UK for food safety, was influential in developing this strategy and is active in its delivery. The Department has little direct involvement with EFSA.

### Genetics Insurance Committee: Finance

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* capital, *(b)* revenue and *(c)* other funding his Department has given to the Genetics Insurance Committee since its inception. [235207]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Genetics and Insurance Advisory Committee is an advisory committee to the Department. There has been no capital funding. Revenue funding and other costs are accounted for as part of general administration budget expenditure, where it is not customary to separate the running costs of individual advisory committees.

### Health: Insurance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the availability of top-up health insurance in England; and what information his Department holds on providers of top-up health insurance; [235613]

(2) what assessment he has made of the average annual cost to an individual patient of top-up health insurance; [235614]

(3) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* current annual value and *(b)* likely increase as a result of his announcement on access to NHS care on 4 November 2008 in the annual value of top-up health insurance purchased in England. [235621]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Government response to Professor Richards's review, 'Improving access to medicines for NHS patients', set out a package of measures which will reduce demand for additional private drugs, as more drugs will be available on the national health service, more quickly.

As more drugs will be available on the NHS, the Department considers that this will mean fewer NHS patients are likely to want to take out so called "top-up" health insurance than would otherwise have been the case.

As with all stakeholders who had an interest, Professor Richards and his team heard the views of some insurance companies as part of the review process. This did not amount to an assessment of the availability of particular types of health insurance, given the Department's policy is not to encourage the expansion of private health insurance.

### Hepatitis: Vaccinations

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken by his Department to ensure that hepatitis B vaccines are made available free of charge to essential workers in nursing homes; what criteria are used by his Department in determining who receives hepatitis B vaccines free of charge; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [235525]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Responsibility for occupational hepatitis B immunisation rests with the employer and it should be provided through an occupational health service. It is the responsibility of the individual trusts/employers to determine their own programme and fund the immunisation of their staff.

The Department has received very low levels of correspondence relating to vaccinations for health care workers. The response to these letters stated the aforementioned departmental policy.

### Hospitals: Admissions

**Mr. Syms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the average cost per day of a patient staying in hospital in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [235460]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is not possible to provide an estimate of the average cost per day, as the data collected as part of the annual national health service reference cost collection include all costs associated with treatment and service provision, and not just the cost of the stay in hospital.

### Hospitals: Liverpool

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses work in (i) Aintree and (ii) Royal Walton Hospital; and how many did so in 1997. [236694]

**Ann Keen:** The following table shows the number of national health service staff in each specified staff group for the Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery NHS Trust as at 30 September each specified year.

| | *1997* | | *2007* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Medical and dental staff* | *Qualified nursing staff* | *Medical and dental staff* | *Qualified nursing staff* |
| Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 313 | 1,185 | 413 | 1,202 |
| Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery NHS Trust | 52 | 187 | 90 | 262 |

*Notes:*
1. Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England.
2. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data.
3. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens, any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

*Sources:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

## Lung Diseases

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people with pleural plaques; and if he will make a statement. [235486]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply.

There is no definitive information on either the total number of people with confirmed diagnoses of pleural plaques, or those people who will ultimately develop pleural plaques. This is largely due to the asymptomatic nature of pleural plaques, as well as its long latency.

## NHS: Legal Costs

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* is expected to spend on legal and associated fees in all ongoing legal cases concerning NHS staff. [234359]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has to date spent £65,820.92 on legal and associated fees in all ongoing cases involving NHS staff. We are unable to predict with any degree of accuracy the total likely costs, because these cases are ongoing and, therefore, unresolved.

## NHS: Negligence

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the claims are for which total damages are worth more than £500,000 that have been settled under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts; and in each case *(a)* which trust was involved, *(b)* what damages have been paid to date, *(c)* what total damages are expected to be, *(d)* what the speciality was in which the claim occurred and *(e)* what injury to the patient occurred. [235609]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested was provided by the NHS Litigation Authority and is in the document, "CNST claims with damages over £500k". A copy has been placed in the Library.

*Note:*

Total damages indicate the exact amount paid if the case is closed, or the estimated amount to be paid where some damages are outstanding, for example under periodic payments.

## NHS: Psychiatrists

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many psychiatrists were employed by the National Health Service in each year since 1997. [236980]

**Phil Hope:** The number of psychiatrists employed in the national health service in each year since 1997 is detailed in the following table.

*Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): medical staff within the psychiatry group by specialty England*

*Number (headcount)*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Psychiatry group | 6,623 | 6,900 | 7,206 | 7,419 | 7,498 | 7,713 | 8,066 | 8,938 | 9,325 | 9,629 | 9,554 |
| Child and adolescent psychiatry | 748 | 767 | 795 | 826 | 823 | 805 | 860 | 956 | 1,039 | 1,060 | 1,084 |
| Forensic psychiatry | 275 | 333 | 314 | 347 | 411 | 380 | 425 | 456 | 493 | 519 | 559 |
| General Psychiatry | 4,215 | 4,364 | 4,581 | 4,736 | 4,717 | 4,909 | 5,076 | 5,585 | 5,866 | 6,090 | 5,976 |
| Learning disabilities | 500 | 508 | 535 | 501 | 485 | 524 | 520 | 520 | 492 | 531 | 518 |
| Old age psychiatry | 708 | 759 | 825 | 860 | 912 | 941 | 1,028 | 1,251 | 1,264 | 1,271 | 1,267 |
| Psychotherapy | 177 | 169 | 156 | 149 | 150 | 154 | 157 | 170 | 171 | 158 | 150 |

*Note:*

Data as at 1 October 1997-99 and 30 September 2000-07

*Source:*

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

*Data quality:*

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

## NHS: Public Participation

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he takes to ensure that LINks pay appropriate attention to social care inquiries; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure that health and overview scrutiny committees take account of social care referrals. [235689]

**Ann Keen:** Section 221 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, sets out local involvement network activities in respect of both health and social services.

All materials produced to describe the role of LINks highlight that the LINk role incorporates social services. The Act also contains provision, which ensures that, should a local involvement network (LINk) refers a matter relating to social care services to a Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), the Committee is required to respond to the LINk and keep the LINk informed of the Committee's actions in relation to the matter.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that LINks and health and overview scrutiny committees work effectively together. [235690]

**Ann Keen:** The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, contains provision which ensures that, should a local involvement network (LINk) refer a matter relating to social care services to a Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), the Committee is required to respond to the LINk and keep the LINk informed of the Committee's actions in relation to the matter. The Act only provides for social care referrals, because there is an existing regulation making power to require committees to respond to health matters when they are referred. The regulations have been amended to mirror the requirements of the Act but for health matters.

LINks will provide detailed data to OSCs and enable them to get a clearer picture of peoples' needs and experiences of health and social care services.

Since the legislation establishing LINks came into force, in April 2008, the Department has put in place a programme of support for local authorities, host organisations and LINks. As part of this programme, the NHS Centre for Involvement has produced guidance materials, which consistently highlight the importance of LINks establishing close working relations with OSCs.

The Department is currently asking people and organisations for their ideas on how we can build on the achievements of health overview and scrutiny and consider ways in which health scrutiny arrangements can be strengthened. Those views will inform a review of current OSC guidance and a consultation on the review will begin in the spring of 2009.

## Nurses: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average starting salary of nurses in Crosby constituency was in 1997; and what it was at the latest date for which information is available. [236702]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the pay and percentage increase of nurses at the start of the pay scale from 1996 to 2008.

*Nurse Grade D*

| | *Pay (£)* | *Minimum percentage[2] increase* |
|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 11,895 | 4.02 |
| 1997-98[1] | 12,385 | 4.12 |
| 1998-99[1] | 12,855 | 3.79 |
| 1999-2000 | 14,400 | 12.02 |
| 2000-01 | 14,890 | 3.40 |
| 2001-02 | 15,445 | 3.73 |
| 2002-03 | 16,005 | 3.63 |
| 2003-04 | 16,525 | 3.25 |
| 2004-05 | 17,060 | 3.24 |
| 2005-06 | 17,475 | 2.43 |
| 2006-07 | 19,166 | 9.68 |
| 2007-08[1] | 19,683 | 2.70 |
| 2008-09 | 20,225 | 2.75 |

*Notes:*
1. 1 December figure used for years where increase was staged.
2. 1 November figure used for year where increase was staged.

*Source:*
Non-medical pay policy

## Patient Choice Schemes

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the expansion of patient choice from April 2008 will specifically apply to mental health services; and if he will make a statement. [234778]

**Phil Hope:** It is the Government's aim to offer choice to all patients, to provide a responsive and patient centred health service. Free Choice means the majority of patients referred to hospital will be able to choose where they wish to be treated. However, there are some services, including mental health, that currently fall outside the scope of Free Choice, as choice of hospital may not be appropriate.

For patients using these services, other choices or other ways to ensure services are more responsive will be required. The key issue for users of mental health services is providing greater choice of the type of treatment they receive, for example by increasing access to psychological therapies.

The Government are committed to giving people with mental health problems choice and a more personalised service, including making more information available about mental illness to help people manage their own care. In the last year, work has been ongoing both locally and nationally to increase the level of choice offered to people with mental health problems.

## Primary Care Trusts: Judicial Reviews

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of judicial reviews of decisions by primary care trusts to refuse funding for *(a)* non-cancer and *(b)* cancer treatments in the latest period for which figures are available. [237085]

**Ann Keen:** We have made no such estimate.

## Sennybridge Disease

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely change in the number of cases of Sennybridge disease when UK derogations from European animal health regulation EC998/2003 expires in July 2010; and if he will make a statement. [234850]

**Dawn Primarolo:** 'Sennybridge Disease' is a vernacular term for cystic hydatid disease that occurs particularly in certain areas of Wales, and is caused by infection with the tapeworm Echinococcus granulosus. The requirements of the UK Pet Travel Scheme for tapeworm treatment for pets entering the UK under the scheme, as permitted under the derogation from EC Regulation 998/2003, are aimed at preventing tapeworm infections that are exotic to the UK, such as Echinococcus multilocularis, that cause the more serious human alveolar hydatid disease. An assessment of the potential risks to public health that could arise from introduction of Echinococcus multilocularis into the UK has been made and is currently being considered across Government in developing our future strategy for the UK Pet Travel Scheme.

As hydatid disease due to Echinococcus granulosus is already endemic in the UK, it did not form part of the risk assessment referred to above.

### Smoking: East of England

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what budget within the East of England strategic health authority has been allocated to lowering the number of smokers in the latest period for which figures are available. [235733]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not held centrally. Allocations for the national health service Stop Smoking Services are made to primary care trusts, which then decide how best to provide the service to their communities. The hon. Member may wish to raise this locally with NHS East of England.

### Termination of Pregnancy Bill

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the partial regulatory impact assessment on *(a)* the Termination of Pregnancy Bill of Session 2005-06 and *(b)* the Termination of Pregnancy Bill of Session 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [235693]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Termination of Pregnancy Bill in the 2005-06 session was withdrawn and no Partial Regulatory Impact (PRI) Assessment was produced.

A PRI was produced for the Termination of Pregnancy Bill Session 2006-07; a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

### Transplant Surgery

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been on the waiting list for organ transplant in each year since 1997, broken down by organ awaited; and if he will make a statement. [235717]

**Ann Keen:** The following table provides the number of registrations on the waiting list for each organ on 31 December in each year since 1997. The national list can change on a daily basis as people are removed from the transplant list because their clinical condition deteriorates and later rejoin when their condition improves. We are taking action to enable more people to benefit from a transplant. Implementation of the Organ Donation Taskforce recommendations published in January 2008, should see donation rates rise by 50 per cent. by 2013.

*Patients on the active organ transplant list, UK, at 31 December 1997 to 2007*

| *Organ listed* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kidney | 4,412 | 4,584 | 4,691 | 4,822 | 4,846 | 4,963 | 5,072 | 5,206 | 5,660 | 6,190 | 6,699 |
| Pancreas | 3 | 7 | 3 | 17 | 8 | 21 | 17 | 36 | 53 | 53 | 55 |
| Kidney/pancreas | 45 | 49 | 46 | 69 | 88 | 83 | 84 | 93 | 76 | 141 | 169 |
| Heart | 230 | 232 | 212 | 134 | 105 | 96 | 99 | 111 | 96 | 83 | 82 |
| Lung(s) | 196 | 184 | 182 | 191 | 241 | 264 | 267 | 272 | 257 | 272 | 258 |
| Heart/lungs | 109 | 97 | 108 | 101 | 72 | 75 | 59 | 53 | 41 | 37 | 29 |
| Liver | 180 | 201 | 156 | 152 | 158 | 163 | 239 | 253 | 360 | 326 | 307 |
| Total | 5,175 | 5,354 | 5,398 | 5,486 | 5,518 | 5,665 | 5,837 | 6,024 | 6,543 | 7,102 | 7,580 |

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### British Energy: EDF

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on which occasions Ministers in his Department have met senior executives of *(a)* British Energy and *(b)* EDF in each of the last 12 months. [231794]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Prior to the creation of the Department for Energy and Climate Change responsibility for energy matters lay with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). Within the last 12 months Ministers from DECC and BERR have met senior executives from *(a)* British Energy and *(b)* EDF on the following occasions:

| *Minister* | *Outside interest group* | *Week commencing* | *Reason for the meeting* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Secretary of State (DECC) | British Energy | 4 November 2008 | To discuss energy issues |
| Secretary of State (DECC) | EDF | 13 October 2008 | To discuss energy and climate change issues |
| Secretary of State (BERR) | EDF | 28 April 2008 | To discuss energy issues |
| Secretary of State (BERR) | British Energy | 18 February 2008 | To discuss energy issues |
| Secretary of State (BERR) | EDF | 28 April 2008 | To discuss industry issues |
| Secretary of State (BERR) | British Energy | 14 April 2008 | To discuss energy issues |
| Secretary of State (BERR) | British Energy | 3 March 2008 | To discuss energy issues |
| Secretary of State (BERR) | British Energy | 18 February 2008 | To discuss energy issues |
| Minister for Energy (BERR) | EDF Energy | 22 October 2007 | To discuss energy issues |
| Secretary of State (BERR) | EDF Energy | 8 October 2007 | To discuss business issues |

## Carbon Emissions

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the amount of emissions of (*a*) ammonias, (*b*) nitrogen oxides, (*c*) particulates and (*d*) sulphur dioxide in the UK was in each year since 1990. [234695]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of annual emissions of (*a*) ammonias, (*b*) nitrogen oxides, (*c*) particulates and (*d*) sulphur dioxide in the UK source, for each yeat 1990-2006 are shown in the table.

These results, published as National Statistics by DEFRA on 13 March 2008, are the latest statistics on air emissions for the UK. The 1990-2006 figures in this Statistics Release are from the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory for 1970-2006, produced for DEFRA and the Devolved Administrations by AEA Energy and Environment. This inventory covers all air pollutants excluding greenhouse gases.

UK national emission estimates are updated annually and any developments in methodology are applied retrospectively to earlier years. The next scheduled update is expected in March 2009.

The full statistical release 'UK Emissions of Air Pollutants, 2006 results' is currently published on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/airqual/index.htm

Please also refer to the Air Quality e-digest statistics page which is currently published on the DEFRA website. This describes the process of measuring emissions and the emissions inventory in detail.

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/airqual/aqinventories.htm

*Estimated emissions of ammonia (NH3), Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), Particulate PM10, and Sulphur Dioxide SO2, 1990-2006*

| | *Pollutant* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (*a*) *Ammonias (NH3)* | (*b*) *Nitrogen Oxides (NOx)* | (*c*) *Particulates PM10* | (*d*) *Sulphur dioxide SO2* |
| 1990 | 302.6 | 2,967.7 | 304.5 | 3,717.4 |
| 1991 | 305.4 | 2,839.8 | 301.2 | 3,530.5 |
| 1992 | 321.5 | 2,757.1 | 290.4 | 3,442.2 |
| 1993 | 307.1 | 2,562.4 | 276.2 | 3,096.2 |
| 1994 | 321.0 | 2,491.3 | 264.6 | 2,663.9 |
| 1995 | 301.8 | 2,389.9 | 238.2 | 2,351.8 |
| 1996 | 306.0 | 2,314.9 | 253.0 | 2,063.3 |
| 1997 | 321.0 | 2,262.8 | 224.0 | 1,861.4 |
| 1998 | 303.4 | 2,088.3 | 209.3 | 1,632.8 |
| 1999 | 303.5 | 1,975.7 | 197.1 | 1,298.8 |
| 2000 | 333.4 | 1,890.4 | 184.0 | 1,198.5 |
| 2001 | 331.5 | 1,829.2 | 177.2 | 1,095.2 |
| 2002 | 326.8 | 1,734.8 | 154.7 | 978.2 |
| 2003 | 316.0 | 1,721.0 | 152.3 | 967.2 |
| 2004 | 327.0 | 1,659.8 | 167.5 | 812.5 |
| 2005 | 314.7 | 1,619.8 | 149.8 | 688.0 |
| 2006 | 314.7 | 1,598.8 | 151.6 | 675.6 |

Source:
AEA Energy and Environment

## Coal

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely extent of use of clean coal in the UK in the future; and if he will make a statement. [227170]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Government are committed to moving our electricity generation to a lower carbon mix and achieving our 2020 and 2050 climate change goals, while at the same time ensuring security of supply for UK power generation. To this end, we are committed to the EU ETS at the heart of our strategy for driving down carbon use in the most cost effective way possible; improving energy efficiency; encouraging demand reductions and increasing renewables to achieve the 15 per cent target by 2020. But coal needs to remain an important part of our energy mix. It provides the most flexible generation (increasingly needed as back up as the percentage of intermittent renewables increases in the overall mix) and an alternative to over dependence on gas. We are supporting development of clean coal technologies including carbon capture and storage, higher efficiency processes, and co-firing with biomass. Our ambition is to see CCS commercially deployable by 2020. The extent of coal's future use will depend on decisions by operators and technological development; modelling commissioned to inform our Renewable Energy Strategy consultation estimated that for a central case around 2.5 GW of new coal-fired generation could be added to the mix by 2020.

## Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of employees in his Department are (*a*) on a flexible working contract, (*b*) on a job share employment contract and (*c*) work from home for more than four hours a week. [233616]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The total staff numbers and profile for DECC will be agreed once negotiations on the machinery of government changes with BERR and DEFRA are complete.

## Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many press and communications officers are employed by (*a*) his Department, (*b*) its non-departmental public bodies and (*c*) its agencies. [231331]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1215W.

## Departmental Lost Property

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what (*a*) equipment and (*b*) data has been lost by the Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231404]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 905W.

### Departmental Staff

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's organisational chart. [229120]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 441W.

### EU Emissions Trading Scheme

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely carbon price within the EU Emissions Trading Scheme traded sectors under *(a)* a 20 per cent. and *(b)* a 30 per cent. EU effort-sharing arrangement in 2020. [234112]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Government do not comment on the future level of the carbon price. The European Commission has made an assessment of the potential level of the EU ETS carbon price under a 20 per cent. greenhouse gas reduction scenario as part of their impact assessment of the climate and energy package. Their modelling suggests a central price of around €43/t$CO_2$ in 2020.

### Fossil Fuels

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the production of *(a)* oil, *(b)* gas and *(c)* other fossil fuels to peak globally; what steps he plans to take in response; and if he will make a statement. [233251]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not estimate the precise timing of peak global oil, gas or coal production. However, we consider the world's fossil fuel resources to be sufficient to prevent the global production of each peaking before 2030, subject to sufficient investment in and efficient operation of production capacity. The exact timing of the peaks depends on a number of factors, including the rate of demand growth, the rate of investment in fossil fuel extraction, and technological developments in finding and producing fossil fuels. More information on oil and coal reserves is available in the Government's "Energy Markets Outlook 2007" at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file41995.pdf

The 2008 edition will be published shortly.

As the supply of fossil fuels becomes less abundant, relative to demand, rising prices will provide an incentive to shift to alternative sources of energy. However, this process needs to be supported by governments. The UK Government are already putting in place policies that will help ease the UK economy away from fossil fuels as part of initiatives to combat climate change and reduce the UK's import dependence. Our energy efficiency policies, support for the European Emissions Trading Scheme, endorsement of new nuclear, encouragement of renewable energy, piloting of electric vehicles and introduction of the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation are all intended to reduce both our $CO_2$ emissions and our dependence on any one type of fuel from any one set of countries, increasing the diversity and hence resilience of our energy system.

### Fuel Poverty

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* Peterborough, *(b)* Cambridgeshire and *(c)* the UK which were in fuel poverty in the last year for which figures are available. [234415]

**Joan Ruddock:** Most recent estimates of fuel poverty are available for 2006 and show that in the UK there were around 3.5 million households living in fuel poverty in 2006. No sub-regional split of fuel poverty exists for 2006.

The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2003, and shows that in Peterborough there were around 4,100 fuel poor households in 2003, and around 17,200 in Cambridgeshire. In 2003, there were around two million households living in fuel poverty in the UK.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the percentage of households living in fuel poverty who are on a social tariff from their energy supplier; and if he will make a statement. [234662]

**Joan Ruddock:** The requested data do not exist.

Ofgem publish information on the number of customers benefiting from social assistance offered by suppliers, but it does not state how many of these are living in fuel poverty.

### Renewable Energy

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding is being provided by his Department for alternative energy technologies in the next three years. [232705]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** DECC provides capital grant and other funding for the demonstration and pre-commercial deployment of low carbon and renewable energy technologies under the Environmental Transformation Fund, which has a budget of £400 million over the 2008 to 2011 CSR period. This includes support for the Carbon Trust innovation portfolio. The Government also provide support for renewables through market drivers such as the renewables obligation, which is expected to be worth around a billion pounds a year by 2010.

In addition, DIUS, through the Research Councils Energy Technologies Institute and Technology Strategy Board, provides support for energy research and development and for business innovation. The regional development agencies, devolved Administrations and the European Union also offer a range of support for research into new energy technologies.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons the consultation on the feed-in tariff is not scheduled to begin until the summer of 2009. [232864]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** We have amended the Energy Bill to introduce feed-in tariffs (FITs) for small-scale low carbon electricity generation (beneath 3 MW).

We intend to consult next summer on the proposed feed-in tariff mechanism to ensure that interactions with the existing licensing framework are fully considered, and on proposed tariff levels for the scheme.

In order to consult, we will need to gain further understanding and evidence on the scheme design and cost predictions for the various technologies and develop uptake models, so that we can ensure that we introduce a scheme that can effectively encourage deployment at this scale.

### Renewable Energy: EC Action

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) for what reason the Government requested article 5(2) to be inserted in the proposed Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (COM (2008) 19) be inserted; and if he will make a statement; [236123]

(2) what assessment he has made of a Severn tidal power scheme's compliance with article 5(2) of the proposed Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (COM (2008) 19). [236124]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* It is too early to say whether a Severn tidal power scheme would comply with article 5(2) of the draft directive. 10 scheme proposals are currently under consideration within the feasibility study and it is likely that most of these, though not necessarily all, could meet its provisions. Subject to internal review, I expect to consult publicly in early 2009 on a proposed shortlist and the work to be done in the next phase of the feasibility study.

The origin of article 5(2) was a proposal by the European Commission which enshrines the principle, which the UK Government share, that the directive should support, and indeed promote, large-scale renewable energy projects.

### Renewable Energy: Expenditure

**Mr. Ingram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much of the £500 million allocated to be spent from 2002 on research and development and capital grants for emerging renewable and low carbon technologies has been spent to date; how much has been allocated to projects in each category; what projects have been supported under each category; and what the spend allocation in Scotland was. [233682]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* Spend to end March 2008 under the programmes listed, which were introduced at different points over the period, totals £233.4 million. All of these programmes except the Major PV Demonstration Programme and Clear Skies are projected to continue to spend during the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 and in some cases well beyond.

Spend on the main programme activities is also set out. It has not been possible to provide a breakdown of the Clear Skies or the R and D Programme spend by technology or by projects supported under each category and details of spend allocation for Scotland for all programmes in the time available at proportionate cost.

| *Programme/technology* | *£million* *Actual spend to date (end 2007-08)* |
|---|---|
| Offshore wind capital grant programme | 76.75 |
| *Of which spend allocation to Scotland £11.8 million* | |
| Bioenergy capital grant programme | 34.6 |
| *Of which spend allocation to Scotland £14.4 million* | |
| Major PV Demonstration Programme | 30.1 |
| Clear Skies (Micro wind, Biomass, Heat Pumps, Micro hydro, Solar Thermal Hot Water) | 12.1 |
| Marine Renewable Deployment Fund | 1.62 |
| Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1 (LCB) | 7.3 |
| *Of which spend allocation to Scotland £0.26 million* | |
| Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 (LCB) | 1.9 |
| *Of which spend allocation to Scotland £0.15 million* | |
| Hydrogen and Fuel Cells and Carbon Abatement Demonstration Programme (HFCAT) | 0.20 |
| New and Renewables R and D programme/ Technology Programme | 71 |
| *Of which spend allocation to Scotland £7.9 million* | |
| Total | 233.4 |

### Science: Finance

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much he has allocated to his Department's science budget under main headings for each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [233218]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The final budget for DECC will be agreed once negotiations on the machinery of government changes with BERR, DEFRA are complete.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Icelandic Bank Deposits: Scotland and Wales

8. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on assistance to local authorities in Scotland and Wales in respect of deposits they held in Icelandic banks; from whom such representations have been received; and if she will make a statement. [236270]

**John Healey:** Local government in Scotland and Wales is the responsibility of the relevant devolved administration. The Welsh Local Government Association attended a meeting that the Economic Secretary to the Treasury and I had with LGA leaders on 15 October. Dr. Brian Gibbons, Welsh Assembly Minister, and Wayne David, Wales Office, also attended. The Department has not received any other representations.

**Local Government: Constitutional Independence**

9. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to establish constitutionally independent local government; and if she will make a statement. [236271]

**Hazel Blears:** The United Kingdom's constitution is not consolidated in a single document. Rather it comprises statute law, common law and conventions in which Parliament is sovereign and the statutory independence of local government is set out in the various Local Government Acts. There are no current plans to bring forward proposals to change these arrangements.

**Communities in Control White Paper**

10. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the implementation of the Communities in Control White Paper, with particular reference to the introduction of new empowerment measures in the current economic climate. [236272]

**Hazel Blears:** Very good progress has been made in implementing the White Paper "Communities in Control" including developing an Asset Transfer Unit, publishing a Participatory Budgeting strategy and launching a review into redress for council services. We have consulted on a wide range of detailed propositions. Strengthening community influence and control is critical in times of economic downturn and can help deliver value for money public services. We continue to deliver our commitments and aim to bring forward legislation as soon as possible.

**Regeneration Schemes: Employment Opportunities**

11. **Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken through regeneration schemes to maintain employment opportunities. [236273]

**John Healey:** We are working on a number of fronts to ensure that our approach to regeneration supports employment opportunities, particularly for the most vulnerable.

Last year we launched the £1.5 billion Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) to provide resources to local authorities that have the highest concentrations of worklessness.

Looking forward, we have recently completed the consultation period on the document 'Transforming Places, Changing Lives'. This sets out new proposals to ensure that future regeneration activity acts to promote economic opportunity in our most deprived communities.

22. **Mark Fisher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken through regeneration schemes to maintain employment opportunities. [236285]

**Hazel Blears:** We are working on a number of fronts to ensure that our approach to regeneration supports employment opportunities, particularly for the most vulnerable.

Last year we launched the £1.5 billion Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) to provide resources to local authorities that have the highest concentrations of worklessness.

Looking forward, we have recently completed the consultation period on the document "Transforming Places, Changing Lives". This sets out new proposals to ensure that future regeneration activity acts to promote economic opportunity in our most deprived communities.

**Repossessions**

12. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government is taking to help working families facing the prospect of home repossession. [236275]

**Margaret Beckett:** The Government are committed to taking action to prevent households facing repossession. We are working with a range of stakeholders including mortgage lenders, local authorities, the courts and third sector advice agencies to ensure that appropriate support is available for all households in financial difficulty. On 2 September we announced plans for a mortgage rescue scheme targeted at the most vulnerable households facing repossession.

**Community Cohesion**

13. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to encourage community cohesion. [236276]

**Mr. Khan:** Last year we announced a renewed commitment to community cohesion with a £50 million investment over three years and a new public service agreement to build cohesive, active and empowered communities. We continue to support local authorities in delivering improvements in cohesion by providing a framework of guidance and targeted local support.

**Fire Cover: Northamptonshire and England**

14. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of provision of fire cover for *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England. [236277]

**Mr. Khan:** Fire and Rescue Authorities are required by the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework to have in place, and to maintain, Integrated Risk Management Plans which reflect local needs and set out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities.

It would not be appropriate for Ministers to comment on the contents of the IRMP drawn up by Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Authority or any other authority. That is the role of elected members of the authority.

Earlier this year Communities and Local Government commissioned a comprehensive research project to look at the adequacy and impact of IRMP on a nationwide basis. A report will be issued shortly.

**Local Community Empowerment**

15. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures her Department has implemented to empower local communities to determine the future of their local areas. [236278]

**Mr. Khan:** Very good progress has been made in implementing the White Paper "Communities in Control" including developing an Asset Transfer Unit, publishing a Participatory Budgeting strategy and launching a review into redress of council services. We have also consulted in a wide range of detailed propositions. We continue to deliver key White Paper commitments to empower local communities and aim to bring forward legislation as soon as possible.

**Local Authorities: Economy**

16. **Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance her Department is providing to local authorities to deal with the current economic situation; and if she will make a statement. [236279]

**Mr. Khan:** The Government are providing continued investment for local authorities to enable them to deliver effective services, with an additional £8.91 billion in Government grant from 2008-09 to 2010-11 as part of the first three-year settlement for councils. This increase in funding and greater predictability will allow councils to cope with the pressures they face as a result of the current economic climate.

**Regional Development Agencies: Planning Powers**

17. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on proposals to grant regional planning powers to regional development agencies. [236280]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We received over 500 responses to the formal consultation, from a wide range of interests, most of whom commented on our proposal to give RDAs responsibility for regional strategy. We have taken the range of views on our proposals into account in formulating our response which we intend to publish shortly.

**Local Area Agreements and Local Strategic Partnerships**

18. **Tom Levitt** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the contribution which can be made by local area agreements and local strategic partnerships to local economies in the current economic climate. [236281]

**John Healey:** Local Area Agreements are key to bringing local partners together to focus on effective joint action in local areas. LAAs are already strongly focused on improving local economies. Nine in 10 local areas have a target on tackling worklessness and five out of six areas have a target on getting 16 to 18-year-olds into education, training or employment. LAAs will help empower local areas to respond to the downturn in ways that best make sense locally.

**Flood Plains: Planning Policy Guidance Note 25**

19. **Miss Anne McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had on the application of Planning Policy Guidance 25 to development on flood plains; and if she will make a statement. [236282]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State holds regular discussions with the Chairman of the Environment Agency on flood risk. A new Practice Guide was launched in June this year by the former Minister of State for Housing and Planning, my right hon. Friend the Member for Don Valley, to assist planners in implementing Planning Policy Statement 25. The Government are working closely with local authorities, the Environment Agency and other stakeholders to ensure that the policy is properly implemented and delivered on the ground, including holding conferences, presentations and workshops aimed at a range of audiences.

**Affordable Housing: London**

20. **Siobhain McDonagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Mayor of London on demand for affordable housing in London. [236283]

21. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Mayor of London on demand for affordable housing in London. [236284]

**Margaret Beckett:** I met with Boris Johnson on 21 October. We both want more affordable housing. Government have agreed targets with some boroughs through local area agreements. We both agree we should be as joined-up as possible, to maximise targets and avoid confusion.

**Airwave Service**

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what organisations for which her Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234706]

**Mr. Khan:** Within CLG the Firelink project is providing Fire and Rescue Service with a new wide area radio system from Airwave Solutions Limited. Some New Dimension vehicles provided to the Fire and Rescue Service by CLG are equipped with Airwave radios, the remainder will be furnished with radios during the main Firelink roll-out. Information is not held by CLG in relation to local authority use of Airwave.

**Arson**

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps have been taken to reduce the incidence of arson. [235798]

**Mr. Khan:** Fire and rescue services have used £11.4 million pump-priming funding from my Department to develop schemes at a local level in partnership with others in the community to tackle arson. There a number of Local Strategic Partnerships, where fire and rescue services are now statutory partners, which have chosen to set local targets for reducing arson. In addition, the Arson Control Forum continues to bring together a wide range of partners from the public, private and third sector to consider arson reduction and develop strategies to assist in its continued reduction.

### Community Relations: Students

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to deal with the effects on local communities of large numbers of students taking up residence in their area. [235974]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** My Department has recently published research entitled 'Evidence Gathering: Housing in Multiple Occupation and possible planning responses - Final Report'. This independent research sets out a series of cross cutting measures that could address the effects that concentrations of houses in multiple occupation (particularly those occupied by students) can have on local communities. These measures include new planning mechanisms and the widespread adoption of a number of the best common sense local solutions by local authorities and the universities. We are currently considering how best to take forward these recommendations.

Local authorities already have a range of powers to help them tackle the effects of concentrations of houses in multiple occupation and there is much evidence of good practice in this area. In January 2006 the Education Minister launched the Dfes funded Universities UK Guide 'Studentification: a guide to opportunities, challenges and practice' which offered a toolkit for assessing and addressing the barriers to good community relationships between established residents and students in towns and cities. The guide stresses that the complex issues of 'studentification' need joint working between all agencies and the community.

### Departmental Assets

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1260W, on departmental assets, what timetable she has set for her Department's information asset register to be made available on the Inforoute website. [236039]

**Mr. Khan:** The information asset register will be available via Inforoute in December 2008 with fuller content updated and migrated by the end of February 2009.

### Departmental Contracts

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1260W, on departmental contracts, what the names are of *(a)* the 111 tenders that have gone through the invitations to tender system and *(b)* the projects with which the tenders were associated. [236038]

**Mr. Khan:** Please see the following table which links ITTs to projects or programmes.

| *ITT title* | *Project/division* |
|---|---|
| Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund—Rapid Evidence Assessment | Preventing Extremism |
| Eland House Incident Control Office and Emergency Suite | Estates |
| Assessment on Energy in New Non Domestic Buildings | Energy Performance of Buildings |
| Options for dealing with debt in local authority housing | Housing and Planning |
| Planning Directorate Framework Agreement | Housing and Planning |
| Interim Green Flag Award Arrangement | Local Government Strategy and Research |
| European Regional Development Fund Management and Control Information System | European Policy and Programmes |
| Internal Audit Service—Provision of Temporary Staff on Closure of European Regional Development Fund Programmes 2000/2006 | Internal Audit |
| Coastal Erosion—Case Study Policy Research | Housing and Planning |
| Peer Mentoring Scheme 2008/09 | Strategy and Performance |
| Assessing the benefits of sprinklers in high buildings | Fire and Resilience |
| REACH Media Analysis Project | Cohesion Directorate |
| Procurement of a Recruitment Consultant: Beacons | Housing and Planning |
| Energy Assessment Services | Energy Performance of Buildings |
| Review of Data Returns from Fire and Rescue Services | Fire and Resilience |
| Pilot on standards and recruitment for Chaplains and Imams | Cohesion Directorate |
| REACH Role Modelling Campaign—Experimental Message Testing | Cohesion Directorate |
| Citizenship Survey | Cohesion Directorate |
| Interim Specialist Contractor—Procurement Advisor Support to Corporate Procurement Division | Corporate Procurement |
| Land Supply Assessment Checks | Housing and Planning |
| Recruitment of Chair for the Infrastructure Planning Commission | Housing and Planning |
| Corporate Stakeholder Survey 2008 | Communications Division |
| Evaluation of REACH Role Modelling Project | Cohesion Directorate |
| Finance Process Consultant | Finance Division |
| Timely Information to Citizens—Review of UK and International Practice | Cohesion Directorate |
| Timely Information to Citizens—Workshops | Cohesion Directorate |
| Community Builders Procurement Consultant | Empowerment Directorate |
| FireControl—Consultancy for the National Land and Property Gazetteer Data (NLPG) | Fire and Resilience |
| Project Management Office Process improvement support to Thames Gateway Executive | Thames Gateway |
| To update the cost of Fire model | Fire and Resilience |
| Integrated Management Architecture | Local Government Strategy and Research |
| Thames Gateway—Survey of the Thames Path | Thames Gateway |
| Develop a database for Local Authority Performance | Housing and Planning |
| Enabling More Efficient Information Sharing Across Government | Local Government Strategy and Research |

| ITT title | Project/division |
|---|---|
| Validation of Statement of Requirements at 232/242 Vauxhall Bridge Road | Housing and Planning |
| Firecontrol—Director Training for New Local Authority Controlled Companies | Fire and Resilience |
| Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre—Boiler Replacement Project | Estates |
| Fire and Resilience Service Private Financial Initiative—Transactor | Fire and Resilience |
| Review of Training Provisions for Imams and scholars in the UK | Cohesion Directorate |
| Impact Assessments for Amendments to the Building Regulations | Housing and Planning |
| Interim Programme Manager to lead the Telephony Services Programme—CLG | Corporate Services |
| Network Structure Design Consultancy Support | Regional Co-ordination Unit |
| Convening and Administration of a Theology Board | Cohesion Directorate |
| Building Regulations Research and Development Framework | Housing and Planning |
| Data Provisions for Local Economic Development and Renewal | Local Government Strategy and Research |
| Provision of a Web Mapping Service | Corporate Services |
| Green Flag Delivery Scheme 2008 | Local Government Strategy and Research |
| Accountancy Advice and Support for FiReControl Project | Fire and Resilience |
| Procurement Project Manager Management Control and Information Service (MCIS) | European Policy and Programmes |
| Approach Guidance for Supporting the Development of Local Information Systems | Local Government Strategy and Research |
| Killian/Pretty Review for faster and more responsive service for Planning Applications | Housing and Planning |
| Review of Information Requirements for planning Applications | Housing and Planning |
| Review of council housing finance | Housing and Planning |
| Understanding Permeable and Impermeable Surfaces | Housing and Planning |
| Open Space Works Phase II Move Contractor | Estates |
| Government Office Survey | Regional Co-ordination Unit |
| Eco Town Delivery Study | Housing and Planning |
| Recruitment of Board members for Homes and Communities Agency and Oftenant | Homes and Communities |
| Thames Gateway Housing Land Register and Trajectory | Thames Gateway |
| National Tenant Voice (NTV) Consultation Seminars | Housing and Planning |
| Personal Information Managing System (PIMS) Application Support | Corporate Services |
| Eco-Towns Sustainability Appraisal (ETSA) | Housing and Planning |
| National co-ordinating body for home improvement agencies | Housing and Planning |
| Research into the Decontamination of Body Bags | Fire and Resilience |
| Evaluation of the effectiveness of Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 | Fire and Resilience |
| Research for Choice Based Lettings | Housing and Planning |
| Fire Control Testing Support | Fire and Resilience |
| Interim Commercial Director—FiReControl | Fire and Resilience |
| Risk assessment research work in support of the FSEC toolkit and related app | Fire and Resilience |
| Evaluation of the Home Fire Risk Check and Fire Prevention Grant Programmes | Housing and Planning |

| ITT title | Project/division |
|---|---|
| Local Information System Cost Benefit Analysis Research | Local Government and Regeneration |
| Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant | Cohesion Directorate |
| Economic benefits Delivered by the New Dimension Programme | Fire and Resilience |
| Strategic Environmental Assessment and Suistainability Appraisal | Housing and Planning |
| Cost Benefit Analysis—Fire and Rescue in New Build Homes | Fire and Resilience |
| Interim Database Administration Support for PIMS | Corporate Services |
| Contact Point for the North West Europe Territorial Cooperation Programme | European Policy and Programmes |
| Digital Exclusion Profiling of Vulnerable Groups | Cohesion Directorate |
| Review of General Development Order | Housing and Planning |
| Analysis of the Matthew Taylor Review call for evidence | Housing and Planning |
| Status Messaging and Voice Recording Interface and Mobile Terminal installation | Corporate Services |
| Thames Gateway Implementation Plan 2008-2009 | Thames Gateway |
| Response Times Research | Fire and Resilience |
| Digital Inclusion Communications Research | Local Government and Regeneration |
| Evidence Gathering Exercise into Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) | Housing and Planning |
| Framework of Standards/Recruitment process for Chaplins in Public Institutions | Cohesion Directorate |
| Recruitment of a new Chair for West Northamptonshire Development Corporation | Housing and Planning |
| Interim Procurement Support for Corporate Procurement Division (CPD) | Corporate Procurement |
| National Resilience Extranet | Fire and Resilience |
| Provision of Regional Boards of Medical Referees | Local Government and Regeneration |
| Firecontrol FM Services—Best and Final Offer | Fire and Resilience |
| Temporary Agency Staff Services | Human Resources |
| Fire and Resilience Service Incident Response Service—XML Schema Development Maintenance and Support | Fire and Resilience |
| Support for CLG Delivery Unit | Delivery Unit |
| Recruitment of Social Housing Regulator CEO and Chair | Housing and Planning |
| Commercial Energy Performance Certificate Register | Energy Performance of Buildings |
| Procurement Advisor—Fire and Resilience Programme | Fire and Resilience |
| Multi-Disciplinary Consultancy | Corporate Services |
| GIS Presentation and Analysis Interim | Corporate Delivery |
| Independent Auditor to Supporting People Programme | Cohesion Directorate |
| Special Advisor to CLG on Implementation of Social Housing Mobility Services | Housing and Planning |
| Evaluation of Integrated Risk Management Plan | Fire and Resilience |
| Commercial Energy Performance Certificate Register | Energy Performance of Buildings |
| Provision of Non-functional Test Development Support to the FSED | Fire and Resilience |
| GI Technical Specialist for PGA | Analytical Services |
| Internal Audit Services (IAS) in Partnership with the Private Sector | Internal Audit |
| Appointment of an EPSON Contact Point (ECP) | Housing and Planning |
| Fire and Resilience Directorate Programme Director | Fire and Resilience |

| ITT title | Project/division |
|---|---|
| Firelink and Firecontrol Cost Assurance Exercise | Fire and Resilience |
| Study on Urban Search and Rescue | Fire and Resilience |
| Increasing the Civic Participation of Women from Under Represented Groups | Cohesion Directorate |

### Eco-Towns

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had on the establishment of eco-towns. [236042]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Minister for Housing and Planning and myself have meetings with many external organisations and individuals on a wide range of subjects every week, and some of these will include discussion of eco-towns policy. As part of the Department's business we also have discussions with officials about the eco-towns policy, but details of these are not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

### Eco-towns: Finance

**Mr. Maples:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the Government's proposed contribution to infrastructure costs in respect of each of the proposed eco-towns on which she is consulting. [236983]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We are still consulting on eco-towns and no decisions have yet been taken on the final list of schemes with the potential to go forward as eco-towns. The expectation has always been that the bulk of investment needed to create an eco-town will come from the private sector. PricewaterhouseCoopers are currently assessing scheme proposals and the potential for costs to be funded by development without recourse to public subsidy. However, there will also be projects that we may support through direct funding to local authorities using the Growth Areas Fund and from mainstream funding programmes.

**Mr. Maples:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish the report made to her Department by PricewaterhouseCoopers on the financial viability of eco-towns. [236984]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** PricewaterhouseCoopers were commissioned to assess the financial viability of eco-town schemes earlier this year. The assessment is still under way and a final assessment is due to be submitted to the Department within the next couple of months. Early next year, at the end of eco-towns process, we expect to publish findings from the PwC assessment and other evidence that will inform decisions on the final list of schemes with potential to become eco-towns. Any published findings and associated analysis will of course respect commercial sensitivities.

### Eco-towns: Long Marston

**Mr. Maples:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on legal fees in defending the application for administrative review brought by David Bliss and others in respect of the proposed eco-town at Long Marston; how much her Department has allocated for expenditure on the case up to the time it is heard; and how much it has allocated for its legal fees incurred in each case. [236981]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** At this stage, in defending the application for administrative review in respect of the proposed eco-town at Long Marston, costs of approximately £22,000 have been incurred by the Department. However, this figure represents a snapshot as costs will continue to be incurred up until the court hearing (date to be confirmed). There is no fixed allocation as such for costs in this case or in respect of any such future cases that might arise.

We believe we have acted properly throughout the eco-towns process and will defend this claim vigorously. The Government remain of the view that the claim is premature in challenging an on-going consultation process.

### Empty Homes Agency

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding the Empty Homes Agency received from *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last three years. [236088]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Empty Homes Agency received £100,000 of grant funding from the Department in each of the last three years. The Agency also received funding of £18,156 from the Housing Corporation in 2005-06.

### Fire Prevention: Publicity

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the advertising campaign "Put it out, right out", has cost. [235794]

**Mr. Khan:** The most recent "Put it out, right out" advertising ran in January and February 2007, as part of the overall Fire Kills campaign, promoting the importance of carefully disposing of smoking products. The specific cost of advertising space bought for the "Put it out, right out" advertising during this period was £663,948.

The "Put it out, right out" advertising also ran as part of the Fire Kills campaigns run by the Department's predecessor, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, in the financial years 2002-03 and 2003-04. Specific costs for media space bought as part of these campaigns are not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the advertising campaign Push the Button has cost. [235795]

**Mr. Khan:** The most recent 'Push the Button' advertising ran in August and September 2006, as part of the overall Fire Kills campaign. The specific cost of advertising space bought for the 'Push the Button' advertising during this period was £749,304.

The 'Push the Button' advertising also ran as part of the Fire Kills campaigns run by the Department's predecessor, The Office Of The Deputy Prime Minister, in the financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05. Specific costs for media space bought as part of these campaigns are not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Fire Service: Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many attacks were recorded on firefighters in 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [236126]

**Mr. Khan:** My Department collects figures on attacks on firefighters based on returns from Fire and Rescue Authorities. 967 attacks in England in 2007-08 were reported to us.

### Fire Services

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has made available to fire authorities on the operational safety of firefighters in the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [235824]

**Mr. Khan:** Guidance is issued to fire and rescue authorities in many forms including fire and rescue service circulars, fire service manuals and generic risk assessments; guidance has also been issued through the New Dimension Programme to complement the vehicles, equipment and training associated with this.

Following the appointment of the chief fire and rescue adviser in October 2007, a framework for the future development of operational guidance has been developed, including a priority programme of work for 2008-09. This programme has begun and includes the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders. As part of this framework, an additional four pieces of operational guidance has recently been published and issued to all fire and rescue authorities.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1264W, on Firebuy Ltd., what the *(a)* running costs and *(b)* business-generated income of Firebuy Ltd have been in the year to date. [235855]

**Mr. Khan:** In the period from 1 April to 31 October 2008, Firebuy Ltd's running costs were £1,439,872 and its business-generated income was £65,362.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* suppliers and *(b)* contractors have provided goods or services in relation to the FiReControl programme. [236082]

**Mr. Khan:** The suppliers listed as follows have been paid more than £500,000 since 2002. In addition, many other businesses have been paid smaller amounts.

| *Supplier* | *Services/goods* |
|---|---|
| PA Consulting | Consultancy |
| EADS | IT Infrastructure Supplier |
| Turner and Townsend | Property advisers |
| Denton Wilde Sapte | Legal advisers |
| Actica | Consultancy |
| Atkins Transport Planning | Consultancy |
| Cornwell Management Consultanis | Consultancy |
| Leafrange Ltd. | RCC Estates (SW) |
| PKF | Financial advisers |
| Chief Fire Officers Association | Seconded Personnel |
| Electronic Commerce Assoc Ltd. | Consultancy |
| Lingley Mere | RCC Estates (NW) |
| Control Centre Partnership | RCC Estates (WM and NE) |
| Flagship Training Ltd. | Facilities Management |
| Innogistics | Software provider |
| Greater Manchester Fire | Seconded Fire Officers |

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the minimum period is that a fire fighter must have trained before commencing operational duty. [236556]

**Mr. Khan:** It is the responsibility of individual fire and rescue authorities to ensure that their operational staff receive the appropriate training before carrying out operational duties.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire fighters died whilst on duty in each of the last 20 years. [236557]

**Mr. Khan:** The information requested, for the fire and rescue services in England, is shown in the following table.

*Firefighter deaths while on duty, England 1988-89 to 2007-08*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1988-89 | 2 |
| 1989-90 | 5 |
| 1990-91 | 5 |
| 1991-92 | 4 |
| 1992-93 | 3 |
| 1993-94 | 3 |
| 1994-95 | 1 |
| 1995-96[1] | 1 |
| 1996-97 | 1 |
| 1997-98[2] | 3 |
| 1998-99 | 2 |
| 1999-2000 | 3 |
| 2000-01 | 3 |
| 2001-02 | 1 |
| 2002-03[3] | 3 |
| 2003-04 | 1 |
| 2004-05 | 4 |
| 2005-06 | 0 |

*Firefighter deaths while on duty, England 1988-89 to 2007-08*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2006-07[4] | 2 |
| 2007-08 | 5 |

[1] Excludes one firefighter death at a special service incident, while off duty.
[2] Excludes one firefighter death in a road traffic collision while on a pump while off duty.
[3] Excludes one firefighter death attending a fire, while off duty.
[4] Excludes media technician died while attending a fire.
*Source:*
Communities and Local Government

## Fire Services: Industrial Disputes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contingency plans are in place in the event of a firefighters strike; and whether her Department is responsible for implementing those plans. [236000]

**Mr. Khan:** Individual fire and rescue authorities have responsibility for maintaining and implementing contingency plans in respect of strikes by firefighters in their area.

## Fire Services: Per Capita Costs

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much per capita funding has been provided from central government for each fire authority in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [236990]

**Mr. Khan:** Provisional outturn central Government grant per head in 2007-08 for each fire authority in England is tabled as follows.

| | £ per head |
|---|---|
| Greater London Authority | n/a |
| Greater Manchester Fire and CD Authority | 29 |
| Merseyside Fire and CD Authority | 34 |
| South Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority | 27 |
| Tyne and Wear Fire and CD Authority | 35 |
| West Midlands Fire and CD Authority | 30 |
| West Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority | 25 |
| Avon Combined Fire Authority | 24 |
| Bedfordshire Combined Fire Authority | 18 |
| Berkshire Combined Fire Authority | 18 |
| Buckinghamshire Combined Fire Authority | 17 |
| Cambridgeshire Combined Fire Authority | 16 |
| Cheshire Combined Fire Authority | 17 |
| Cleveland Combined Fire Authority | 39 |
| Derbyshire Combined Fire Authority | 17 |
| Devon and Somerset Combined Fire Authority | 20 |
| Dorset Combined Fire Authority | 15 |
| Durham Combined Fire Authority | 22 |
| East Sussex Combined Fire Authority | 18 |
| Essex Combined Fire Authority | 18 |
| Hampshire Combined Fire Authority | 17 |
| Hereford and Worcester Combined Fire Authority | 16 |
| Humberside Combined Fire Authority | 27 |
| Kent Combined Fire Authority | 18 |
| Lancashire Combined Fire Authority | 23 |
| Leicestershire Combined Fire Authority | 19 |
| North Yorkshire Combined Fire Authority | 17 |
| Nottinghamshire Combined Fire Authority | 20 |
| Shropshire Combined Fire Authority | 16 |
| Staffordshire Combined Fire Authority | 16 |
| Wiltshire Combined Fire Authority | 14 |
| Cornwall | n/a |
| Cumbria | n/a |
| Gloucestershire | n/a |
| Hertfordshire | n/a |
| Lincolnshire | n/a |
| Norfolk | n/a |
| Northamptonshire | n/a |
| Northumberland | n/a |
| Oxfordshire | n/a |
| Suffolk | n/a |
| Surrey | n/a |
| Warwickshire | n/a |
| West Sussex | n/a |
| Isles of Scilly | n/a |
| Isle of Wight UA | n/a |

n/a = The information on central Government grant for these authorities is not available as it is not possible to separately identify the funding for fire and rescue services. This is because formula grant is unhypothecated.
*Source:*
Communities and Local Government provisional Revenue Outturn (RO) 2007-08 returns.

Central Government grant is defined here as the sum of Formula Grant (Revenue Support Grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), ie revenue grants paid for council's core services. It excludes grants outside AEF (ie where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party), capital grants and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Population figures used in the calculation are the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) Mid-Year Population estimates for 2007.

### Fire Services: Safety

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account she takes of firefighter safety in reviewing the efficacy of integrated risk management plans published by fire and rescue services; and if she will make a statement. [236127]

**Mr. Khan:** The responsibility for drawing up, reviewing and maintaining integrated risk management plans (IRMPs) lies with the elected members of Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs); it is not for Ministers or Government officials to review or intervene in the operational proposals in individual FRAs' IRMPs.

The Audit Commission is an independent watchdog, which assesses economy, efficiency and effectiveness in local public services. The Commission is responsible for reviewing the effectiveness of FRAs including individual FRAs' IRMPs.

Communities and Local Government is taking the lead on work to produce operational guidance, that supports firefighter safety. The Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser has agreed, in collaboration with key stakeholders such as the Chief Fire Officers Association and the Fire Brigades Union, a priority programme of work for 2008-09, and is developing the longer-term and sustainable framework for the development of future guidance.

### Fire Services: South West

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what contingency plans she has should the South West fire control room not become operational; [235978]

(2) whether the existing county fire brigade control rooms in the South West will have any function when the South West regional fire control room is fully operational. [235980]

**Mr. Khan:** The existing arrangements stay in place until the 'cut-over' of the South West regional control centre. There will be no call handling or call mobilising function for the existing county fire brigade control rooms in the South West once the regional control centre is operational.

### Fire Services: Standards

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for the introduction of national fire standards. [236555]

**Mr. Khan:** The Government have no plans to reintroduce national standards of fire cover.

The prescriptive national standards of fire cover were abolished in 2003 with the introduction of integrated risk management planning, enabling Fire and Rescue Authorities to tailor cover for fire and other incidents to local circumstances by evaluating where risk is greatest and allocating resource accordingly.

Decisions made by local politicians and practitioners according to local circumstances are more effective than blanket requirements across the country.

### Fires

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic fires were caused by *(a)* cigarettes and *(b)* candles in the latest year for which figures are available. [235793]

**Mr. Khan:** In England, in 2006, there were 1,300 dwelling fires started by candles and 2,400 dwelling fires started by smokers' materials. Cigarettes are recorded within this wider category.

### Fires: Death

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps have been taken to reduce the numbers of accident-related fire deaths. [235797]

**Mr. Khan:** The Government are committed to reducing preventable fire deaths and injuries from fire. Fire deaths in the home in the UK are at their lowest since the 1950s, and the long-term trend is downwards. In 1997 in England, 362 people died in house fires, compared to the current figure of 233 fire deaths in the home in 2006.

The Fire Kills campaign is one of our key strands of work to drive down deaths and injuries from fire. The range of public awareness media campaigns run by the Government have sent powerful messages to the public about the importance of fire safety in the home, in particular the importance of having a working smoke alarm installed. Ownership of smoke alarms in England now stands at 80 per cent. of households and we are seeking to raise it further as evidence suggests that those without alarms are often in those groups who are most at risk from fire. The next media campaign will commence on 26 December 2008 and will run for one month promoting the key message of the importance to test and maintain smoke alarms.

The Government have also invested £25 million in grants during 2004-08 to Fire and Rescue Authorities to enable them to purchase smoke alarms to install in domestic dwellings. This pump-priming funding stream has resulted in just under 2 million Home Fire Risk Check visits to households in England, with over 2.4 million smoke alarms being installed in properties at higher risk from fire.

### Green Belt

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1291W, whether the proposed Green Belt amendments involve the removal or weakening of Green Belt protection. [235863]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** A partial revision of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy has been submitted for an Examination in Public due to start in April 2009. Matters including the broad locations for new housing and whether amendments to the green belt are justified will be debated at the independent examination and it would be inappropriate for me to comment on the merits of any proposals now.

Any proposed alteration to the extent of a green belt would have to meet the stringent policy criteria set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2, "Green Belts".

### Guildford Street Angels

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the contribution of church-led initiatives to increasing levels of safety in towns and cities, with particular reference to the Guildford Street Angels programme. [236640]

**Mr. Khan:** Communities and Local Government is aware of the national Street Pastors programme to which the Guildford Street Angels project is similar. No formal assessment has been made by Communities and Local Government of such initiatives, though we value and support the important contribution that faith groups make to local communities.

### Historic Counties Association

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings she has held with the Historic Counties Association in the last 12 months; and what matters were discussed. [235801]

**Mr. Khan:** My right hon. Friend has had no meetings with the Historic Counties Association.

### Holocaust Memorial Day

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the arrangements for Holocaust Memorial Day 2009; and if she will make a statement. [235691]

**Mr. Khan:** The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust receives an annual grant from Communities and Local Government which will help it this year to organise both the 2009 national commemoration (to be held in Coventry) and a range of educational and cultural events.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2009 is 'Stand Up to Hatred'—examining what hatred means; how it can be enshrined in actions, language, propaganda and legislation; and how each of us can help make our communities stronger and safe. The choice of this particular theme will help to ensure that the 2009 commemoration and its supporting activities will make an important contribution to the Government's work.

### Home Information Pack

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a home information pack is required to be produced for the sale of a houseboat. [236143]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** No.

### Home Information Packs

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to extend the transitional arrangements for home information packs beyond 31 December 2008. [235932]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** An announcement will be made on this shortly.

### Housing Starts

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of houses to be built each year until 2020 to attain her Department's target for three million new houses by that date; what progress has been made on that target; what proportion of such houses will be *(a)* council housing, *(b)* registered social landlord housing, *(c)* affordable housing, *(d)* private housing and *(e)* buy to let housing; how much Government funding will be required each year to build (i) council housing, (ii) registered social landlord housing and (iii) affordable housing to meet that target; and what estimate she has made of the number of houses which will be built in each category in (A) 2008-09, (B) 2009-10 and (C) 2010-11 to meet that target. [234344]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government set the overall strategy for housing supply in England. In 2006-07 199,200 additional homes were delivered. Housing starts in 2007-08 were 10 per cent. lower than in 2006-07 and this is likely to be reflected in lower levels of housing completions during 2008-09.

The Housing Green Paper 'Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable' (CM 7191), published in July 2007, announced an increase of new affordable housing to at least 70,000 per annum by 2010-11, to be delivered mainly through the Housing Corporation's National Affordable Housing Programme. Of these, 45,600 homes will be for social rent, an increase of 50 per cent. on 2007-08, with a goal to go further to 50,000 new homes for social rent in the next spending review period.

The Government do not publish forecasts for private house building or estimates of the levels of house building for registered social landlords or local authorities.

The Government are investing £8 billion in the provision of affordable housing over the three years 2008-11, initially through the Housing Corporation and then through the Homes and Communities Agency. Our aspiration is to reach 70,000 affordable homes a year by 2010-11. It remains too early, given current market conditions, to predict outputs in that year, or the intervening years, with certainty.

Funds available for affordable housing from 2011-12 will be subject to decisions made at the next spending review.

### Housing: Construction

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how many permanent domestic dwellings construction was started in England in each year since 1979. [236089]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The following table shows the number of annual house building starts on permanent dwellings in England from 1979 until 2007. All data given are for calendar years.

*House Building Starts*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1979 | 186,230 |
| 1980 | 131,340 |
| 1981 | 133,990 |
| 1982 | 167,410 |
| 1983 | 193,330 |
| 1984 | 173,460 |
| 1985 | 173,460 |
| 1986 | 187,090 |
| 1987 | 200,800 |
| 1988 | 220,010 |
| 1989 | 166,380 |
| 1990 | 133,470 |
| 1991 | 133,800 |
| 1992 | 129,300 |
| 1993 | 151,230 |
| 1994 | 165,440 |
| 1995 | 136,230 |
| 1996 | 144,710 |
| 1997 | 157,570 |
| 1998 | 149,060 |
| 1999 | 147,510 |
| 2000 | 144,520 |
| 2001 | 147,610 |
| 2002 | 149,060 |
| 2003 | 159,440 |
| 2004 | 176,600 |
| 2005 | 177,130 |
| 2006 | 177,200 |
| 2007 | 166,350 |

*Source:*
New build completions from P2 monthly and quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council (NHBC).

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether dwellings built on windfall sites may be counted towards house-building targets required from a local authority under a regional spatial strategy. [236142]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Dwellings built on windfall sites can be counted towards the achievement of house-building targets, but local authorities should not rely on such sites coming forward to meet housing need. They should therefore not include an allowance for windfalls in the first 10 years of land supply unless they can provide robust evidence of genuine local circumstances that prevent specific sites being identified.

## Housing: Fires

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been damaged by fire resulting from *(a)* accidents and *(b)* arson in the last 12 months. [235796]

**Mr. Khan:** The latest 12 months for which these figures are available are September 2006 to August 2007. In England, during this period, there were 35,400 dwellings damaged as a result of accidental fires and 7,500 dwellings damaged as a result of deliberate fires.

## Housing: Low Incomes

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what Government funds are available to registered social landlords for the construction of new social housing in Birmingham; and by what means they can be accessed. [235470]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Through the Housing Corporation, and from 1 December the Homes and Communities Agency, the Affordable Housing Programme provides grant to registered social landlords and others, including developers and local authorities, to provide affordable housing either through new build or acquisition and refurbishment. We are providing £8 billion over the three years, 2008-11, to fund this programme. Of this around £467 million has been allocated indicatively for affordable housing in West Midlands.

Bidding for these funds is now taking place on a continuing basis. To the end of October over £69 million has been allocated for schemes in West Midlands, of which £21 million is for schemes in Birmingham.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many unsold houses have been bought by the Government for affordable housing under its recent £200 million scheme. [235931]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Developer stock units are purchased by the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme investment partners for the provision of either social rent or for sale on low cost home ownership terms. Funding is a mix of grant from the Housing Corporation and from the investment partner's own resources. As at the end of October, the Housing Corporation had allocated grant funding of £90 million for the purchase of 2,600 homes.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the proportion of existing social housing that meets current standards for new build social housing; and if she will make a statement. [236267]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We have made no assessment of what proportion of existing social homes would meet the standards for new build social housing.

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses owned by local authorities for social accommodation there are. [236856]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The number of dwellings owned by local authorities in England on 1 April 2007 was 1,987,340.

*Source:*
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix.

## Housing: Recreation Spaces

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will encourage local authorities to take action to ensure that no one should live more than 500 metres from a two hectare wood or four kilometres from a 20 hectare wood. [235480]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Planning Policy Guidance note 17: "Planning for open space, sport and recreation" (PPG17) already encourages local planning authorities to identify the specific needs for easily accessible, good quality open space, including woodland, within their areas. Authorities should use the information gained from their assessments of needs to establish an effective open space strategy which should form the basis for appropriate policies in their development plan. PPG17 requires local authorities to derive local standards for the provision of open space, as national standards cannot cater for local circumstances, such as the extent of existing built development in an area.

### Housing: Thames Gateway

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether consideration has been given to encouraging residents living in inner London to move to new homes to be built as part of the Thames Gateway project. [235804]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The objective of the Thames Gateway programme set out in the Delivery Plan are to provide substantial additional housing in the area: 160, 000 more new homes by 2016. New housing in the Thames Gateway will be built to a high standard of design and provided at an appropriate mix of sizes and tenures. This high quality new housing will not only benefit existing residents of the Thames Gateway, but will also be attractive to families currently living outside the Gateway. Those individuals would of course include residents of inner London, however it is not the role of Government to actively encourage residents to move from Inner London to the Thames Gateway.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes will be built as part of the Thames Gateway project; and what estimate she has made of the average cost of building such homes. [235806]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government's Thames Gateway programme is not directly responsible for the building of substantial quantities of new homes. Rather, through funding projects including site preparation and infrastructure provision, it facilitates the provision of new homes by the market. However, the Government have an aspiration that 160,000 additional new dwellings should be provided in the Thames Gateway from 2001 to 2016 inclusive. The Department has not made an assessment of the average cost of building new homes in the Thames Gateway, since this is largely a matter for the market.

### Local Authorities: Procurement

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to facilitate prompt payments to suppliers on the part of local authorities. [235497]

**John Healey:** Local authorities are responsible for their own payment arrangements and have an excellent track record. I have invited the Local Government Association to let me know how authorities at this time are tackling this issue.

### Local Government: Liability

**Mr. Atkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are on local authorities to inform her Department of liabilities incurred in the course of their business undertakings. [236078]

**John Healey:** There are no requirements for local authorities to inform Communities and Local Government specifically about liabilities incurred in the course of their business undertakings. Certain information about their liabilities is disclosed in their published statement of accounts.

### Local Government: Procurement

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of local authorities consistently making payment to suppliers within 30 days. [235498]

**John Healey:** The most recent data available show 95 per cent. of undisputed invoices were paid within 30 days or within mutually agreed terms.

### Local Government: Religion

**Mr. Cox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will issue guidance to local authorities on the inclusion of Christian prayers during council meetings and authorities' equality duties. [235483]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 704W by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda), that the Department has no plans to issue guidance to local authorities on prayers at council meetings. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has issued guidance to public authorities on compliance with statutory equality duties, and it is important that local authorities satisfy themselves that their policies and practices are consistent with their equalities responsibilities.

### Mobile Homes

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will establish a register of fit and proper owners of park home sites; and if she will make a statement. [236477]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Communities and Local Government intends to publish a consultation paper early in the new year setting out proposals to reform the existing site licensing system which applies to park home and other caravan sites. A key measure will be the proposal to introduce a fit and proper test for licence holders and others engaged in the management of sites.

### Multiple Occupation

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will publish the review of houses in multiple occupation and possible planning responses announced on 9 April 2008. [236071]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The research work "Evidence Gathering—Housing in Multiple Occupation and possible planning responses" was published on 26 September 2008. The report can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/evidencegatheringresearch

### Multiple Occupation: Licensing

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of (*a*) the number of houses in multiple occupation licensed in each local authority area under mandatory licensing provisions of the Housing Act 2004 and (*b*) the proportion of eligible properties this number represents. [236072]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The numbers of HMO licences issued by each local authority under the provisions of the Housing Act 2004 and reported to the Government by 12 November 2008, together with the numbers of applications and of licenses refused, have been placed in the Library.

The proportion of licensable HMOs that have been licensed is not available centrally.

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications have been received from local authorities to introduce additional licensing schemes for houses in multiple occupation; and how many such applications have been granted. [236213]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department has received formal applications from Oxford city council and Breckland borough council for additional HMO licensing schemes, and officials are working with both authorities in order to progress their applications in the context of the guidance published by the Department. There have currently been no departmental approvals for additional HMO licensing schemes.

### Neighbourhood Wardens: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage change in the number of neighbourhood wardens between 1997 and 2007 has been in (*a*) Crosby constituency and (*b*) England. [236711]

**Mr. Khan:** CLG no longer directly funds warden schemes, and therefore no data are collected centrally on the number of schemes in operation.

### Newcastle International Airport Company: Local Government

**Mr. Atkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will investigate the (*a*) liabilities incurred and (*b*) payments made from the public purse by the seven local authorities participating in the Newcastle International Airport Company in respect of payments to former members of its management board; and if she will make a statement. [236979]

**John Healey:** Matters relating to liabilities incurred and payments made are for the local authorities involved. Local authorities are under a duty to achieve best value in carrying out their functions. Any concerns that a local authority has not achieved best value should be addressed to the auditor in the first instance.

### Planning Inspectorate: Fees and Charges

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Planning Inspectorate is expected to start charging for appeals; and what estimate has been made of the Inspectorate's likely revenue from such charges in their first full year. [236095]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department, in conjunction with the Planning Inspectorate, is currently formulating proposals on charging for appeals and will consult again publicly prior to introducing appeal fees. At present, we plan to introduce appeal fees from October 2009.

### Regional Planning and Development: Equality

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 718W, on equality and diversity partnerships, what funding the regional assemblies have given to regional equality and diversity partnerships in the last period for which figures are available. [236014]

**Mr. Khan:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for Local Government on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 362W.

### Regional Planning and Development: Thames Gateway

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new jobs she expects to be created as part of the Thames Gateway project. [235808]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** As set out in the Thames Gateway Delivery Plan (November 2007), the Government expect to see at least 225,000 new jobs by 2016, compared to 2001.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps have been taken to ensure that the Thames Gateway project meets its target of becoming an eco-region. [235809]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Government remain committed to establishing the Thames Gateway as an eco-region. Work continues to develop the concept and next steps will be announced in a prospectus to be published shortly. This will build on the commitments made and progress signalled in the November 2007 Thames Gateway Delivery Plan, the Regional Development Agencies' September 2008 Thames Gateway Economic Development Investment Plan and the October 2008 Parklands Vision.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many acres of community recreational space are planned as part of the Thames Gateway project. [235810]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Community recreational space in the Thames Gateway is delivered by a wide range of local delivery partners, and some projects are supported by central Government. However, central Government do not monitor how much recreational space is planned across the region overall. This information is managed at a local level and is included in the regional spatial strategies and local development frameworks.

**Rented Housing: Private Sector**

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to respond to the review of private rented sector housing led by Julie Rugg and David Rhodes. [236073]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We will be responding to the Julie Rugg and David Rhodes review of the private rented sector within our forthcoming housing reform Green Paper. Currently we are discussing initial views on the review with key stakeholders. Those discussions will inform our initial response to the review.

**Retail Trade: Planning**

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the extent to which in-town trade diversion affects town centres; and whether this assessment will be taken into account in revisions to Planning Policy Statement 6. [236505]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Our "Proposed Changes to Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for town centres", published on 10 July 2008, make clear that a key consideration to take into account when considering the impact of proposals for retail and leisure development is whether there will be an impact on in-centre trade/turnover, taking account of current and future consumer expenditure capacity in the catchment area of the proposal.

In formulating our proposals we have taken account of a number of studies, particularly "The Merry Hill Impact Study" (DoE, 1993); "The Impact of Large Foodstores on Market Towns and District Centres" (DETR, 1998); and our research into "The Policy Evaluation of the Effectiveness of PPG6" (ODPM, 2004).

We have also had regard to planning cases decided by the Secretary of State and Inspectors, as indicated in our consultation document. We have also drawn upon a number of other reports to inform our proposals, including:

(1) "The Smaller Towns Report", published by the British Council of Shopping Centres in 2004; and

(2) "Town Centre and Retailing Methodologies", published by One Scotland in 2007.

As we said in our consultation proposals, we expect to implement our revisions in spring 2009.

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the proposed revision of Planning Policy Statement 6 will protect and promote retail diversity. [236506]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Our "Proposed Changes to Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for town centres", published on 10 July 2008, set out a strong policy framework within which local authorities should plan for their town centres and retail development. Our proposals recognise the importance of achieving a broad range of retailer representation, both large and small, to improve the attractiveness of town centres and promoting competition and consumer choice. To achieve this we are asking local authorities to plan proactively for their town centres by making full and effective use of available tools such as their development plan policies, planning conditions, Local Development Orders and Article 4 Directions. We are also asking them to promote competitive town centre environments by, where appropriate, giving priority consideration to whether the established character and diversity of their town centres should be protected and enhanced.

Our proposed new impact test will also provide a more effective way of assessing the impact of unplanned proposals outside town centres by requiring applicants for such proposals to assess the extent to which a proposal will promote or undermine town centre vitality and viability, including the impact on local consumer choice and retail diversity in terms of the range, type and quality of goods.

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to issue revised Planning Policy Statement 6; and whether the revised version will incorporate the recent recommendations of the Competition Commission on competition in the retail sector. [236508]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** As we said in our 'Proposed Changes to Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for town centres', published on 10 July 2008, we expect to implement our revisions in spring 2009.

Whether our revised policy will incorporate a 'competition test' for planning decisions on larger grocery stores, as recommended by the Competition Commission (CC), will depend on the outcome of the Tesco appeal to the Competition Appeal tribunal and our further consideration of the CC's proposals. As we said in the Government's response to the CC inquiry into UK groceries retailing in July, we will report more fully on our decision in the light of developments. Our published response can be viewed on the BERR website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/bbf/competition/market-studies/supplyofgroceries/index.html

**Severn Barrage**

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has provided guidance to planning authorities on the potential impact of a Severn Barrage on flooding in the south west and south Wales. [235333]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** A cross-Government study is assessing the feasibility of harnessing the tidal power of the Severn Estuary. Impacts of a power generation scheme on flooding issues are being addressed in the Strategic Environmental Assessment commissioned by the study. The feasibility study is scheduled to report during 2010. Given this, no planning guidance for authorities in the South West and Wales has been issued concerning the potential impact of any such development in the Severn Estuary.

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what responsibilities the Homes and Communities Agency will have for assessing the risk of flooding arising from the construction of a Severn Barrage. [235334]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Homes and Communities Agency would have no role in relation to flood risk assessment for any Severn Barrage. This would be the responsibility of whoever builds it, with the Environment Agency taking a keen interest given its statutory role in relation to planning and flood risk.

HCA's role with regard to flood risk assessment would be that set out in "PPS25: Development and Flood Risk". For any development it planned, it would have to carry out a flood risk assessment. The HCA will develop its own flood risk/flood adaptation policy building on EP's best practice guidance note covering PPS25 and building on EP's work on sustainable urban drainage systems.

HCA will also seek to develop strong and early relationships with the Environment Agency to ensure that they are involved at both a strategic level and locally where flood risk or water availability is an issue.

### South-East Plan

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to whom a hard copy of the South-East Plan consultation document was distributed by her Department during the recent consultation in *(a)* Guildford borough, *(b)* Waverley borough and *(c)* Surrey. [236609]

**Mr. Khan:** Hard copies were distributed to all south-east MPs and MEPs, participants at the Examination in Public, South East England Regional Assembly members, and local authority heads of planning. Public libraries and planning authority offices received copies for inspection.

In addition, a further approximately 100 hard copies have been distributed on a request basis across the region.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Action for Sustainable Living: Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much funding *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* Capacitybuilders has given to Action for Sustainable Living in the last 24 months. [233236]

**Kevin Brennan:** Neither the Cabinet Office, the Central Office of Information nor Capacitybuilders have awarded any grants to Action for Sustainable Living in the last 24 months.

### Average Earnings: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average earnings of *(a)* males and *(b)* females are in the principal seaside towns in England and Wales. [234936]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average earnings of (a) males and (b) females are in the principal seaside towns in England and Wales. (234936)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

Estimates of levels of earnings are not available by town but are available by Local Authority. I attach a table showing the median gross weekly earnings for the Local Authority associated with each principal seaside town in England and Wales in 2007.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a sample of employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

*Median weekly pay—Gross (£) For employee jobs[1] in Principal Seaside Towns in England and Wales for 2007*

| | | | | Male | | Female | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Principal seaside towns* | *Local authority* | *Male* | *Female* | *Full-time* | *Part-time* | *Full-time* | *Part-time* |
| Bognor Regis | Arun | *356 | **201 | *389 | x | **171 | **128 |
| Greater Blackpool | Blackpool UA | **162 | *264 | **447 | x | *322 | **134 |
| Greater Bournemouth | Bournemouth UA | *382 | *254 | *449 | x | *343 | *145 |
| Porthcawl | Bridgend/Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr | *479 | *264 | *488 | x | *341 | **123 |
| Greater Brighton | Brighton and Hove UA | *403 | *319 | *456 | x | *404 | **163 |
| Whitstable/Herne Bay | Canterbury | *393 | **272 | *433 | x | *391 | **135 |
| Falmouth | Carrick | **165 | **294 | *425 | x | *379 | **151 |
| Llandudno/Colwyn Bay/Conway | Conwy/Conwy | *350 | **221 | **397 | x | **344 | **93 |
| Rhyl/Prestatyn | Denbighshire/Sir Ddinbych | *369 | **262 | *386 | x | **353 | **134 |
| Deal | Dover | **449 | **271 | **522 | x | **371 | **117 |
| Sidmouth | East Devon | *404 | **219 | *423 | x | *315 | x |
| Skegness | East Lindsey | **339 | *213 | **371 | x | **302 | **131 |
| Bridlington | East Riding of Yorkshire UA | 470 | *212 | *493 | x | *370 | *139 |
| Eastbourne | Eastbourne | **443 | **280 | **480 | x | **425 | **167 |
| Great Yarmouth | Great Yarmouth | **434 | **226 | *518 | x | **331 | **135 |
| Hastings/Bexhill | Hastings | *357 | **229 | *486 | x | **357 | x |
| Isle of Wight | Isle of Wight UA | *421 | *205 | *474 | x | *343 | *159 |
| Morecambe and Heysham | Lancaster | *466 | x | *498 | x | *362 | **138 |
| Ilfracombe | North Devon | **372 | **239 | **379 | x | *311 | **143 |
| Weston-super-Mare | North Somerset UA | *513 | *275 | *539 | x | *358 | **151 |

*Median weekly pay - Gross (£) For employee jobs[1] in Principal Seaside Towns in England and Wales for 2007*

| Principal seaside towns | Local authority | Male | Female | Male | | Female | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Full-time | Part-time | Full-time | Part-time |
| Whitley Bay | North Tyneside | *391 | *260 | *408 | x | *328 | *136 |
| St Ives/Penzance | Penwith | **311 | **209 | **349 | x | x | x |
| Swanage | Purbeck | x | x | **546 | x | **340 | x |
| Newquay | Restormel | *384 | **224 | *418 | x | *315 | **162 |
| Scarborough/Whitby | Scarborough | *389 | **210 | *411 | x | **286 | **140 |
| Burnham-on-Sea | Sedgemoor | **396 | **201 | *459 | x | *344 | **136 |
| Southport | Sefton | *383 | *252 | *422 | 109 | *309 | *139 |
| Folkstone/Hythe | Shepway | **411 | **239 | **444 | x | *292 | **117 |
| Southend-on-Sea | Southend-on-Sea UA | **350 | *275 | **414 | x | *396 | **142 |
| Exmouth/Dawlish/Teignmouth | Teignbridge | *373 | **241 | *383 | x | **307 | **149 |
| Clacton | Tendring | *348 | **256 | **376 | x | *323 | x |
| Thanet | Thanet | **401 | *226 | **429 | x | **359 | **154 |
| Barry | The Vale of Glamorgan/Bro Morgannwg | **455 | **275 | **482 | x | **402 | **153 |
| Torbay | Torbay UA | **326 | **246 | **360 | x | *365 | **127 |
| Lowestoft | Waveney | *380 | **172 | 390 | x | **347 | **113 |
| Minehead | West Somerset | x | x | x | | x | x |
| Weymouth | Weymouth and Portland | **314 | x | *375 | x | **316 | x |
| Greater Worthing | Worthing | *425 | **273 | *460 | x | *364 | **158 |

* Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

*Key*

The colour coding indicates the quality of each estimate for median gross weekly pay.

The quality of an estimate is measured by its coefficient of variation (CV), which is the ratio of the standard error of an estimate to the estimate.

*Guide to quality*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality.

The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%, we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

*Key*

CV ≥= 5%

* CV ≥ 5% and ≤= 10%

** CV ≥ 10% and ≤=20%

X CV ≥ 20%

*Notes*

1. Estimates provided are from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE).

2. Figures are provided for median gross weekly earnings for employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

*Source*

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

## Cardiovascular Diseases

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of all deaths were from *(a)* circulation diseases and *(b)* cancers in each of the last 15 years. [234501]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many and what proportion of all deaths were from (a) circulation diseases and (b) cancers in each of the last 15 years. (234501)

The tables attached provide the numbers of deaths and proportion of all deaths, with an underlying cause of (a) circulatory disease (table 1) and (b) cancer (table 2) for the years 1993 to 2007 (the latest year available).

*Table 1: Number, and proportion of deaths where circulatory disease was the underlying cause of death, in England and Wales, 1993 to 2007[1,2]*

| | Deaths | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1993 | 258,012 | 45 |
| 1994 | 241,551 | 44 |
| 1995 | 241,871 | 43 |
| 1996 | 238,855 | 42 |
| 1997 | 229,585 | 41 |
| 1998 | 225,811 | 41 |
| 1999 | 218,062 | 39 |
| 2000 | 207,618 | 39 |
| 2001 | 212,354 | 40 |
| 2002 | 209,948 | 39 |
| 2003 | 205,651 | 38 |
| 2004 | 190,779 | 37 |
| 2005 | 183,674 | 36 |
| 2006 | 174,637 | 35 |
| 2007 | 170,338 | 34 |

[1] Cause of death for circulatory disease was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 390-459 for 1993 to 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes I00-I99 for 2001 to 2007. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the number of deaths from this cause, before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

*Table 2: Number, and proportion of deaths where cancer was the underlying cause England and Wales, 1993 to 2007[1,2]*

| | Deaths | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1993 | 140,595 | 24 |
| 1994 | 139,455 | 25 |
| 1995 | 138,671 | 25 |
| 1996 | 138,092 | 25 |
| 1997 | 135,771 | 24 |
| 1998 | 136,289 | 25 |
| 1999 | 133,749 | 24 |
| 2000 | 132,421 | 25 |

*Table 2: Number and proportion of deaths where cancer was the underlying cause England and Wales, 1991 to 2007[1]*

| | Deaths | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 136,234 | 26 |
| 2002 | 137,051 | 26 |
| 2003 | 136,030 | 25 |
| 2004 | 134,673 | 26 |
| 2005 | 134,984 | 26 |
| 2006 | 135,635 | 27 |
| 2007 | 136,804 | 27 |

[1] Cause of death for cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 140-208 for 1993 to 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 for 2001 to 2007. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the number of deaths from this cause, before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Civil Servants: Manpower

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many full-time equivalent civil servants each Government department and executive agency employed in City of York constituency in each year since 1996-97. [237054]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many full-time equivalent civil servants each government department and executive agency employed in City of York constituency in each year since 1996-97. (237054)

Information on employment in the civil service is not available for parliamentary constituencies. I refer to you the answer given on 5 November (Official Report, volume 482, column 493W) for estimates for the City of York area.

## Death: Cancer

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the mortality rate from cancer was in Crosby constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008 to date. [236704]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the mortality rate from cancer was in Crosby constituency in (a) 1997 and (b) 2008. (236704)

Mortality rates for parliamentary constituencies are available only for the years 2001 to 2006. The age-standardised mortality rate where cancer was the underlying cause of death in Crosby parliamentary constituency was 177 per 100,000 population in 2001, and 158 per 100,000 population in 2006.[1, 2, 3, 4]

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Cause of death for cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2008.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Death: Carbon Monoxide

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning there were of people aged *(a)* 60 to 64, *(b)* 65 to 74 and *(c)* 75 years and over since 1997. [236937]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning there were of people aged (a) 60-64, (b) 65-74 and (c) 75 years and over since 1997. (236937)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where the toxic effect of carbon monoxide was the cause of death for people aged (a) 60-64, (b) 65-74 and (c) 75 years and over, in England and Wales, from 1997 to 2007 (the latest year available).

*Table 1: Number of deaths with a cause of carbon monoxide poisoning[1], by age group: persons aged 60 and over, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[2, 3]*

*Deaths*

| | Age group | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 60-64 | 65-74 | 75+ |
| 1997 | 31 | 55 | 75 |
| 1998 | 25 | 51 | 59 |
| 1999 | 26 | 45 | 83 |
| 2000 | 18 | 36 | 60 |
| 2001 | 20 | 29 | 58 |
| 2002 | 18 | 19 | 39 |
| 2003 | 18 | 24 | 40 |
| 2004 | 16 | 24 | 38 |
| 2005 | 15 | 17 | 37 |
| 2006 | 8 | 20 | 23 |
| 2007 | 19 | 22 | 31 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 986 for the years 1997 to 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T58 for the years 2001 to 2007.
[2] Figures include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Death: Drugs

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths attributed to drugs overdoses were recorded in *(a)* Doncaster, *(b)* Barnsley and *(c)* South Yorkshire in each of the last five years. [236301]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths attributed to drugs overdoses were recorded in (a) Doncaster, (b) Barnsley and (c) South Yorkshire in each of the last five years. (236301)

The table attached provides the numbers of deaths for which the underlying cause was (i) drug poisoning and (ii) drug poisoning where any drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate, for (a) Doncaster metropolitan district, (b) Barnsley metropolitan district and (c) South Yorkshire county, from 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

*Table 1: Number of deaths from drug poisoning and drug misuse, Doncaster metropolitan district, Barnsley metropolitan district and South Yorkshire county, 2003 to 2007*[1,2,3]

*Deaths*

| | *Drug poisoning* | | | *Drug misuse* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Doncaster* | *Barnsley* | *South Yorkshire* | *Doncaster* | *Barnsley* | *South Yorkshire* |
| 2003 | 15 | 20 | 87 | 12 | 14 | 56 |
| 2004 | 13 | 13 | 65 | 8 | 9 | 40 |
| 2005 | 11 | 23 | 69 | 10 | 14 | 43 |
| 2006 | 17 | 16 | 83 | 11 | 12 | 58 |
| 2007 | 16 | 16 | 70 | 13 | 11 | 48 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Figures for Drug poisoning are where the underlying cause of death was due to drug poisoning (ICD-10 codes are shown in the following table). Figures for Drug misuse include all drug poisoning deaths where a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

| *ICD-10* | *Description* |
|---|---|
| F11-F16, F18-F19 | Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco) |
| X40-X44 | Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances |
| X60-X64 | Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances |
| X85 | Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances |
| Y10-Y14 | Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent |

## Death: Heart Diseases

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths in Crosby constituency resulted from heart disease in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008 to date. [236703]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths in Crosby constituency resulted from heart disease in (a) 1997 and (b) 2008 to date.(236703)

There were (a) 192 deaths in Crosby parliamentary constituency[1] where ischaemic heart disease was the underlying cause of death[2] in 1997, and (b) 121 deaths in 2007[3] which is the latest year available.

[1] Based on boundaries as of 2008.

[2] Cause of death for ischaemic heart disease was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 410-414 for 1997 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes 120-125 for 2007. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the number of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Death: Methadone

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths attributed to methadone addiction were recorded in *(a)* Doncaster, *(b)* Barnsley and *(c)* South Yorkshire in each of the last five years. [236239]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths attributed to methadone addiction were recorded in (a) Doncaster, (b) Barnsley and (c) South Yorkshire in each of the last five years. (236239)

The attached table provides the numbers of deaths for which the underlying cause was drug poisoning and methadone was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate in South Yorkshire county from 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available). The information collected at death registration does not specify whether the deceased was addicted to the substances mentioned as contributing to the death.

Figures cannot be provided for the metropolitan districts of Doncaster and Barnsley as these data are judged to be too detailed to preserve anonymity in death statistics.

*Table 1: Number of deaths attributed to drug poisoning[1] where methadone was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, South Yorkshire county, 2003 to 2007*[2]

*Deaths*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 6 |
| 2004 | 10 |
| 2005 | 7 |
| 2006 | 7 |
| 2007 | 12 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in the following table) and where methadone was mentioned on the death certificate.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

| *ICD-10* | *Description* |
|---|---|
| F11-F16, F18-F19 | Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco) |
| X40-X44 | Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances |
| X60-X64 | Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances |
| X85 | Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances |
| Y10-Y14 | Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent |

## Death: Weather

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many excess deaths from cold weather there were in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* Vale of York constituency in each year since 1997. [237110]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many excess deaths from cold weather there were in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* Vale of York constituency in each year since 1997. (237110)

Estimates of excess winter deaths are based on the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). It is not possible to say whether these deaths were related to cold weather. The table attached provides the number of excess winter deaths in *(a)* North Yorkshire county, and *(b)* Vale of York parliamentary constituency, 1997/98 to 2005/06 (the latest available).

*Table 1: Excess winter deaths[1]: North Yorkshire county and Vale of York parliamentary constituency[2] 1997-98 to 2005-06*

| | Deaths (persons) | |
|---|---|---|
| *Winter* | *North Yorkshire* | *Vale of York* |
| 1997-98 | 350 | 90 |
| 1998-99 | 500 | 100 |
| 1999-00 | 580 | 80 |
| 2000-01 | 330 | 60 |
| 2001-02 | 330 | 30 |
| 2002-03 | 200 | 40 |
| 2003-04 | 350 | 40 |
| 2004-05 | 280 | 30 |
| 2005-06 | 300 | 10 |

[1] The estimated number of excess winter deaths is the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 to reflect the fact that they are estimates.
[2] Data are based on deaths occurring in each month.
[3] Based on boundaries as of 2008.

## Dorneywood

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 736W, on Dorneywood, what the dates were of each of the official engagements which involved a stay at Dorneywood by the *(a)* Leader of the House of Lords and *(b)* House of Commons Chief Whip. [236016]

**Kevin Brennan:** The then Leader of the House of Lords stayed overnight at Dorneywood on 10 January 2008.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 736W, on Dorneywood, what the purpose was of each of the official engagements. [236017]

**Kevin Brennan:** The official engagements involved meetings with ministerial colleagues and/or officials.

## Employment: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people and what proportion of the working age population were in employment in each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [234934]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people and what proportion of the working age population were in employment in each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales in each year since 1997. (234934)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas using the Annual Population Survey (APS) and Annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Estimates of employment are not available for the principal seaside towns in England and Wales. Instead we have provided estimates relating to the Local Authorities associated with each of these towns.

Table 1 provides the number of working age persons employed in the relevant local authorities from the LFS for the twelve month periods ending February 1998 to February 2004, and from the APS for the twelve month periods ending March 2005 to March 2008. A copy of the table has been placed in the library of the House.

These figures along with a wide range of other labour market data for parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are also published on the Office for National Statistics' Nomis® website:

www.nomisweb.co.uk.

## Foreign Workers: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what percentage of migrant workers there are in the workforce in each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales. [234951]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what percentage of migrant workers there are in the workforce in each of the principal seaside town in England and Wales. (234951)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas using the Annual Population Survey (APS) and Annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Estimates of employment are not available for the principal seaside towns in England and Wales. Instead we have provided estimates relating to the Local Authorities associated with each of these towns.

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on migrant workers for local areas from the Annual Population survey (APS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the number of people at a given time who were born outside the UK, and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total. Those in employment are defined following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1 attached, provides the number of migrant workers employed in the relevant local authorities from the APS for the twelve month period ending December 2007.

These figures along with a wide range of other labour market data for parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are also published on the Office for National Statistics' Nomis® website:

www.nomisweb.co.uk.

*Table 1: Non-UK born persons[1] in employment in unitary authorities and as a percentage of all persons in employment, January to December 2007*

| *Principal seaside town* | *Local authority* | *Level (Thousand)* | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bognor Regis | Arun | 6 | **** | 10 |
| Greater Blackpool | Blackpool | 3 | *** | 6 |
| Greater Bournemouth | Bournemouth | 9 | *** | 13 |
| Porthcawl | Bridgend | 2 | **** | 4 |

*Table 1: Non-UK born persons[1] in employment in unitary authorities and as a percentage of all persons in employment, January to December 2007*

| *Principal seaside town* | *Local authority* | *Level ('Thousand)* | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Greater Brighton | Brighton and Hove | 19 | *** | 15 |
| Whitstable/Herne Bay | Canterbury | 5 | *** | 7 |
| Falmouth | Carrick | 3 | *** | 8 |
| Llandudno/Colwyn Bay/Conwy | Conwy | 2 | **** | 4 |
| Rhyl/Prestatyn | Denbighshire | 1 | **** | 3 |
| Deal | Dover | 2 | **** | 4 |
| Sidmouth | East Devon | 4 | **** | 7 |
| Skegness | East Lindsey | 2 | **** | 3 |
| Bridlington | East Riding of Yorkshire | 4 | **** | 3 |
| Eastbourne | Eastbourne | 4 | **** | 9 |
| Great Yarmouth | Great Yarmouth | 2 | **** | 6 |
| Hastings/Bexhill | Hastings | 3 | **** | 8 |
| Isle of Wight | Isle of Wight | 3 | *** | 5 |
| Morecambe and Heysham | Lancaster | 2 | **** | 3 |
| Ilfracombe | North Devon | n/a | | n/a |
| Weston-super-Mare | North Somerset | 6 | *** | 6 |
| Whitley Bay | North Tyneside | 4 | **** | 4 |
| St. Ives | Penwith | 2 | **** | 7 |
| Swanage | Purbeck | 1 | **** | 6 |
| Newquay | Restormel | n/a | | n/a |
| Scarborough | Scarborough | 3 | **** | 7 |
| Burnham-on-Sea | Sedgemoor | n/a | | n/a |
| Southport | Sefton | 4 | **** | 3 |
| Folkstone/Hythe | Shepway | 4 | **** | 9 |
| Southend-on-Sea | Southend-on-Sea | 6 | *** | 8 |
| Exmouth | Teignbridge | 2 | **** | 4 |
| Clacton | Tendring | 5 | **** | 10 |
| Thanet | Thanet | 4 | **** | 9 |
| Torbay | Torbay | 3 | *** | 6 |
| Barry | The Vale of Glamorgan | 3 | *** | 6 |
| Lowestoft | Waveney | 2 | *** | 5 |
| Minehead | West Somerset | n/a | | n/a |
| Weymouth | Weymouth and Portland | 1 | **** | 4 |
| Greater Worthing | Worthing | 4 | **** | 9 |

n/a = Not available

[1] Does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth

Estimates are subject to sampling variability.

It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the APS gives an undercount because

it excludes certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months.

it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.

it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc).

it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.

microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.

*Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

KEY Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 = CV < 5 Estimates are considered precise.

** 5 = CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** 10 = CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

*Source:*

Annual Population Survey

## Greater Manchester

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much funding *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* Capacitybuilders has given to the Manchester-based organisations (i) Transport Pool and (ii) the Community Network for Manchester in the last 24 months. [233238]

**Kevin Brennan:** Neither the Cabinet Office, the Central Office of Information nor Capacitybuilders have awarded any grants to Transport Pool or the Community Network for Manchester in the last 24 months.

## Immigration

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what, on the basis of the most recent population projections, is the level of immigration at which the population of the UK would remain below 70 million on unchanged assumptions about birth rates and mortality. [236159]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question, regarding what, on the basis of the most recent population projections, is the level of immigration at which the population of the UK would remain below 70 million on unchanged assumptions about birth rates and mortality. (236159)

The information requested cannot be calculated directly from the latest national population projections published by the Office for National Statistics in October 2007. These projections included a principal (or central) projection, and a range of variant projections. The variant projections included a low migration variant and a zero migration (natural change only) variant.

In the principal projection, which assumes a long-term net inward flow of +190,000 persons a year, the population of the UK is projected to reach 70 million in 2028. In the low migration variant, which assumes a long-term net inward flow of +130,000 persons a year, the population of the UK is projected to reach 70 million in 2035. In the zero migration variant, which shows the effect of the principal assumptions of fertility and mortality in the absence of migration (or where migration inflows and outflows are equal at every age), the population of the UK is projected to reach almost 64 million in the year 2032 and then start to decline.

Assumptions for national population projections are conventionally expressed in terms of net migration (immigration less emigration) rather than for the gross flows separately. However, nominal immigration and emigration totals are used in the projection process mainly to enable plausible age distributions to be calculated for the assumed net migration totals.

It is apparent from the 2006-based projections that a level of annual net inward migration, somewhere between zero and +130,000, could be assumed at which the population would remain below 70 million. However, there are a range of combinations of immigration and emigration levels which could achieve this outcome. For example, a lower level of immigration could be used than in the 2006-based projections but with no change to emigration.

Alternatively, both immigration and emigration could be reduced. In practice, it is likely that lower levels of immigration than those experienced in recent years would, in time, lead to a reduction in the level of emigration as well.

## Non-profit Making Associations

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what further steps he plans to take to ensure that social enterprises compete for Government contracts on the same basis as other bidders. [236224]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Glover review is examining what further steps may be needed to remove barriers for small and medium sized enterprises and social enterprises in competing for public sector contracts. The review will be published shortly.

## Plain English

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [230507]

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many documents produced by the Cabinet Office were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231113]

**Mr. Watson:** The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Population

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the most recent forecast is from the Office for National Statistics of the proportion of population growth *(a)* directly attributable and *(b)* indirectly attributable to migration in each of its projections of population size. [234137]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the most recent forecast is of the proportion of population growth (a) directly attributable and (b) indirectly attributable to migration in each of its projections of population size (234137).

The most recent national population projections, based on mid-2006 population estimates, were published by the Office for National Statistics on 23 October 2007. The principal projection was produced using the main assumptions of future levels of fertility, mortality and migration. However, to give users of the projections an indication of the effect of higher or lower assumptions, a number of variant population projections were also produced.

An understanding of the overall effect of migration on population growth can be obtained by comparing the results of the principal and high and low migration variant projections with those of the 'natural change' (or zero migration) variant projection. Table A below gives projected components of population change for the UK in the period to 2031 in the principal projection, the high and low migration variants and the natural change variant projection.

Table B shows how the projected population growth to 2031 is broken down between the assumed level of net migration and projected natural change. Natural change is then further broken down into that projected in the absence of migration and the additional natural change from the assumed level of net migration. So, taking the principal projection for example, some 47 per cent of population growth is therefore directly attributable to the assumed number of net migrants. The remaining 53 per cent is attributable to projected natural increase (of which 31 per cent would occur in the absence of net migration and 23 per cent arises from the effect of net migration on natural change). In total, therefore, some 69 per cent of population growth in the period to 2031 in the principal projection is attributable, directly or indirectly, to future net migration.

Projected population figures are unchanged since my previous response to PQ 169089 (3 December 2007) concerning the same subject.

*Table A: Projected population change, United Kingdom 2006-31*

*Thousand*

| | *High migration variant* | *Principal projection* | *Low migration variant* | *Zero migration variant* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population at mid-2006 | 60,587 | 60,587 | 60,587 | 60,587 |
| *Population change (2006-31)* | | | | |
| Births | 20,305 | 19,847 | 19,390 | 17,458 |

*Table A: Projected population change, United Kingdom 2006-31*

*Thousand*

| | *High migration variant* | *Principal projection* | *Low migration variant* | *Zero migration variant* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Deaths | 14,291 | 14,247 | 14,202 | 14,244 |
| Natural change | 6,014 | 5,601 | 5,188 | 3,214 |
| Net migration | 6,382 | 4,912 | 3,442 | 0 |
| Total change | 12,396 | 10,513 | 8,630 | 3,214 |
| Population at mid-2031 | 72,983 | 71,100 | 69,217 | 63,801 |

*Table B: Projected population growth by component, United Kingdom, 2006-31*

| | *High migration variant* | *Principal projection* | *Low migration variant* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total population increase between 2006 and 2031 (Thousand) | 12,396 | 10,513 | 8,630 |
| *Resulting from:* | | | |
| Assumed net migration | 6,382 | 4,912 | 3,442 |
| Natural change assuming no migration | 3,214 | 3,214 | 3,214 |
| Additional natural change from assumed level of net migration | 2,800 | 2,387 | 1,974 |
| *Percentage of population growth 2006-31 resulting from:* | | | |
| Assumed net migration | 51 | 47 | 40 |
| Natural change assuming no migration | 26 | 31 | 37 |
| Additional natural change from assumed level of net migration | 23 | 23 | 23 |

*Source:*
Migration and Population. Growth:
http://www.gad.gov.uk/Demography_Data/Population/2006/methodology/mignote.asp

## Voluntary Work

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* formal and *(b)* informal volunteers in England and Wales in each of the last 15 years. [235567]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* The number of formal and informal volunteers are measured each year by the Citizenship Survey, which began in 2001. There are no comparable figures available before this date. Figures since 2001 in England and Wales are as follows:

*England*

| | *At least once a month* | | | | *At least once a year* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2001* | *2003* | *2005* | *2007-08* | *2001* | *2003* | *2005* | *2007-08* |
| *Percentage who had engaged in each activity* | | | | | | | | |
| Informal volunteering | 34 | 37 | 37 | 35 | 67 | 63 | 68 | 64 |
| Formal volunteering | 27 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 39 | 42 | 44 | 43 |
| All respondents | 9,430 | 8,922 | 9,195 | 8,804 | 9,430 | 8,922 | 9,195 | 8,804 |
| *Equivalent number of people, estimate (Million)* | | | | | | | | |
| Informal volunteering | 13.5 | 14.9 | 14.9 | 14.4 | 26.5 | 25.1 | 27.4 | 26.4 |
| Formal volunteering | 10.5 | 11.1 | 11.6 | 11.1 | 15.3 | 17 | 17.9 | 17.7 |
| Population base[1] | 39.5 | 40 | 40.3 | 41.1 | 39.5 | 40 | 40.3 | 41.1 |

[1] 2007-08 population figures based on Office for National Statistics 2006 mid-year estimates.

*Wales: Formal and informal volunteering (regular and last year) 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007-08*

| | *Regular volunteering (at least once a month)* | | | | *Volunteering at least once in the last year* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2001* | *2003* | *2005* | *2007-08* | *2001* | *2003* | *2005* | *2007-08* |
| *Percentage who had engaged in each activity* | | | | | | | | |
| Formal volunteering | 28 | 25 | 31 | 27 | 41 | 40 | 47 | 37 |
| Informal volunteering | 31 | 32 | 42 | 30 | 64 | 54 | 69 | 54 |
| All respondents | 585 | 564 | 496 | 532 | 585 | 564 | 496 | 532 |
| *Equivalent number of people (Estimate)* | | | | | | | | |
| Formal volunteering | 651,698 | 577,911 | 741,122 | 651,523 | 959,051 | 931,317 | 1,125,405 | 882,467 |
| Informal volunteering | 726,281 | 753,002 | 998,529 | 727,875 | 1,477,986 | 1,274,412 | 1,631,666 | 1,295,486 |

*Wales: Formal and informal volunteering (regular and last year) 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007-08*

| | Regular volunteering (at least once a month) | | | | Volunteering at least once in the last year | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2001 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007-08 | 2001 | 2003 | 2005 | 2007-08 |
| Population base[1] | 2,316,500 | 2,341,400 | 2,380,000 | 2,404,700 | 2,316,500 | 2,341,400 | 2,380,000 | 2,404,700 |

[1] 2007-08 population figures based on ONS 2006 mid-year estimates.

*Notes:*
1. 2005 population figures based on ONS 2004 mid-year population estimates.
2. 2003 population figures based on ONS 2002 mid-year population estimates.
3. 2001 population figures based on ONS 2001 mid-year population estimates.

*Source:*
Citizenship Survey, Communities and Local Government

### Young People

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many 16 to 24 year olds were living in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* London and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [237114]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many 16 to 24 year olds were living in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* London and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. (237114)

The table below shows the estimated resident population of persons aged 16 to 24 for the areas requested for mid-1997 to mid-2007, the latest year for which estimates are available.

*Mid-year population estimates of persons aged 16 to 24, 1997-2007*

*Thousand*

| | North Yorkshire | London | England |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 51 | 854 | 5,310 |
| 1998 | 51 | 862 | 5,273 |
| 1999 | 50 | 868 | 5,280 |
| 2000 | 50 | 865 | 5,298 |
| 2001 | 52 | 878 | 5,406 |
| 2002 | 54 | 876 | 5,517 |
| 2003 | 56 | 868 | 5,648 |
| 2004 | 58 | 879 | 5,801 |
| 2005 | 60 | 887 | 5,927 |
| 2006 | 62 | 895 | 6,029 |
| 2007 | 63 | 905 | 6,155 |

## DEFENCE

### Adjutant Generals Corps

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria govern the selection of Adjutant General Administrative Instruction documents to be made available on the Ministry of Defence website. [236164]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Army General and Administrative Instructions (AGAIs) are internal documents and are not routinely published on the Ministry of Defence website. A decision on publishing a particular AGAI to the MOD website would be based on whether there is any information contained within it which is sensitive in nature, and its perceived usefulness to those outside the Army community.

### Afghanistan: Military Aid

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many tonnes of charity clothing have been transported by the Royal Air Force using vacant cargo space on regular sorties to and from Afghanistan. [236996]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** We have no record of authorising the transport of charity clothing to Afghanistan on RAF flights.

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of UK armed forces are deployed in *(a)* Kabul and *(b)* Helmand province. [235172]

**Mr. Hutton:** The authorised level for UK forces in Afghanistan is around 8,000, although the actual number of service personnel deployed in theatre can and does vary. Of these, some 500 are based in Kabul, some 2,100 are based at Kandahar airfield and some 5,400 are based in Helmand province.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost has been of the UK's involvement in Afghanistan in each of the last five financial years. [237187]

**Mr. Hutton:** MOD identifies the costs of Operations in terms of the net additional costs it has incurred, which excludes the costs that the Department would have incurred regardless of the operation taking place, such as wages and salaries. Reduced costs on activities that have not occurred because of the operation—training exercises for example —are also taken into account in arriving at the net figures.

The annual audited cost of operations in Afghanistan for the last five years are set out in the following table:

*£ million*

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Operations in Afghanistan resource costs | 36 | 58 | 148 | 560 | 1,071 | 1,873 |
| Expenditure on capital equipment | 10 | 9 | 51 | 178 | 433 | 681 |
| Total | 46 | 67 | 199 | 738 | 1,504 | 2,554 |

### Armed Forces

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many goodwill parcels from the public intended for deployed troops were *(a)* received by his Department and *(b)* delivered to troops on service in each year since 2003; and how those not delivered were treated. [236992]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Statistics relating to parcels delivered by the British Forces Post Office (BFPO) to service personnel deployed overseas since 2003 do not differentiate between mail from families and friends and "unsolicited mail" from the general public. Provided it did not contain items that were prohibited, unsolicited mail was delivered to deployed personnel.

### Armed Forces: Compensation

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the operation of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme in comparison with *(a)* compensation arrangements for police officers and *(b)* other public sector compensation schemes as part of the review of public service injury benefits; and if he will make a statement. [236993]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** In conducting the recent review of armed forces compensation scheme tariff levels, we considered a number of other public sector compensation schemes including the police. Comparison is not straightforward as the underlying principles of the schemes are so dissimilar but the armed forces compensation scheme compared favourably with them. Reflecting the special circumstances of service in today's armed forces, the Service Personnel Command Paper announced the Government's intention to double the maximum lump sum award to £570,000. This is in addition to a guaranteed tax-free inflation proof income for life. Following a period of consultation, we are laying this week the necessary legislation to increase the lump sum awards.

### Armed Forces: Death

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the decision was made that the Directorate of Army Personnel Strategy Science should attend the scene of all sudden deaths on the military estate; how many incident sites the Directorate has attended in each year since that decision; and in what form and to what body the Directorate reports its findings. [236169]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Directorate of Army Personnel Strategy (DAPS) Science occupational psychologists do not routinely attend the sites of sudden deaths and no decision has been made that they should do so.

DAPS Science does, however, send occupational psychologists to the sites of Army air accidents (with the exception of accidents occurring in conflict situations) in order to conduct a human factors investigation. This is in compliance with Joint Service Publication (JSP) 551 (Military Flight Safety Regulations) Volume 1 (Flight Safety). DAPS also has a responsibility to provide occupational psychology support to boards of inquiry into air accidents, again in compliance with JSP 551.

### Armed Forces: Families

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the latest service families continuous attitude survey. [235925]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Copies of the most recent Service Families Continuous Attitude Surveys will be placed in the Library of the House shortly. I shall write to the hon. Member when this has been done.

### Armed Forces: Officers

**Christopher Fraser:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of levels of officer retention in the armed forces over the last 10 years. [236453]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Taking the armed forces as a whole, retention rates for officers are relatively stable and we have seen no sudden outflow of personnel in the last 10 years. There is real concern, however, that in some important areas exit rates are too high and appear to be increasing, if only slightly, year on year. These areas are continuously monitored closely and focused action taken to continue to improve recruitment and retention. The recent Command Paper set out over 40 measures aimed at addressing many of the disadvantages of service life while the Government's response to the Report of Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces has now been presented to Parliament detailing how we have accepted the majority of recommendations. In addition, a wide range of measures are in place to improve retention including: career management, improvement to conditions of service and work/life balance, commitment bonuses and targeted financial retention initiatives.

Overall officer outflow and voluntary outflow rates from the armed forces are published by the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation and can be found at their website:

www.dasa.mod.uk.

### Armed Forces: Suicide

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what items are listed in the psychological checklist drawn up by the Army Suicide Prevention Group following the recommendation of the Walton report; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the list. [236168]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I will place a copy of the Psychological Autopsy Checklist in the Library of the House.

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what principal recommendations were made as a result of the qualitative research conducted by the Directorate of Army Personnel Strategy in 1999 at the request of the Army Suicide Prevention Group to develop organisational responses to suicides in the Army; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report. [236172]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Army's Suicide Vulnerability Risk Management (SVRM) Policy sets out the current framework for addressing suicide in the Army. It is designed to assist the chain of command in identifying potential suicide victims and to provide a structure for subsequent support. The SVRM Policy was based on

research conducted over a number of years, including 1999, although none from that year was published separately. I will place a copy of the SVRM Policy in the Library of the House.

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what teaching materials are available in each service on awareness and prevention of suicide and self-harm; and what steps he plans to take to encourage service personnel to seek help for trauma and other forms of psychological distress. [236187]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** MOD's through-life approach to stress management training focuses on raising awareness and encouraging early support as well as addressing barriers to care (i.e. stigma). Each of the single services has procedures aimed at making all ranks aware of indicators and warnings associated with possible self-harm, and of the appropriate steps to take.

The general issue of stigma around personnel with mental health problems is something that the MOD has recently done much to address. As part of this the Royal Marines pioneered a peer-group risk assessment procedure to improve detection and signposting of problems amongst those exposed to psychologically traumatic events, in order that their peers and leaders can provide them with appropriate support or, where it is required, to refer them for specialist help. The process, known as trauma risk management (TRiM) has now been formally accepted and implemented by the Royal Marines, Royal Navy and the Army, and is being trialled in selected RAF units.

### Armed Forces: Telephone Services

**Christopher Fraser:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the weekly allocation of free telephone calls for armed forces' personnel serving overseas. [236455]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The 30 minutes of free telephone calls each week form part of a comprehensive deployment welfare package, which also includes free mail for packages of up to 2 kg from family and friends and internet access. Personnel will also receive an additional 30 minutes free call time over the Christmas period. Recent attitude surveys conducted among service personnel indicate that they are broadly content with the deployment welfare package although it is kept under constant review. The most recent enhancement to the package was the doubling of the families' welfare grant, effective from 1 November.

### Armed Forces: Training

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the topic headings are for course work on *(a)* the law of armed conflict and *(b)* the requirements of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights as taught during Phase (i) 1 and (ii) 2 training for service personnel; what course time is allocated to this aspect of training; how trainee achievement is measured; and what minimum standard is required in order for an individual to complete that phase of training. [236154]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

### Defence Estates: Bye Laws

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 671-72W, on Military Lands Act byelaws, what the 96 sites, including the 13 designated under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, are whose byelaws are, or will be, under review. [236554]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** All of the sites to be reviewed, including those that we still need to start the review process are listed on the Defence Estate website at:

http://www.defence-estates.mod.uk/byelaws/Internet/Intro.php

and are in the process of being updated.

The designated Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 sites are listed as follows:

AWE Aldermaston
AWE Burghfield
RAF Fylingdales
Faslane (HMNB Clyde)
Coulport
RAF Mildenhall
PJHQ Northwood
RAF Brize Norton
SMC Marchwood
RAF Croughton
RAF Fairford
RAF Welford
RAF Feltwell
RAF Lakenheath
RAF Menwith Hill
Plymouth (and Devonport)

### Departmental Consultants

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid to consultants and external assistants in the last period for which figures are available. [236006]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Summaries for the years 1995-96 to 2007-08 of MOD expenditure on external assistance, of which consultancy is a part, are available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Lighting

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many energy saving light bulbs his Department has used in each year since 1997. [236008]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Usage figures for energy saving light bulbs are not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Location

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to relocating his Department's sites to areas of high unemployment. [236991]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Under the Government's Lyons relocation programme, the MOD plans to relocate some 5,000 civil service and military posts out of London and the south east by March 2010. This is against the target of 3,900 that was agreed and published as part of the 2004 spending review. These moves, and other collocations, are coherent with our strategy to have an estate of the right size to meet the military and business need, concentrated on larger sites and releasing resources to the front line.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many questions for written answer were tabled to his Department in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235403]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information requested is given in the following table:

| *Parliamentary session* | *Written questions received*[1] | *Answered substantively* | *Disproportionate cost answer* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 4,622 | 4,394 | 228 |
| 2003-04 | 3,745 | 3,480 | 265 |
| 2004-05 | 1,714 | 1,645 | 69 |
| 2005-06 | 4,736 | 4,453 | 283 |
| 2006-07 | 3663 | 3,414 | 249 |
| 2007-08 | 4,291 | 3,765 | 526 |
| Total | 22,771 | 21,151 | 1,620 |

[1] Including named day questions

Data are not recorded separately that identify where a disproportionate cost answer was given wholly or as part of the answer. The figures for disproportionate cost answers therefore include those which were partially answered.

### Ex-servicemen: Anniversaries

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision his Department is planning to make to assist veterans in returning to Normandy for the 65th anniversary of the Landings in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [237190]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The long standing Ministry of Defence policy on official commemorations is that only 25th, 50th, 60th and 100th anniversaries of events of major importance receive MOD sponsorship at public expense. Significant funding was made available to mark the 60th anniversary of the Normandy landings in 2004 at which the Normandy Veterans Association (NVA) formally announced, through HM the Queen, that it would be their final parade.

I recognise the understandable desire of Normandy veterans to return to the beach heads each year. However, the Ministry of Defence regularly receives requests from various different veterans' organisations seeking financial or other support for pilgrimages and events to commemorate the campaigns in which they took part. The vast majority are similarly worthy and could make an equally compelling case as the Normandy veterans, but it would be inappropriate to provide official support for one and not the others. This long standing policy of successive Governments was established after very careful consideration and its consistent application over the years has ensured a fairness and equality of treatment for everyone concerned.

Consequently, there are no plans for the Department to assist veterans returning to Normandy for the 65th anniversary of the landings in 2009.

### Ex-servicemen: Civil Servants

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former members of the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* Royal Navy now work in civilian roles in his Department's (i) Main Building Whitehall and (ii) other locations. [236007]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Data on the number of former members of the Army, Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy who now work in civilian roles in Main Building and other locations are not held centrally. To provide this information would require a search through individuals' personal records. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many surveillance cameras have been deployed by HM armed forces in Iraq since the beginning of 2008. [236114]

**Mr. Hutton:** UK forces employ a range of surveillance devices in support of operations in Iraq, including those attached to land and air vehicles, cameras employed by soldiers and also static cameras. Data on the precise number of cameras deployed to Iraq since 2008 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Business

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what helplines and websites his Department and its predecessors have funded to support businesses since 1997; and what the cost was to the public purse of operating them in each year since 1997. [232035]

**Mr. McFadden:** This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Christmas

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [226956]

**Mr. McFadden:** My right hon. Friend, the then Secretary of State, did not host or attend any official Christmas functions in 2007-08.

The Department does not hold the information that the hon. Gentleman requests regarding officials from this Department and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House agencies and they will respond to the hon. Gentleman directly.

*Letter from Stephen Speed, 10 November 2008:*

The Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to your question how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) host and (ii) attend in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform did not host any Christmas functions in 2007-08. There was no cost to the public purse of The Agency or any of its Officials attending functions in 2007-08.

*Letter from Gareth Jones, 10 November 2008:*

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House held a staff party and provided Christmas lunches for staff in 2007-8 at a total cost of £27,000. The number of Christmas functions attended by staff is not known but they would be at no cost to the public purse.

## Departmental Databases

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 711W, on departmental databases, in what way the MOSAIC data was used to segment audiences during the campaign. [233397]

**Mr. McFadden:** The National Minimum Wage publicity campaign used MOSAIC data to help map concentrations of low paid workers. This mapping was instrumental in enabling the Department to run a regionally based campaign that reached its target audiences in a cost efficient and effective way.

## Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on salaries for press and communications officers in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies in each of the last three years. [231316]

**Mr. McFadden:** The information is as follows:

*Salary cost for Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Press Office*

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 777 |
| 2006-07 | 1,023 |
| 2007-08 | 1,095 |

*Salary cost for UK Trade and Investment Press Office*

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 143 |
| 2006-07 | 136 |
| 2007-08 | 197 |

The figures refer to total pay cost of staff in post, comprising salary, overtime, NI and superannuation.

I have asked the chief executive officers of our two agencies to respond directly to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 18 November 2008:*

The Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, has asked me to reply to your question on how much was spent on salaries for press and communications officers in its departments and agencies.

The Insolvency Service is an executive agency of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. The Service spent the following on salaries in the last three financial years:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 105,129 |
| 2006-07 | 120,905 |
| 2007-08 | 109,110 |

*Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 18 November 2008:*

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The salary cost for the press and communication officers, in the last three years is as follows:

| | Salary (£) |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 49,210 |
| 2006-07 | 48,716 |
| 2005-06 | 46,906 |

## Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has for each of the sites owned by his Department and registered on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land; what construction projects are planned for each site; and when he expects each site to be returned to use. [236444]

**Mr. McFadden:** No surplus land is owned by BERR and consequently this Department has no sites registered on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land.

## Departmental Liability

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what dates in each of the last five years his Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to his Department or its non-departmental public bodies. [232730]

**Mr. McFadden:** The dates and details are as follows:

| Session | Date | Subject |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 27 October 2008 | Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Minute, dated 27 October, concerning a contingent liability in respect of an environmental indemnity to the public-private partnership developing Harwell Science and Innovation Campus. |

| Session | Date | Subject |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 19 October 2004 | Department of Trade and Industry Minute concerning a contingent liability to indemnify in the course of their duties the two trustees of the Nuclear Trust appointed by British Energy |
| 2003-04 | 15 December 2003 | Department of Trade and Industry Minute concerning a proposed contingent liability for Coalpower Ltd. (in Administration) |

### EU External Trade: Sri Lanka

**Mr. Harvey:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what requirements apply to third countries under the Generalised System of Preferences plus (GSP plus) programme; and what timetable has been set for the European Commission's investigation of compliance of Sri Lanka with its obligations under GSP plus. [235463]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Generalised System of Preferences plus (GSP plus) scheme is a special incentive scheme granted to countries that are classified as a vulnerable economy and are willing to ratify, implement and adhere to 27 core conventions on human rights, labour rights, environment and good governance. The full list of conventions can be found on page 30.6.2005 of the official journal of the European Union.

Countries currently receiving GSP plus have had three years to ratify and implement the 27 core conventions, the deadline for this was 31 October 2008. New applicants also had to submit applications by this date but must have also ratified and be effectively implementing all 27 core conventions.

GSP plus countries are expected to uphold these conventions. Failure to do so results in them being temporarily withdrawn from the scheme and, depending on the seriousness of the breach, can lead to a temporary withdrawal from the Generalised System of Preferences therefore losing all preferential access to the EU.

For the period 2009 to 2011, to be eligible for GSP plus, a country must meet the following 'vulnerability criteria':

> it has not been classified as a high income country during three consecutive years, and the five largest sections of its GSP-covered exports to the Community represent more than 75 per cent. in value of its total GSP-covered exports, and
>
> GSP-covered imports into the Community represent less than 1 per cent. in value of the total GSP-covered Community imports.

Separately, the European Commission announced its GSP plus related investigation of Sri Lanka on the 18 October 2008. The Government of Sri Lanka have four months in which to submit evidence to the investigation team. The investigation could take up to a year.

### Home Computing Initiative

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of the tax exemptions provided to employers as part of the home computing initiative. [235154]

**Mr. Timms:** I have been asked to reply.

The estimated cost to the Exchequer of the tax exemptions provided to employers as part of the home computing initiative was stated in the second table (Cost of Salary Sacrifice for Proposed Options—Option 1) of the full regulatory impact assessment 'Exemptions for Computers and Mobile Phones'.

The impact assessment was published in April 2006 on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/mobiles-computers-exemptions.htm.

### Illegal Broadcasting

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what recent estimate he has made of the loss of income to commercial broadcasters arising from the disruption caused by the activities of illegal broadcasters; [232126]

(2) what assessment he has made of the health and safety risks to the public associated with illegal radio broadcasting. [232127]

**Ian Pearson:** The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Manufacturing Industries

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will meet representatives of the British Made for Quality organisation to discuss their campaign to support British manufacturing. [234117]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government are committed to helping UK manufacturing to get through the current economic downturn. Ministerial colleagues and I regularly meet main industry organisations and trade associations representing manufacturing to discuss their concerns. The Government published their new manufacturing strategy in September which sets out a powerful vision for UK manufacturing in the global economy.

### Paternity Pay

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of increasing the period for which a father can claim statutory paternity pay from two weeks to *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months and *(c)* nine months, broken down by category of cost. [235199]

**Mr. McFadden:** There are no current plans to extend statutory paternity leave to three, six or nine months and as such we do not have any estimates of the costs that such options may incur.

### Post Offices: Closures

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post office branches were closed in the SS8 and SS7 post code areas between 1987 and 1997. [236043]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Regional Development Agencies: Finance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budget is for each of the regional development agencies for each of the next three years. [236759]

**Mr. McFadden:** Regional Development Agencies' total grant in aid budgets for the next three years are set out in the following table. Please note that budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are indicative allocations.

£ million

| | | Indicative Allocations | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *RDAs* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
| AWM | 303 | 274 | 235 |
| EEDA | 134 | 132 | 115 |
| EMDA | 164 | 158 | 136 |
| LDA | 348 | 383 | 330 |
| NWDA | 388 | 383 | 329 |
| ONE | 247 | 243 | 208 |
| SEEDA | 159 | 161 | 141 |
| SWRDA | 164 | 156 | 136 |
| YF | 302 | 297 | 255 |

### Regional Economic Council

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* matters were discussed and *(b)* decisions were taken at the first meeting of the Regional Economic Council on 5 November 2008; and if he will (i) post on his Departmental website and (ii) place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meeting. [234426]

**Mr. McFadden:** A note will be placed in the Libraries of the House and on the BERR and HMT websites following each meeting.

### Regional Planning and Development

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions the Secretary of State has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on his response to the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration. [236101]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) is jointly responsible, with the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), for implementing the recommendations of the review of sub-national economic development and regeneration (SNR). Ministers and officials in both Departments are in regular contact over progress with its implementation and, in particular, with regard to responding to the consultation 'Prosperous Places: taking forward the review of sub-national economic development and regeneration'.

### Schools

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of materials his Department has distributed to schools in the last three years. [229271]

**Mr. McFadden:** The former DTI, now the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), produced materials on firework safety for use by school teachers. These are available in electronic format to download from our website:

www.berr.gov.uk/fireworks

In 2005, the DTI developed resources for schools designed to raise awareness of renewable energy, one for primary schools and two for secondary schools. These are:

It's only Natural—Geography and Science resources for 5 to 11-year-olds

It's only Natural—Science resources for 11 to 16-year-olds

It's only Natural—Geography resources for 11 to 18-year-olds

These are available in electronic format to download from our website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/sources/renewables/schools/index.html

The BERR Publications Unit sends a copy of (or a web link to) all BERR publications to the Libraries of House.

### Trade: Montserrat

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the monetary value of trade between Montserrat and the UK was in each of the last five years. [236105]

**Mr. Thomas:** Data on recorded trade in goods with Montserrat are shown in the following table:

£ million

| | *UK exports of goods to Montserrat* | *UK imports of goods from Montserrat* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 2.58 | 0.06 |
| 2004 | 1.16 | 0.15 |
| 2005 | 0.79 | 0.05 |
| 2006 | 0.66 | 0.12 |
| 2007 | 1.25 | 0.56 |

*Source:*
HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics

Data for trade in services with Montserrat are not available.

### West Midlands Economic Council

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform by what means the effectiveness of the West Midlands Economic Council will be assessed. [235373]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* Both individually and as part of the Council of Regional Ministers, recently established by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, a key role for the Regional Minister is to be a voice in Whitehall for their area and make sure central Government knows what the public, the business community and third sector organisations across the country need to get by. Their aim is to ensure that the regions' strategies to tackle the challenges of tougher times are successful by bringing all parties together quickly at a local level to respond to local economic shocks and helping to remove barriers to delivering critical local services and job creation.

All Regional Ministers have established regional economic bodies (in the West Midlands this is known as the West Midlands Economic Council) bringing together private and public sector representatives to work together effectively to help businesses in the current economic climate and to ensure that their regions are well placed in the medium and long term to prepare for economic upturn. The members are there on a voluntary basis (no cost) and the bodies have no budget or funding. Their role is advisory only. They will also provide a strong voice for the regions and ensure local concerns will be fed into and inform policy at the top level of Government. The Regional Minister will feedback on the work of their regional economic bodies through the Council of Regional Ministers and Regional Economic Council.

In terms of success measures, these are ad-hoc advisory bodies and it is for the members to judge their success not the Government.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### British Nationality: Prisoners

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals are serving a custodial sentence overseas, broken down by country of detainment. [235710]

**Gillian Merron:** On 30 September 2008, our consular officials were aware of 2,548 British nationals detained overseas. The breakdown by country is shown in the following table. These figures include detainees on remand as well as those serving sentences. We do not maintain separate statistics on the numbers serving sentences.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Albania | 3 |
| Algeria | 0 |
| Argentina | 15 |
| Armenia | 0 |
| Australia | 282 |
| Austria | 4 |
| Azerbaijan | 2 |
| Bahrain | 5 |
| Bangladesh | 8 |
| Barbados | 4 |
| Belarus | 0 |
| Belgium | 18 |
| Belize | 6 |
| Bolivia | 2 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 0 |
| Botswana | 1 |
| Brazil | 24 |
| British Virgin Islands | 0 |
| Brunei | 0 |
| Bulgaria | 0 |
| Burma | 0 |
| Cambodia | 0 |
| Cameroon | 0 |
| Canada | 80 |
| Chile | 0 |
| China | 34 |
| Colombia | 1 |
| Congo (Democratic Rep) | 1 |
| Costa Rica | 4 |
| Croatia | 0 |
| Cuba | 0 |
| Cyprus | 23 |
| Czech Republic | 8 |
| Denmark | 2 |
| Dominican Republic | 11 |
| Ecuador | 7 |
| Egypt | 14 |
| Eritrea | 0 |
| Estonia | 0 |
| Ethiopia | 0 |
| Fiji | 0 |
| Finland | 0 |
| France | 126 |
| Gambia | 2 |
| Georgia | 0 |
| Germany | 81 |
| Ghana | 10 |
| Greece | 17 |
| Guatemala | 2 |
| Guyana | 8 |
| Hungary | 3 |
| Iceland | 0 |
| India | 21 |
| Indonesia | 7 |
| Iran | 0 |
| Ireland | 88 |
| Israel | 1 |
| Italy | 25 |
| Jamaica | 59 |
| Japan | 54 |
| Jerusalem | 0 |
| Jordan | 0 |
| Kazakhstan | 16 |
| Kenya | 2 |
| Korea (North) | 0 |
| Korea (South) | 3 |

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Kuwait | 2 |
| Latvia | 0 |
| Libya | 0 |
| Lithuania | 1 |
| Luxembourg | 4 |
| Macedonia | 0 |
| Malawi | 0 |
| Malaysia | 6 |
| Malta | 12 |
| Mauritius | 0 |
| Mexico | 15 |
| Moldova | 1 |
| Mongolia | 13 |
| Mozambique | 0 |
| Namibia | 3 |
| Nepal | 0 |
| Netherlands | 38 |
| New Zealand | 7 |
| Nicaragua | 1 |
| Nigeria | 1 |
| Norway | 8 |
| Oman | 7 |
| Pakistan | 22 |
| Panama | 7 |
| Papua New Guinea | 0 |
| Peru | 20 |
| Philippines | 21 |
| Poland | 0 |
| Portugal | 25 |
| Qatar | 2 |
| Russia | 3 |
| Rwanda | 0 |
| St. Lucia | 7 |
| Saudi Arabia | 5 |
| Senegal | 2 |
| Serbia | 0 |
| Seychelles | 0 |
| Sierra Leone | 1 |
| Singapore | 6 |
| Slovakia | 0 |
| Slovenia | 2 |
| Solomon Islands | 0 |
| South Africa | 18 |
| Spain | 296 |
| Sri Lanka | 10 |
| Sudan | 0 |
| Sweden | 14 |
| Switzerland | 17 |
| Syria | 3 |
| Taiwan | 18 |
| Tanzania | 0 |
| Thailand | 119 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 5 |
| Tunisia | 6 |
| Turkey | 20 |
| Turkmenistan | 0 |
| Uganda | 1 |
| United Arab Emirates | 44 |
| USA | 706 |
| Uruguay | 0 |
| Venezuela | 12 |
| Vietnam | 3 |
| Yemen | 1 |
| Zambia | 0 |
| Zimbabwe | 3 |
| Total | 2,548 |

### China Task Force

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times the China Task Force has met since its establishment; who chaired each meeting; and if he will make a statement. [235708]

**Bill Rammell:** The China Task Force was established in November 2003 and was originally chaired by the then Deputy Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, East (Mr. Prescott). China Task Force meetings took place in February, April and November 2004, July and October 2005, June and September 2006 and February 2007.

Since August 2007, it has been chaired by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He chaired his first meeting in September 2007, and then in February 2008. The most recent meeting took place in October 2008 and was chaired by my noble Friend Lord Myners, Financial Services Secretary, on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Further information about the China Task Force and its remit can be found on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/secretariats/foreign_and_defence/china_task_force.aspx

### China: Tibet

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether benchmarks have been agreed to assess progress in the Sino-Tibetan dialogue; and if he will make a statement. [235408]

**Bill Rammell:** In his written ministerial statement of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 30WS, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear our interest in various aspects of the Tibetan issue. These include the need for respect for Tibetan culture, language and religion. We believe that the talks on Tibet offer the opportunity to make progress in all of these areas, as well as on wider issues of human rights, including the right to freedom of peaceful expression. We are disappointed that to date the dialogue has failed to make progress on any of this, and we urge both parties to redouble efforts and engage on the substance of the issues.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the positive outcomes for the Tibetans which have emerged from the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue since 2003. [235571]

**Bill Rammell:** The UK has raised human rights issues in Tibet with the Chinese authorities at each round of dialogue. The last round of the dialogue, in January

2008, was accompanied by a field trip to Tibet, where the delegation visited Drapchi prison, a police station and a criminal trial, and raised concerns directly with local officials. We have also raised Tibet repeatedly in political discussions, including when my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke by telephone to Premier Wen on 7 November. We have lobbied on a number of individual cases of concern as part of these various discussions, which we judge may have contributed to early releases and sentence reductions. We continue to support small-scale development projects in Tibet through our embassy in Beijing.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of recent activity by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in north-eastern Congo; what assessment he has made of such reports; and what representations he has received on the indictment by the International Criminal Court of four LRA members. [234122]

**Gillian Merron:** Local humanitarian agencies report numerous attacks against the civilian population by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the territory of Dungu in north-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in recent months. The most recent reports include details of an attack on Dungu over the weekend of 1-2 November. The LRA poses an increasingly serious threat to security across the region.

The UK strongly supports the International Criminal Court and believes that its investigation in Uganda helped bring the LRA to the Juba peace process. Justice is an essential part of sustainable peace and it is vital that those responsible for the terrible crimes committed during the conflict in northern Uganda are held to account.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy to his Department in 2007-08. [228162]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not keep a central record of amounts spent on entertainment, and advertising and promotion. The information required to answer this question could be obtained only by requiring individual budget holders in the FCO to examine all invoices for the required years. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Annual expenditure on external consultants is published in the Department's annual reports, copies of which are in the Library of the House. The two most recent annual reports also contain details of expenditure on the top five consultancy suppliers. Expenditure on public relations contracts is not categorised separately, and could not be identified without incurring a disproportionate cost. However, it is not likely to be significant as the vast majority of work undertaken for the FCO by consultants is associated with its major informatic n communication technology and estate construction programmes.

The FCO is committed to ensuring that all expenditure, including that on entertainment, is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [226795]

**Gillian Merron:** The costs of recruitment consultants and external recruitment advertising in each of the last five years are detailed in the following tables. These costs relate to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services, a Trading Fund of the FCO which delivers a combination of secure services to the FCO in the UK and at missions overseas.

*FCO (Main) Recruitment*

| *Financial year* | *External recruitment advertising costs (£)* | *Recruitment consultants costs (£)* | *Recruitment consultants used* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 348,137 | 763,675 | Capita |
| | | | Hays |
| 2004-05 | 388,482 | 314,741 | Capita |
| 2005-06 | 413,525 | 854,853 | Capita |
| | | | Veredus |
| | | | Odgers |
| | | | Whitehead Mann |
| 2006-07 | 283,289 | 1,294,359 | Barkers |
| | | | Capita |
| | | | Enrich Organisational Development |
| | | | Gloria Goldman Assoc. |
| | | | Martin Stairs Consulting |
| | | | Marcus Powell |
| | | | John Harradence Occ. Psychology |

*FCO (Main) Recruitment*

| *Financial year* | *External recruitment advertising costs (£)* | *Recruitment consultants costs (£)* | *Recruitment consultants used* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Whitehead Mann |
| | | | Russell Reynolds |
| 2007-08 | [1]272,038 | 825,318 | Barkers |
| | | | Capita |
| | | | Moloney Search |
| | | | Pearn Kandola |
| | | | Gloria Goldman Assoc. |
| | | | Enrich |
| | | | Positive P |
| | | | Ashridge Consulting |
| | | | Carter Personnel Consulting |
| | | | Dennison Psychology |
| | | | Barclay Simpson |
| | | | Northern Recruitment |
| | | | Odgers |
| | | | Richard Cureton |
| | | | Marcus Powell |
| | | | Harrington Young |
| | | | Tribal |
| | | | Martin Stairs |
| | | | Linbert Spencer |
| | | | Ashborne |
| | | | Taylor Bennett |
| | | | Egon Zehnder International |

[1] This includes £70,955 for rebranding of FCO publicity material.

*FCO Services Recruitment*

| *Financial year* | *External recruitment advertising costs (£)* | *Recruitment consultants costs (£)* | *Recruitment consultants used* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 53,016 | 17,855 | Richard Cureton |
| 2004-05 | 124,910 | 42,234 | Capita |
| | | | Delancey HR Ltd |
| | | | Richard Cureton |
| | | | Roger Moss |
| 2005-06 | 134,124 | 64,717 | Capita |
| | | | Richard Cureton |
| | | | Roger Moss |
| | | | Dennison Psychology Ltd |
| | | | Market Communications |
| 2006-07 | 177,070 | 101,892 | Capita |
| | | | Richard Cureton |
| | | | Roger Moss |
| | | | Dennison Psychology Ltd |
| | | | Whitehead Mann |
| | | | Veredus |
| 2007-08 | 199,555 | 328,057 | Richard Cureton |
| | | | Delancey HR Ltd |
| | | | Roger Moss |
| | | | Capita |
| | | | Dennison Psychology Ltd |
| | | | Barkers |

*FCO Services Recruitment*

| *Financial year* | *External recruitment advertising costs (£)* | *Recruitment consultants costs (£)* | *Recruitment consultants used* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Veredus Interim Management |
| | | | TMP Worldwide |

FCO Services spend on recruitment consultants is less than that of FCO Recruitment. This is because FCO Services recruitment campaigns are smaller and can be managed mostly in-house, with very little being outsourced.

### Diplomatic Service: Languages

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of British diplomatic staff, excluding locally recruited personnel, at each diplomatic mission in a country where English is not the first language are *(a)* fluent in the local language and *(b)* have received instruction in the local language (i) at a facility of his Department and (iii) at an independent facility. [227081]

**Gillian Merron:** There are 589 jobs held by UK-based staff in overseas missions that require fluency in the local language. We define fluency as either C1 or C2 level proficiency as described by the common European Framework of Reference for Languages (Council of Europe 2000). There are 2,297 UK-based staff serving overseas in 260 missions; those jobs held by UK-based staff that require fluency in the local language therefore make up 26 per cent. of the total.

Since November 2007 all language training for Foreign and Commonwealth Office UK-based staff is provided by external contractors either in the UK or overseas. 159 officers have been trained to levels C1 and C2 since November 2007.

### Eritrea: Arms Trade

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will introduce an arms embargo against Eritrea. [226068]

**Gillian Merron:** In 2007 we approved three export licence applications which covered components for cryptographic equipment and civil body armour for humanitarian purposes.

All licences are assessed on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Export Licensing Criteria. This takes into account, inter alia, respect for human rights and the preservation of regional peace, security and stability. If there is a clear risk that the equipment will be used in a manner inconsistent with the criteria, a licence will not be approved. In the light of this we do not see the need for a comprehensive arms embargo against Eritrea.

Further details on the UK's arms export licensing policy are available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/europeantrade/strategic-export-control/legislation/index.html

### Georgia: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the progress of the EU monitoring mission in Georgia, with particular regard to EU monitors' access to Abkhazia and South Ossetia; and if he will make a statement. [234050]

**David Miliband:** The 8 September agreement required the EU to deploy at least 200 monitors by 1 October. The UK has provided 19 monitors plus three headquarters staff and four armoured cars to the mission, which now comprises 225 monitors. Monitoring is being focused on troop activity and withdrawal, public order, freedom of movement, and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

The EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) has been patrolling on a daily basis since 1 October. We receive regular updates on EUMM from headquarters in Tbilisi and via Brussels. The Head of the EU Mission, Hansjorg Haber, is responsible for decisions on where in Georgia monitors should patrol. We understand that a number of monitors have had limited access to South Ossetia and to Abkhazia. Our view is that access to these regions, when security conditions permit, is necessary for the EUMM to fulfil its mandate in full.

### Iran: Jews

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the treatment of Jews in Iran; what recent representations he has received on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [235696]

**Bill Rammell:** Judaism is one of the three minority religions officially recognised under the Iranian constitution. While we do have general concerns about freedom of religion and belief in Iran, we understand that the Jewish community has relatively good relations with the wider Muslim community in Iran. The Iranian Jewish community does face some institutional discrimination, but we do not believe that the community faces systematic persecution. We continue to monitor the situation closely and officials in Tehran and London regularly meet representatives of the Jewish community to discuss the situation of Jewish people in Iran.

In December 2007 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution about human rights in Iran. The resolution, co-sponsored by the UK and all other EU member states, acknowledged and expressed concern at the situation of religious and ethnic minorities in Iran. We will continue to make clear to the Iranian authorities that persecution of individuals on the grounds of their religious beliefs is unacceptable and contrary to Iran's international human rights obligations, and that the rights of Iran's religious minorities should be equal to

those of all Iranian citizens. We continue to press the Iranian authorities to take seriously their international human rights obligations and uphold the right to freedom of religion and belief as described in article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (to which Iran is a state party).

**Iran: Nuclear Power**

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has for discussions with the Iranian government on its nuclear programme. [235985]

**Bill Rammell:** There are no plans for discussions between the Government and the Iranian government on Iran's nuclear programme. But the UK is directly involved in the efforts by the E3+3 (UK, US, France, Germany, Russia and China) with the support of Dr Javier Solana, the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, to persuade Iran to engage on this matter. Dr Solana recently wrote to the Iranian Chief Negotiator Mr Saeed Jalili to suggest that their deputies, Mr Robert Cooper and Mr Ali Bagheri, meet soon to clarify details of the offer that the E3+3 sent to Iran in June this year.

**Iran: Prisoners**

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the treatment of imprisoned Jews in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [235694]

**Bill Rammell:** We have not received any specific reports pertaining to Jews in custody in Iran. We do, however, have concerns that torture and ill-treatment is common in many prisons and detention centres, facilitated by prolonged pre-charge detention and denial of access to lawyers and family. We continue to monitor the situation closely and raise any concerns about the treatment of prisoners with the Iranian authorities, both bilaterally and through the EU.

**Morocco: Fisheries**

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what monitoring his Department is undertaking of the operation of the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement in respect of fish taken from the waters off the Western Sahara. [235123]

**Bill Rammell:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not monitor the operation of fishing vessels. However, the Marine and Fisheries Agency monitors the movements of all UK-registered fishing vessels. Vessels fishing off the coast of Morocco and Western Sahara under the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement report their movements and catches to the Marine and Fisheries Agency. This information is then passed on to the European Commission, who collate the information from all EU member states.

**Morocco: Western Sahara**

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 228W, on Morocco: Western Sahara, if the Government will take steps to encourage the Government of Morocco to fulfil its obligations under international law to ensure that the indigenous people of the Western Sahara benefit from the extraction of phosphates. [235578]

**Bill Rammell:** The Government continue to encourage the Moroccan Government to ensure that, in line with international law, economic activities under administration, including the extraction and exportation of phosphates, do not adversely affect the interests of the people of Western Sahara. The Government will continue to stress this point when and where appropriate.

**Panchen Lama**

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to establish the whereabouts and health of the Panchen Lama; and if he will press for his release. [235570]

**Bill Rammell:** We have raised the case of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima at the last seven meetings of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue, most recently in January 2008. We have asked for information on his health and whereabouts; supported the recommendation by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that China should allow an independent expert to visit him; and have pressed for him to enjoy freedom of movement and the freedom to choose his own career. The Government were informed during the dialogue field trip to Tibet in January 2008 that the Panchen Lama was safe and well in his home town. We will continue to raise this case with the Chinese government.

**Russia: Georgia**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the Government has made of Russia's fulfilment of its obligations under the Medvedev-Sarkozy ceasefire plan of 12 August 2008; and if he will make a statement. [233101]

**David Miliband:** Under the terms of the EU and Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) ceasefire, brokered between President Sarkozy and President Medvedev on 12 August, and a further agreement on 8 September, Russia agreed to a six point plan, which included a commitment to Russian forces withdrawing to their positions prior to the outbreak of hostilities. Russian troops have withdrawn from some areas, but are still present in the Akhalgori region of South Ossetia and the Kodori Gorge area of Abkhazia. Both of these areas had been under Georgian control before the war.

Therefore, although there has been substantial compliance with the agreements, it is still far from complete and we have called upon Russia to observe the agreements in full.

The ceasefire plan also included agreement talks on security and stability in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The first round of these talks took place in Geneva on 15 October under EU chairmanship, with UN and OSCE participation. The next meeting is scheduled for 18 November.

### Snatch Land Rovers

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what instructions his Department gave to its staff in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan during 2005 on (i) the use of and (ii) travelling in Snatch Land Rovers; and when those instructions were issued. [235467]

**Bill Rammell:** It is Foreign and Commonwealth Office practice not to comment on provision of security to staff at its posts.

### Sri Lanka: Humanitarian Aid

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Sri Lankan Government on its decision to instruct UN agencies and humanitarian non-governmental organisations to leave the Wanni district in September 2008; and if he will make a statement. [235662]

**David Miliband:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Mr. Moore) on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 802W.

Our high commissioner to Sri Lanka continues to raise humanitarian issues at the highest levels of government and to press for increased humanitarian access for essential supplies such as food, medicine and materials for shelters.

### Western Sahara: Referendums

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has held with the UN on the proposed referendum of the Saharawi people on the future status of the Western Sahara. [235125]

**Bill Rammell:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the question of Western Sahara with the UN Secretary General, but our officials in New York are in regular contact with UN officials. We will continue, through my meetings and those of my officials to discuss this issue with all interested parties.

The UK Permanent Representative to the UN, met the Head of the Polisario, Mr. Mohammed Abdel Aziz on 3 November and discussed a wide range of issues, including the ongoing negotiations under UN auspices.

### Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations have been made to the government of Zimbabwe on the treatment of Morgan Tsvangirai by the section of the Zimbabwean government represented by Robert Mugabe. [232826]

**Gillian Merron:** On 13 October, EU Foreign Ministers condemned the unilateral decision by Robert Mugabe to embark on the formation of a new government without the agreement of the other parties to the 15 September agreement. Following the South African Development Community Troika meeting on 27 October, the UN Secretary-General said that he hoped Mr. Mugabe would no longer disappoint the international community. He also encouraged African leaders to take decisive action to end the stalemate.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Children: Maintenance

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the hon. Member for West Lancashire's constituent Ms Helen L. Dunham will *(a)* be sent any backdated monies from the Child Support Agency and *(b)* have her manual child maintenance payments resumed. [228498]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 21 October 2008]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Commissioner for Child Maintenance.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the hon. Member for West Lancashire's constituent Ms Helen L. Dunham will (a) be sent any backdated monies from the Child Support Agency and (b) have her manual child maintenance payments resumed. [228498]

As details about individual cases are confidential, I have written to you separately about this case.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the role of part-time working in facilitating return to work for incapacity benefit claimants in the principal seaside towns in England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [235531]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We recognise the importance of part-time working in encouraging incapacity benefits claimants to return to work. The Permitted Work rules allow incapacity benefits customers to try out part-time work as a stepping-stone to moving off benefit and into work. We have made the rules more generous in the employment and support allowance.

We keep the Permitted Work rules under review, looking for more flexible ways of helping people take up opportunities and increase their options. We have no plans to carry out a specific assessment of seaside towns.

### New Deal for 50 Plus

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the New Deal 50 Plus programme cost to maintain in 2006-07. [231839]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information is in the Jobcentre Plus Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07, a copy of which is in the Library.

## Pension Credit: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of Enfield, North constituency have applied for pension credits since the establishment of the pension credit scheme. [233893]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information on the number of applications for pension credit is not available at the level of constituency. The following table contains the number of households in receipt and individual beneficiaries of pension credit in Enfield, North constituency.

*Number of household recipients and individual beneficiaries of pension credit in Enfield, North, 2003-08*

| | *Household recipients* | *Individual beneficiaries* |
|---|---|---|
| November 2003 | 3,240 | 3,930 |
| May 2004 | 3,620 | 4,430 |
| May 2005 | 3,960 | 4,870 |
| May 2006 | 4,050 | 5,010 |
| May 2007 | 4,090 | 5,030 |
| May 2008 | 4,120 | 5,050 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Pension credit was introduced in October 2003, so November data are used for that year.
3. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
4. Individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.
*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

## Pensioners

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners there were in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [231420]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The available information is in the table.

| | *Number of pensioners* |
|---|---|
| *Jarrow parliamentary constituency* | |
| November 1999 | 16,000 |
| May 2000 | 15,900 |
| November 2000 | 16,100 |
| May 2001 | 15,700 |
| November 2001 | 16,000 |
| May 2002 | 16,220 |
| August 2002 | 16,210 |
| November 2002 | 16,240 |
| February 2003 | 16,230 |
| May 2003 | 16,250 |
| August 2003 | 16,310 |
| November 2003 | 16,300 |
| February 2004 | 16,270 |
| May 2004 | 16,320 |
| August 2004 | 16,350 |
| November 2004 | 16,360 |
| February 2005 | 16,310 |
| May 2005 | 16,290 |
| August 2005 | 16,300 |
| November 2005 | 16,340 |
| February 2006 | 16,320 |
| May 2006 | 16,290 |
| August 2006 | 16,370 |
| November 2006 | 16,390 |
| February 2007 | 16,420 |
| May 2007 | 16,500 |
| August 2007 | 16,580 |
| November 2007 | 16,650 |
| February 2008 | 16,660 |
| *South Tyneside local authority* | |
| November 1999 | 31,000 |
| May 2000 | 30,800 |
| November 2000 | 31,100 |
| May 2001 | 30,500 |
| November 2001 | 30,700 |
| May 2002 | 30,800 |
| August 2002 | 30,750 |
| November 2002 | 30,710 |
| February 2003 | 30,640 |
| May 2003 | 30,650 |
| August 2003 | 30,710 |
| November 2003 | 30,600 |
| February 2004 | 30,510 |
| May 2004 | 30,560 |
| August 2004 | 30,590 |
| November 2004 | 30,600 |
| February 2005 | 30,530 |
| May 2005 | 30,470 |
| August 2005 | 30,470 |
| November 2005 | 30,520 |
| February 2006 | 30,460 |
| May 2006 | 30,430 |
| August 2006 | 30,440 |
| November 2006 | 30,500 |
| February 2007 | 30,500 |
| May 2007 | 30,550 |
| August 2007 | 30,650 |
| November 2007 | 30,500 |
| February 2008 | 30,750 |
| *North-east Government office region* | |
| November 1999 | 480,200 |
| May 2000 | 481,800 |
| November 2000 | 484,100 |
| May 2001 | 483,100 |
| November 2001 | 485,200 |
| May 2002 | 478,290 |
| August 2002 | 478,950 |
| November 2002 | 479,770 |
| February 2003 | 479,510 |
| May 2003 | 480,890 |
| August 2003 | 482,190 |
| November 2003 | 482,780 |
| February 2004 | 482,510 |
| May 2004 | 484,400 |
| August 2004 | 485,930 |
| November 2004 | 487,330 |
| February 2005 | 487,300 |
| May 2005 | 487,940 |
| August 2005 | 488,890 |
| November 2005 | 489,420 |
| February 2006 | 489,280 |

| | |
|---|---|
| May 2006 | 489,970 |
| August 2006 | 491,770 |
| November 2006 | 493,450 |
| February 2007 | 494,820 |
| May 2007 | 496,960 |
| August 2007 | 499,860 |
| November 2007 | 501,510 |
| February 2008 | 502,370 |
| *Great Britain* | |
| November 1999 | 10,338,400 |
| May 2000 | 10,337,800 |
| November 2000 | 10,366,900 |
| May 2001 | 10,388,200 |
| November 2001 | 10,441,900 |
| May 2002 | 11,353,500 |
| August 2002 | 11,383,960 |
| November 2002 | 11,414,630 |
| February 2003 | 11,430,790 |
| May 2003 | 11,473,090 |
| August 2003 | 11,515,970 |
| November 2003 | 11,544,620 |
| February 2004 | 11,557,870 |
| May 2004 | 11,620,150 |
| August 2004 | 11,668,110 |
| November 2004 | 11,710,580 |
| February 2005 | 11,726,470 |
| May 2005 | 11,760,740 |
| August 2005 | 11,786,580 |
| November 2005 | 11,804,430 |
| February 2006 | 11,817,230 |
| May 2006 | 11,847,970 |
| August 2006 | 11,896,500 |
| November 2006 | 11,949,620 |
| February 2007 | 11,992,450 |
| May 2007 | 12,053,770 |
| August 2007 | 12,127,160 |
| November 2007 | 12,182,270 |
| February 2008 | 12,216,390 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures for November 1999 to November 2001 are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures for May 2002 to February 2008 are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has been applied.
3. There is no geographical information until November 1999.
4. For more recent years data exist for both benefit claimed by pensioners and for the pensioners client group from both sample and 100 per cent. data. Figures produced from sample data may differ from those produced from 100 per cent. data due to sample variation. A table of expected variation can be found here
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/state_pension/rp302.pdf (table A1).
An additional source of variation is that the WPLS data takes more account of retrospection (ie late changes to the data). The WPLS data are the preferred source to answer queries, however in cases where the required information is unavailable on WPLS data then sample data are used.
*Sources:*
1. November 1999 to November 2001—DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample
2. May 2002 to February 2008—DWP Work and Pension Longitudinal Study

## Pensioners: Poverty

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioner households were in poverty in Enfield North constituency in each year since 1997. [235414]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures of poverty.

Our public service agreement "Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in later life" includes a range of indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are relative low income (below 50 and 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), and absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices), all measured after housing costs have been taken into account.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government office region. Information for London on the numbers of pensioners below each of these thresholds is given in the following table.

*Number of pensioners falling below various thresholds of median household income, after housing costs, London*

*Million*

| | *Below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income* | *Below 50 per cent. of contemporary median household income* | *Below 60 per cent. of the 1998-99 median household income uprated in line with prices* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 to 1999-2000 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| 1998-99 to 2000-01 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| 1999-2000 to 2001-02 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| 2000-01 to 2002-03 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| 2001-02 to 2003-04 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| 2002-03 to 2004-05 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| 2003-04 to 2005-06 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| 2004-05 to 2006-07 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 |

*Notes:*
1. Three survey year averages are given as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
4. Figures are based on survey data and as such are subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error.
5. Numbers of pensioners in low income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 pensioners.

## Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

**John Mason:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government are taking to simplify the process for pensioners to claim benefits to which they are entitled. [225281]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** We have simplified the claim process to make pension credit easier to claim. Customers no longer need to sign and return their pension credit claim forms, claims can be made entirely over the phone.

This autumn, we are introducing a measure which will enable claims to housing benefit and council tax benefit made over the phone with pension credit, to be forwarded directly to the local authority without the need for a signature—this is a significant simplification to the claim process and should benefit thousands of pensioners.

In February 2007, an additional question was introduced in the pension credit application process to identify relevant caring responsibilities in order to invite the customer, where appropriate, to claim carer's allowance using a new, shortened, claim pack specifically designed for people of pension age.

### Pensions: Overseas Residence

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of up-rating the frozen pensions for retired UK nationals resident abroad who have reached the ages of *(a)* 70, *(b)* 75 and *(c)* 80 years. [235305]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The latest estimates for the cost of uprating the UK state pension for all those in the relevant age groups living in frozen-rate countries are in the following table. They relate to the estimated additional cost that would be incurred in 2008-09 were frozen pensions to be uprated to their unfrozen level but without paying arrears.

*2008-09 price terms*

| *Age* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Age 70 and above | 430 |
| Age 75 and above | 360 |
| Age 80 and above | 260 |

*Note:*
Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 million.
*Source:*
Internal estimates using September 2007 retirement pension administrative data: 5 per cent. sample

### Pensions: Payments

**Mr. Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has instructed the Pension Service to write to giro cheque pension recipients telling them that this payment process is to end and that they should seek alternative arrangements; and if he will issue guidance to the Pension Service on future communications to such recipients. [235722]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** My Department has been writing to customers paid by DWP cheque since 2005.

We are contacting customers who are currently being paid by cheque so that we can try and arrange to pay their benefit or pension into an account. This is not new, and is all part of the process of modernising the way benefits and pensions are paid. In fact, we have contacted many customers paid by cheque since we phased out order books in 2005. We are also informing customers that we plan to phase out the current cheque system so that we can pay customers in a more secure, efficient and reliable way.

We have always said that each customer's benefit or pension should be paid into an account if this is possible. This is the most efficient, secure and reliable way of making payments. It can also mean that customers can take advantage of the benefits of banking, such as more choice about where and when they collect their money and the discounts offered when they pay some bills by direct debit.

The letters currently being sent to cheque customers were agreed by Ministers.

### Post Office Card Account

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in *(a)* Kingston and Surbiton constituency and *(b)* the Royal Borough of Kingston have a Post Office Card Account, broken down by local authority ward; [235683]

(2) how many benefit and pension accounts are paid into a Post Office Card Account in *(a)* Kingston and Surbiton constituency, *(b)* the Royal Borough of Kingston and *(c)* each local authority ward in the Royal Borough of Kingston; and what estimate he has made of the number of claimants in each such area who have more than one account. [235684]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information is not available in the precise format requested.

The table shows the number of benefit and pension accounts paid into a Post Office card account in *(a)* Kingston and Surbiton constituency and *(b)* the Royal borough of Kingston and *(c)* each council ward in the Royal borough of Kingston.

Claimants can only have one Post Office card account but can have more than one benefit paid into that account.

| | *All* | *Other benefit* | *State pension* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kingston and Surbiton constituency | 3,160 | 1,710 | 1,450 |
| Royal borough of Kingston | 3,970 | 2,160 | 1,820 |
| *Wards within Royal borough of Kingston* | | | |
| Alexandra | 190 | 80 | 110 |
| Berrylands | 300 | 160 | 140 |
| Beverley | 260 | 160 | 110 |
| Canbury | 240 | 160 | 80 |
| Chessington North and Hook | 340 | 170 | 180 |
| Chessington South | 320 | 140 | 180 |
| Coombe Hill | 290 | 160 | 130 |
| Coombe Vale | 300 | 160 | 140 |
| Grove | 240 | 160 | 80 |
| Norbiton | 440 | 290 | 150 |
| Old Malden | 270 | 120 | 150 |
| St. James | 220 | 110 | 120 |
| St. Marks | 140 | 90 | 50 |
| Surbiton Hill | 150 | 90 | 70 |
| Tolworth and Hook Rise | 290 | 160 | 130 |
| Tudor | 160 | 80 | 80 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 therefore may not add up due to rounding.
2. Figures refer to payment accounts live and in payment as at 12 April 2008. Claimants with more than one account will be counted for each account.
3. Child benefit is administered by HM Revenue and Customs and war pensions are administered by MOD. These benefits have therefore been excluded.
*Source:*
DWP, Information Directorate

## Poverty: Pensioners

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners were living in poverty in Vale of Clwyd constituency in each of the last 16 years. [234500]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures of poverty.

Our public service agreement, 'Tackle Poverty and Promote Greater Independence and Wellbeing in Later Life', includes a range of indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are relative low income (below 50 and 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), and absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices), all measured after housing costs have been taken into account.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government office region. The information that is available for the numbers of pensioners in Wales below each of these thresholds is given in the following table:

*Number of pensioners falling below various thresholds of median household income, after housing costs, Wales*

*Million*

| | *Below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income* | *Below 50 per cent. of contemporary median household income* | *Below 60 per cent. of the 1998-99 median household income uprated in line with prices* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1994-95 to 1996-97 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| 1995-96 to 1997-98 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| 1996-97-1998-99 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| 1997-98-1999-2000 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| 1998-99 to 2000-01 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| 1999-2000 to 2001-02 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| 2000-01 to 2002-03 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| 2001-02 to 2003-04 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| 2002-03 to 2004-05 | 0.1 | — | — |
| 2003-04 to 2005-06 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| 2004-05 to 2006-07 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |

— indicates less than 50,000.

*Notes:*

1. Three survey year averages are given as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
4. Figures are based on survey data and as such are subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error.
5. Numbers of pensioners in low income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 pensioners.

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners in pensioner poverty in *(a)* Glasgow North West constituency, *(b)* Glasgow and *(c)* Scotland. [234649]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures of poverty.

Our public service agreement "Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in later life" includes a range of indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are relative low income (below 50 and 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), and absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices), all measured after housing costs have been taken into account.

Latest information for Scotland on the number of pensioners below each of these thresholds is given in the following table. The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below this level.

*Number of pensioners falling below various thresholds of median household income, after housing costs, Scotland, 2006-07*

*Thousand*

| | |
|---|---|
| Below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income | 140 |
| Below 50 per cent. of contemporary median household income | 70 |

*Number of pensioners falling below various thresholds of median household income, after housing costs, Scotland, 2006-07*

*Thousand*

| | |
|---|---|
| Below 60 per cent. of the 1998-99 median household income uprated in line with prices | 60 |

*Notes:*

1. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
3. Figures are based on survey data and as such are subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error.
4. Number of pensioners in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 10,000 pensioners.

*Source:*

Scottish Households Below Average Income 2006/07.

## Social Security Benefits

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage the take-up of *(a)* carer's allowance, *(b)* pension credit, *(c)* housing benefit and *(d)* council tax benefit; [232205]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to achieve a higher level of overall benefits take-up; [232206]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to achieve a higher level of benefits take-up amongst pensioners. [232207]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* Addressing pensioner poverty has been one of the Government's key priorities since 1997. The number of pensioners on relative low incomes has fallen from 2.9 million in 1998-99 to 2.1 million in 2006-07 (measured as below the threshold of 60 per cent. of contemporary median income after housing costs).

Maximising the take-up of benefits is crucial to tackling poverty levels. Since pension credit was introduced in 2003 the number of pensioners on relative low incomes has fallen by around 500,000.

We are making every effort to ensure that people are aware of and claim their entitlement.

The pension credit claim process has been simplified to make it easier to claim. Customers no longer need to sign and return their pension credit claim forms, claims can be made entirely over the phone.

A simplified process has been introduced which will enable claims to housing benefit and council tax benefit made over the phone with pension credit, to be forwarded directly to the local authority without the need for a signature—this is a significant improvement to the claim process and should benefit thousands of pensioners.

In February 2007, an additional question was introduced in the pension credit application process to identify relevant caring responsibilities in order to invite the customer, where appropriate, to claim carer's allowance using a new, shortened, claim pack specifically designed for people of pension age.

The Pension, Disability and Carers Service have Joint Working Partnerships, live or at the implementation stage, with all 203 primary tier local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales. These partnerships enable the Pension Disability and Carers Service, local authorities and the voluntary sector to provide a single point of access to social care and benefit entitlement.

The Pension, Disability and Carers Service continues to promote the take-up of all pensioner benefits, entitlements and services through a range of marketing activities. Campaign activity in 2008-09 to promote the take-up of pension credit has utilised direct mail, local partnership activity and regional radio, press and outdoor advertising. In order to reach our key audiences more directly we are planning a series of targeted regional campaigns. The activity will promote the take-up of the full range of pensioner benefits and entitlements, focusing on relevant lead messages for the target audiences. DWP are also working closely with other Government Departments to promote campaigns, such as Keep Warm Keep Well and Act On $CO_2$ to promote ways pensioners can save money on fuel bills and apply for grants to assist in energy efficiency measures.

More widely the Department for Work and Pensions and all its agencies work hard to ensure that a suitable range of information and advice is available on all the benefits it administers (including carer's allowance, pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit). The agencies, such as the Pension, Disability and Carers Service, also work closely with external stakeholders, to continuously improve their communication material.

### Social Security Benefits: Pensioners

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the monetary value of benefits that have not been claimed by pensioners as a result of the introduction of the three month backdating limit on 6 October 2008. [234072]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The information requested is not available.

### State Retirement Pensions

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals deferred their state pension to the age of 70 years in each of the last 10 years. [231826]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not available. Information on the number of people who first received a deferral reward from age 70 is in the table. Figures for 1999 are not available.

| *12 months to March each year* | *Number of customers* |
|---|---|
| 2008 | 800 |
| 2007 | 900 |
| 2006 | 1,000 |
| 2005 | 800 |
| 2004 | 1,100 |
| 2003 | 600 |
| 2002 | 700 |
| 2001 | 1,200 |
| 2000[1] | 800 |

[1] Figures for 2000 are for six months to March only

*Notes:*

1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Numbers are based on a 5 per cent. sample rated in line with the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) total case load, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. New rules for deferral came into effect in April 2005 and lump payments became available from April 2006. These data were not available on the datasets until September 2006. A person who deferred their state pension before April 2005 would qualify for increments for the period up to April 2005 and may have a choice of either a lump sum payment or an increment for the period of deferral from April 2005. This means some people may have both an increment and a lump sum payment.
4. The number receiving a 'deferral reward' is the number of people with a lump sum or increments for the latest data and the number of people with increments for the data prior to September 2006.
5. Data regarding increments prior to September 1999 are not sufficiently robust to be released.
6. Age 70 is defined as people who were aged 70 at the point when they first appear on the IFD scan.

*Source:*

Information Directorate (IFD) 5 per cent. sample

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 19 November 2008*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Cromwell Green Entrance

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what assessment the Commission has made of the effects of the new visitors reception and security entrance at Cromwell Green on the number of hon. Member-sponsored tours of the House. [235507]

**Nick Harvey:** The Cromwell Green Entrance opened as the main public entrance to Parliament on 21 April 2008.

In the six months April to September 2008, there were 65,978 visitors on Member-sponsored tours of the Palace of Westminster. In the equivalent six months in 2007, there were 67,358; and in the same period in 2006 there were 63,919.

The number of hon. Member-sponsored tours is adjusted up or down from time to time by the visitor services team in the light of experience. The most recent adjustment was a reduction in May for new bookings, when the morning maximum was reduced to ensure visitors could be securely accommodated without major overcrowding or delays.

The Commission has not conducted any assessment of the effects of the new visitor reception arrangements on the number of tours sponsored by hon. Members. The parliamentary visitor board (comprising senior officials in both Houses) is conducting a review of visitor handling, to include the operation of the new entrance. This will be taken to the relevant committees in each House in the new year.

### Meat

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the countries of origin have been of *(a)* beef, *(b)* chicken, *(c)* bacon, *(d)* sausages, *(e)* pork and *(f)* lamb procured by the Department of facilities and its predecessor in the last three years. [237158]

**Nick Harvey:** The House of Commons catering service does not maintain a record of the country of origin of foods purchased and so it is not possible to confirm the provenance of meat and poultry supplies in each of the last three years.

Since October 2007, butchery suppliers have periodically been required to confirm the country of origin of meats and poultry they have supplied to the House of Commons. Based on the information provided, it is estimated that in 2007 *(a)* all beef supplied was UK reared except a small quantity of Halal beef sourced from the Republic of Ireland; *(b)* 97 per cent. of poultry was UK reared, with the balance being specific products sourced from France; *(c)*, *(d)* and *(e)* all bacon, sausages and pork was from UK reared pigs; and *(f)* all lamb was UK reared.

The House authorities believe that the provenance of meat and poultry supplies was similar in previous years.

### Parliamentary Tours

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much income has been generated from visitors to the House during the summer openings in each of the last three years; and what the cost to the House was of operating summer opening in each year. [235508]

**Nick Harvey:** The summer opening programme continues to run as a cost-neutral (self-financing) operation, the strategy being to break even over a three-year period. The current three-year period, for this purpose, is 2007-09. Figures relating to the last three years are as follows:

| *Summer of* | *Income* | *Cost* |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| 2006 | 412,419 | 597,950 |
| 2007 | 744,448 | 677,870 |
| 2008[1] | 731,082 | 758,909 |

[1] 2008 figures still subject to final adjustments.

These figures relate to both Houses' shares. The Commons' share of costs and income is 70 per cent.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the average hourly pay rates are for *(a)* Blue Badge Guides employed during the summer openings and *(b)* guides employed directly by the House; and what the reasons are for any differences. [235509]

**Nick Harvey:** During the summer opening programme, professionally qualified Blue Badge Guides are employed to conduct tours of the Palace of Westminster. Half-day and full-day rates are calculated on the basis of nationally agreed Blue Badge rates. A qualified London Blue Badge Guide delivering a standard parliamentary tour in English would earn £38.30 per hour; in foreign languages £43.30. The cost of the Blue Badge Guides is covered by the ticket price.

For Member-sponsored tours when Parliament is sitting, the current policy is that guides are drawn primarily from serving or retired House staff and that Parliament should bear the expense of the tours. The current rate for in-house guides is £22.70 per hour.

The difference in pay reflects the higher level and formal nature of the training and qualification of Blue Badge Guides. The higher level of training includes the mechanics of guiding and detailed knowledge of London as a whole (which fits in with the requirements of summer opening visitors), as well as an independent parliamentary qualification.

## JUSTICE

### Cemeteries

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has undertaken into *(a)* the management of burial grounds and *(b)* memorial safety in the last three years. [236502]

**Bridget Prentice:** In January 2004, a report on research into cemeteries and their management was published by the Home Office. Following the transfer of responsibility for burial law we published the results of a survey of English and Welsh burial grounds in June 2007. This can be found on the Department's website at:

www.justice.gov.uk/whatwedo/burialgrounds050607.htm

We have not conducted research into memorial safety, but have discussed with stakeholders how best to assess and deal with the risks associated with unstable gravestones. We are now arranging for the publication of appropriate guidance.

### Children: Protection

**Mr. Timpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people convicted of causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult since 2005 received *(a)* a custodial sentence of less than 12 months, *(b)* a custodial sentence of more than 12 months but less than four years, *(c)* a custodial sentence of four years of more, *(d)* an indeterminate sentence for public protection, *(e)* a suspended sentence, *(f)* a community sentence and *(g)* a conditional discharge; [237309]

(2) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been for the offence of causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult under section 5 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. [237310]

**Maria Eagle:** The requested information is contained in the following tables.

2006 is the latest year for which annually published statistics are available.

Data for 2007 will be published on 27 November.

*Number of persons proceeded against and number sentenced[1] for the offence of causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person by result and sentence length, all courts, England and Wales, 2005 and 2006*

| | | | | Result | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Offence description* | *Number of prosecutions* | *Number of convictions* | *Conditional discharge* | *Community sentence* | *Fully suspended sentence* | *Immediate custody* | *Indeterminate sentence[2]* |
| 2005 | Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person[3] | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2006 | | 3 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | — |

| | | Sentence length | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Offence description* | *Less than 12 months* | *12 months and over and less than four years* | *Over four years* |
| 2005 | Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person[3] | — | — | — |
| 2006 | | — | — | 2 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Sentences of imprisonment for public protection introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 on 4 April 2005.
[3] Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (S.5)
*Note:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
*Source:*
OMS Analytical Services.

### Commonhold

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 626W, on the Land Registry, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the level of take-up of commonhold in residential dwellings since 2002. [236148]

**Bridget Prentice:** The commonhold legislation came into force on 27 September 2004, creating a voluntary alternative to long leasehold ownership for flats and other similar premises. In view of the low take-up, my noble friend, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, announced that the Government intended to consult with key parties to see what could be done to improve it on 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 908. As I said in my reply on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 851W, to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson), we are reviewing our plans for the publication of a consultation document in the light of other priorities and I will make a statement when a decision has been made.

### Conveyancing: Internet

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what role the Valuation Office Agency is playing in the Land Registry's development of e-conveyancing. [236079]

**Mr. Wills:** The Valuation Office Agency are not involved in the development of e-conveyancing but the two organisations keep in regular contact.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the latest timetable for the implementation of electronic conveyancing is; and how much his Department has allocated to support the scheme over each of the next three years. [236174]

**Mr. Wills:** The latest revision of Land Registry's business case for the Electronic Conveyancing Programme estimates that the programme of work will be fully implemented in 2014-15. The Ministry of Justice gives no financial support to the programme which will be financed in full by Land Registry who estimate total costs will be in the range of £270 to £310 million.

## Court of Protection

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases held in the Court of Protection have been reported since it became a Court of Record in October 2008; and how the public are able to obtain information on the decisions of the court. [236537]

**Bridget Prentice:** Under the Court of Protection Rules 2007, the general position is that hearings before the court will be held in private, but the court may decide that all or part of the hearing should be held in public. The court may also authorise the publication of a text or summary of a judgment or order made by the court. The court can authorise the publication of information on its own initiative or on an application made by one of the parties to proceedings. Since 1 October 2007, the court has not held any hearings in public and nor has it authorised the publication of any information about proceedings held in private. For any future cases, where the judge authorises publication of information, details of the order or judgement will be published on the Office of Public Guardian website.

## Court Orders

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many charging orders have been issued in each court area in each of the last five years. [236176]

**Bridget Prentice:** The following table shows the numbers of charging orders made in each county court and HM courts service area in each of the last five years.

*Number of charging orders by HMCS region and county court in England and Wales 2003-07*

| Region | Court name | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *London* | Barnet | 149 | 178 | 272 | 290 | 409 |
| | Bow | 173 | 161 | 336 | 500 | 603 |
| | Brentford | 84 | 120 | 166 | 230 | 404 |
| | Bromley | 251 | 544 | 481 | 819 | 1,257 |
| | Central London | 256 | 294 | 377 | 372 | 441 |
| | Clerkenwell and Shoreditch | 188 | 175 | 230 | 270 | 404 |
| | Croydon | 235 | 220 | 464 | 538 | 1,106 |
| | Edmonton | 232 | 351 | 583 | 721 | 903 |
| | Ilford | 74 | 130 | 233 | 253 | 318 |
| | Kingston-upon-Thames | 85 | 121 | 109 | 202 | 284 |
| | Lambeth | 190 | 335 | 512 | 412 | 479 |
| | Mayors and City | 44 | 48 | 82 | 127 | 114 |
| | Romford | 90 | 170 | 322 | 406 | 630 |
| | Uxbridge | 436 | 241 | 294 | 391 | 810 |
| | Wandsworth | 115 | 141 | 214 | 227 | 311 |
| | West London | 123 | 88 | 168 | 200 | 111 |
| | Willesden | 132 | 179 | 275 | 413 | 520 |
| | Woolwich | 57 | 85 | 148 | 226 | 266 |
| | *London Group* | 2,914 | 3,581 | 5,266 | 6,597 | 9,370 |
| | London total | 2,914 | 3,581 | 5,266 | 6,597 | 9,370 |
| *Midlands* | Buxton | 18 | 20 | 19 | 32 | 45 |
| | Chesterfield | 90 | 82 | 112 | 148 | 185 |
| | Derby | 175 | 252 | 288 | 389 | 586 |
| | *Derbyshire* | 283 | 354 | 419 | 569 | 816 |
| | Leicester | 192 | 286 | 427 | 570 | 865 |
| | Melton Mowbray | 63 | 50 | 57 | 89 | 142 |
| | *Leicestershire* | 255 | 336 | 484 | 659 | 1,007 |
| | Boston | 48 | 54 | 111 | 115 | 191 |
| | Grantham | 21 | 22 | 50 | 47 | 89 |
| | Lincoln | 78 | 94 | 133 | 170 | 276 |
| | Skegness | 14 | 29 | 41 | 43 | 62 |
| | *Lincolnshire* | 161 | 199 | 335 | 375 | 618 |
| | Kettering | 81 | 74 | 122 | 158 | 219 |
| | Northampton | 387 | 207 | 315 | 435 | 477 |
| | Wellingborough | 30 | 56 | 66 | 109 | 185 |
| | *Northamptonshire* | 498 | 337 | 503 | 702 | 881 |
| | Mansfield | 81 | 120 | 188 | 214 | 357 |
| | Newark | 43 | 54 | 65 | 73 | 95 |
| | Nottingham | 270 | 364 | 584 | 760 | 1,048 |
| | Worksop | 38 | 38 | 61 | 59 | 134 |
| | *Nottinghamshire* | 432 | 576 | 898 | 1,106 | 1,634 |
| | Burton-on-Trent | 72 | 61 | 96 | 112 | 190 |
| | Stafford | 48 | 52 | 86 | 126 | 224 |
| | Stoke-on-Trent | 202 | 280 | 337 | 448 | 554 |
| | Tamworth | 46 | 51 | 81 | 124 | 155 |
| | *Staffordshire* | 368 | 444 | 600 | 810 | 1,123 |
| | Nuneaton | 66 | 130 | 153 | 200 | 257 |
| | Rugby | 65 | 200 | 279 | 503 | 596 |
| | Stratford | 18 | 23 | 48 | 75 | 63 |
| | Warwick | 42 | 61 | 100 | 85 | 142 |
| | *Warwickshire* | 191 | 414 | 580 | 863 | 1,058 |
| | Evesham | 13 | 23 | 24 | 38 | 57 |
| | Hereford | 23 | 33 | 39 | 52 | 84 |
| | Kidderminster | 41 | 37 | 54 | 63 | 114 |
| | Ludlow | 12 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 14 |
| | Oswestry | 6 | 18 | 20 | 23 | 44 |
| | Redditch | 104 | 129 | 176 | 283 | 1,153 |
| | Shrewsbury | 40 | 50 | 77 | 70 | 110 |
| | Telford | 320 | 363 | 509 | 617 | 1,071 |
| | Worcester | 69 | 63 | 154 | 125 | 221 |
| | *West Mercia* | 628 | 726 | 1,062 | 1,278 | 2,868 |
| | Birmingham CJC | 728 | 955 | 1,251 | 1,463 | 2,212 |

*Number of charging orders by HMCS region and county court in England and Wales 2003-07*

| Region | Court name | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Coventry | 172 | 233 | 282 | 378 | 733 |
| | Dudley | 108 | 121 | 209 | 247 | 342 |
| | Stourbridge | 52 | 47 | 91 | 100 | 172 |
| | Walsall | 143 | 237 | 340 | 503 | 610 |
| | Wolverhampton | 82 | 178 | 215 | 294 | 441 |
| | *West Midlands* | 1,285 | 1,771 | 2,388 | 2,985 | 4,510 |
| | Midland total | 4,101 | 5,157 | 7,269 | 9,347 | 14,515 |
| *North East* | Hartlepool | 48 | 61 | 86 | 144 | 177 |
| | Teesside | 141 | 233 | 432 | 432 | 947 |
| | *Cleveland* | 189 | 294 | 518 | 576 | 1,124 |
| | Bishop Auckland | 35 | 28 | 52 | 85 | 171 |
| | Consett | 22 | 24 | 35 | 73 | 168 |
| | Darlington | 82 | 67 | 120 | 224 | 281 |
| | Durham | 55 | 81 | 150 | 401 | 482 |
| | *Durham* | 194 | 200 | 357 | 783 | 1,102 |
| | Grimsby | 92 | 189 | 197 | 240 | 404 |
| | Kingston-upon-Hull | 188 | 302 | 498 | 621 | 1,227 |
| | Scunthorpe | 59 | 64 | 77 | 119 | 162 |
| | *Humberside* | 339 | 555 | 772 | 980 | 1,793 |
| | Harrogate | 47 | 69 | 181 | 156 | 139 |
| | Scarborough | 44 | 48 | 75 | 93 | 170 |
| | Skipton | 18 | 176 | 103 | 95 | 165 |
| | York | 72 | 102 | 155 | 180 | 249 |
| | *North Yorkshire* | 181 | 395 | 514 | 524 | 723 |
| | Gateshead | 32 | 57 | 237 | 1,286 | 1,740 |
| | Morpeth | 45 | 56 | 119 | 123 | 295 |
| | Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 333 | 1,125 | 1,420 | 1,818 | 2,394 |
| | North Shields | 325 | 1,393 | 1,494 | 1,452 | 1,577 |
| | South Shields | 44 | 41 | 86 | 116 | 259 |
| | Sunderland | 96 | 104 | 136 | 193 | 403 |
| | *Northumbria* | 875 | 2,776 | 3,492 | 4,988 | 6,668 |
| | Barnsley | 72 | 77 | 138 | 177 | 216 |
| | Doncaster | 139 | 247 | 281 | 319 | 413 |
| | Rotherham | 87 | 114 | 218 | 241 | 335 |
| | Sheffield | 199 | 275 | 406 | 651 | 720 |
| | *South Yorkshire* | 497 | 713 | 1,043 | 1,388 | 1,684 |
| | Bradford | 498 | 905 | 1,855 | 3,613 | 6,619 |
| | Dewsbury | 40 | 278 | 634 | 257 | 235 |
| | Halifax | 71 | 138 | 152 | 162 | 201 |
| | Huddersfield | 161 | 129 | 214 | 272 | 407 |

*Number of charging orders by HMCS region and county court in England and Wales 2003-07*

| Region | Court name | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Keighley | 37 | 69 | 438 | 1,935 | 2,764 |
| | Leeds | 425 | 647 | 1,001 | 1,206 | 1,568 |
| | Pontefract | 54 | 77 | 187 | 166 | 207 |
| | Wakefield | 73 | 101 | 152 | 181 | 264 |
| | *West Yorkshire* | 1,359 | 2,344 | 4,633 | 7,792 | 12,265 |
| | North East total | 3,634 | 7,277 | 11,329 | 17,031 | 25,359 |
| *North West* | Chester | 321 | 787 | 813 | 332 | 742 |
| | Crewe | 42 | 39 | 102 | 110 | 142 |
| | Macclesfield | 54 | 46 | 75 | 104 | 157 |
| | Northwich | 17 | 40 | 63 | 99 | 162 |
| | Runcorn | 32 | 32 | 90 | 88 | 112 |
| | Warrington | 51 | 82 | 118 | 168 | 324 |
| | *Cheshire* | 517 | 1,026 | 1,261 | 901 | 1,639 |
| | Barrow-in-Furness | 31 | 31 | 46 | 53 | 89 |
| | Carlisle | 32 | 46 | 53 | 92 | 111 |
| | Kendal | 11 | 6 | 14 | 18 | 27 |
| | Penrith | 16 | 6 | 15 | 14 | 19 |
| | Whitehaven | 17 | 34 | 30 | 49 | 86 |
| | *Cumbria* | 107 | 123 | 158 | 226 | 332 |
| | Altrincham | 172 | 162 | 126 | 80 | 174 |
| | Bolton | 98 | 135 | 160 | 192 | 375 |
| | Bury | 86 | 83 | 127 | 191 | 274 |
| | Leigh | 28 | 31 | 42 | 73 | 113 |
| | Manchester | 404 | 408 | 570 | 694 | 1,429 |
| | Oldham | 151 | 151 | 205 | 324 | 516 |
| | Salford | 84 | 95 | 170 | 201 | 438 |
| | Stockport | 103 | 112 | 167 | 209 | 365 |
| | Tameside | 84 | 84 | 161 | 188 | 269 |
| | Wigan | 104 | 127 | 268 | 441 | 554 |
| | *Greater Manchester* | 1,314 | 1,388 | 1,996 | 2,593 | 4,507 |
| | Accrington | 23 | 35 | 51 | 70 | 108 |
| | Blackburn | 58 | 90 | 133 | 158 | 216 |
| | Blackpool | 117 | 120 | 234 | 376 | 445 |
| | Burnley | 41 | 59 | 62 | 104 | 139 |
| | Chorley | 18 | 30 | 33 | 59 | 82 |
| | Lancaster | 36 | 53 | 57 | 94 | 104 |
| | Nelson | 26 | 28 | 57 | 45 | 60 |
| | Preston | 108 | 112 | 182 | 235 | 286 |
| | Rawtenstall | 24 | 24 | 24 | 37 | 98 |
| | *Lancashire* | 451 | 551 | 833 | 1,178 | 1,538 |
| | Birkenhead | 104 | 126 | 154 | 249 | 334 |
| | Liverpool | 289 | 381 | 560 | 639 | 1,043 |
| | Southport | 46 | 46 | 72 | 99 | 145 |
| | St. Helens | 66 | 82 | 194 | 230 | 397 |

*Number of charging orders by HMCS region and county court in England and Wales 2003-07*

| Region | Court name | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Merseyside* | 505 | 635 | 980 | 1,217 | 1,919 |
| | North West total | 2,894 | 3,723 | 5,228 | 6,115 | 9,935 |
| *South East* | Bedford | 45 | 69 | 105 | 186 | 240 |
| | Luton | 88 | 102 | 238 | 324 | 400 |
| | *Bedfordshire* | 133 | 171 | 343 | 510 | 640 |
| | Cambridge | 62 | 90 | 154 | 177 | 190 |
| | Huntingdon | 32 | 37 | 47 | 69 | 115 |
| | Peterborough | 124 | 123 | 200 | 273 | 293 |
| | *Cambridgeshire* | 218 | 250 | 401 | 519 | 598 |
| | Basildon | 101 | 139 | 219 | 342 | 526 |
| | Chelmsford | 71 | 95 | 165 | 222 | 285 |
| | Colchester | 122 | 126 | 221 | 315 | 425 |
| | Harlow | 70 | 67 | 114 | 133 | 225 |
| | Southend-on-Sea | 177 | 259 | 424 | 686 | 980 |
| | *Essex* | 541 | 686 | 1,143 | 1,698 | 2,441 |
| | Hertford | 44 | 89 | 63 | 103 | 198 |
| | Hitchin | 77 | 90 | 106 | 137 | 222 |
| | St. Albans | 41 | 45 | 75 | 128 | 564 |
| | Watford | 171 | 234 | 375 | 440 | 652 |
| | *Hertfordshire* | 333 | 458 | 619 | 808 | 1,636 |
| | Ashford | 43 | 64 | 124 | 152 | 233 |
| | Canterbury | 80 | 103 | 157 | 196 | 272 |
| | Dartford | 89 | 112 | 243 | 316 | 635 |
| | Gravesend | 16 | 40 | 51 | 69 | 0 |
| | Maidstone | 63 | 62 | 112 | 168 | 205 |
| | Medway | 102 | 117 | 208 | 314 | 418 |
| | Thanet | 20 | 59 | 55 | 103 | 157 |
| | Tunbridge Wells | 44 | 61 | 120 | 172 | 191 |
| | *Kent* | 457 | 618 | 1,070 | 1,490 | 2,111 |
| | King's Lynn | 51 | 49 | 105 | 111 | 208 |
| | Norwich | 136 | 143 | 262 | 259 | 399 |
| | *Norfolk* | 187 | 192 | 367 | 370 | 607 |
| | Bury St. Edmunds | 46 | 53 | 68 | 121 | 217 |
| | Ipswich | 105 | 104 | 170 | 182 | 269 |
| | Lowestoft | 41 | 59 | 98 | 147 | 157 |
| | *Suffolk* | 192 | 216 | 336 | 450 | 643 |
| | Epsom | 82 | 119 | 527 | 515 | 340 |
| | Guildford | 61 | 73 | 88 | 189 | 775 |
| | Reigate | 154 | 178 | 220 | 355 | 369 |
| | Staines | 75 | 81 | 121 | 195 | 262 |
| | *Surrey* | 372 | 451 | 956 | 1,254 | 1,746 |

*Number of charging orders by HMCS region and county court in England and Wales 2003-07*

| Region | Court name | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Brighton | 583 | 434 | 654 | 1,378 | 2,517 |
| | Chichester | 86 | 73 | 134 | 200 | 282 |
| | Eastbourne | 30 | 52 | 89 | 120 | 191 |
| | Hastings | 46 | 63 | 108 | 118 | 199 |
| | Haywards Heath | 26 | 31 | 36 | 79 | 106 |
| | Horsham | 122 | 201 | 166 | 173 | 322 |
| | Lewes | 22 | 20 | 48 | 53 | 85 |
| | Worthing | 77 | 73 | 131 | 439 | 363 |
| | *Sussex* | 992 | 947 | 1,366 | 2,560 | 4,065 |
| | Aylesbury | 48 | 61 | 74 | 161 | 183 |
| | Banbury | 75 | 136 | 232 | 532 | 698 |
| | High Wycombe | 44 | 52 | 59 | 116 | 136 |
| | Milton Keynes | 101 | 177 | 245 | 435 | 655 |
| | Newbury | 36 | 43 | 70 | 54 | 91 |
| | Oxford | 115 | 181 | 368 | 507 | 766 |
| | Reading | 171 | 272 | 310 | 321 | 497 |
| | Slough | 86 | 124 | 213 | 268 | 492 |
| | *Thames Valley* | 676 | 1,046 | 1,571 | 2,394 | 3,518 |
| | South East total | 4,101 | 5,035 | 8,172 | 12,053 | 18,005 |
| *South West* | Bath | 34 | 31 | 53 | 62 | 77 |
| | Bristol | 365 | 494 | 635 | 992 | 1,478 |
| | Taunton | 48 | 55 | 89 | 125 | 148 |
| | Weston-super-Mare | 55 | 51 | 70 | 121 | 123 |
| | Yeovil | 153 | 91 | 114 | 193 | 188 |
| | *Avon and Somerset* | 655 | 722 | 961 | 1,493 | 2,014 |
| | Barnstaple | 76 | 70 | 52 | 81 | 100 |
| | Bodmin | 42 | 52 | 54 | 77 | 110 |
| | Exeter | 369 | 331 | 809 | 1,305 | 834 |
| | Penzance | 27 | 25 | 52 | 79 | 85 |
| | Plymouth | 175 | 155 | 171 | 266 | 352 |
| | Torquay | 121 | 82 | 104 | 125 | 200 |
| | Truro | 54 | 117 | 155 | 132 | 143 |
| | *Devon and Cornwall* | 864 | 832 | 1,397 | 2,065 | 1,824 |
| | Bournemouth | 139 | 382 | 298 | 311 | 465 |
| | Poole | 124 | 177 | 233 | 318 | 345 |
| | Weymouth | 40 | 35 | 48 | 58 | 57 |
| | *Dorset* | 303 | 594 | 579 | 687 | 867 |
| | Cheltenham | 70 | 126 | 110 | 152 | 148 |
| | Gloucester | 106 | 139 | 183 | 253 | 339 |
| | *Gloucestershire* | 176 | 265 | 293 | 405 | 487 |
| | Aldershot | 82 | 108 | 141 | 187 | 276 |

*Number of charging orders by HMCS region and county court in England and Wales 2003-07*

| *Region* | *Court name* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Basingstoke | 51 | 67 | 106 | 119 | 201 |
| | Newport (IoW) | 27 | 21 | 57 | 88 | 95 |
| | Portsmouth | 126 | 150 | 234 | 361 | 517 |
| | Southampton | 235 | 221 | 512 | 757 | 822 |
| | Winchester | 28 | 32 | 23 | 34 | 34 |
| | *Hampshire and Isle of Wight* | 549 | 599 | 1,073 | 1,546 | 1,945 |
| | Salisbury | 18 | 19 | 37 | 46 | 71 |
| | Swindon | 67 | 80 | 165 | 341 | 567 |
| | Trowbridge | 49 | 62 | 129 | 154 | 211 |
| | *Wiltshire* | 134 | 161 | 331 | 541 | 849 |
| | South West total | 2,681 | 3,173 | 4,634 | 6,737 | 7,986 |
| *Wales* | Aberystwyth | 6 | 13 | 14 | 17 | 36 |
| | Brecknock | 6 | 5 | 8 | 14 | 32 |
| | Carmarthen | 32 | 21 | 46 | 65 | 104 |
| | Haverfordwest | 24 | 11 | 30 | 57 | 70 |
| | Llanelli | 42 | 29 | 38 | 51 | 126 |
| | Welshpool | 7 | 16 | 19 | 24 | 29 |
| | *Dyfed-Powys* | 117 | 95 | 155 | 228 | 397 |
| | Blackwood | 2,015 | 229 | 215 | 211 | 276 |
| | Newport (Gwent) | 61 | 117 | 210 | 364 | 672 |
| | Pontypool | 6 | 46 | 69 | 81 | 88 |
| | *Gwent* | 2,082 | 392 | 494 | 656 | 1,036 |
| | Caernarfon | 20 | 34 | 23 | 51 | 57 |
| | Conwy and Colwyn | 15 | 11 | 33 | 56 | 67 |
| | Llangefni | 14 | 16 | 21 | 21 | 60 |
| | Mold | 15 | 13 | 41 | 36 | 86 |
| | Rhyl | 35 | 46 | 75 | 95 | 176 |
| | Wrexham | 26 | 58 | 71 | 110 | 312 |
| | *North Wales* | 125 | 178 | 264 | 369 | 758 |
| | Aberdare | 8 | 24 | 22 | 45 | 105 |
| | Bridgend | 45 | 73 | 101 | 166 | 213 |
| | Cardiff | 2,312 | 4,274 | 5,810 | 7,176 | 8,428 |
| | Merthyr Tydfil | 14 | 26 | 36 | 59 | 93 |
| | Neath | 40 | 58 | 97 | 110 | 182 |
| | Pontypridd | 62 | 68 | 130 | 145 | 270 |
| | Swansea | 87 | 101 | 211 | 256 | 374 |
| | *South Wales* | 2,568 | 4,624 | 6,407 | 7,957 | 9,665 |
| | Wales Total | 4,892 | 5,289 | 7,320 | 9,210 | 11,856 |
| | England and Wales total | 25,217 | 33,235 | 49,218 | 67,090 | 97,026 |

Source:
HMCS CaseMan system

## Marriage

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 315-17W, on marriage, (1) how many orders under section 55 of the Family Law Act 1986 in relation to the validity of marriages were *(a)* granted and *(b)* denied in each of the last five years; [235877]

(2) how many orders for judicial separation under section 55 of the Family Law Act 1986 were *(a)* granted and *(b)* denied in each of the last five years. [235878]

**Mr. Straw:** The courts do not record how many applications under section 55 of the Family Law Act 1986 are received, nor do they record the outcome of these cases. Anecdotal evidence from courts suggests that there are very few.

There are no provisions for judicial separation under the Family Law Act 1986. The provisions for judicial separation can be found within the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973. There were 3,388 applications made for judicial separation during the five-year period 2003-07. Records show that for the same five-year period 1,953 decrees of judicial separation were pronounced (the following table sets out the number of cases per year). The courts do not keep records of the number of applications which were denied. For comparison 778,575 applications for divorce were received for the same period.

Not all applications for judicial separation result in a final order as many parties choose not to pursue the case. This is not always because the parties have reconciled. The law prohibits divorce during the first year of marriage and some applications for judicial separation issued during the first year of marriage are withdrawn on the first anniversary of the marriage, before a decree is granted, and a petition for divorce then is issued.

*Family courts—summary statistics on matrimonial proceedings, 2003-07*

| | | *Number of cases* |
|---|---|---|
| *Judicial separation* | *Petition filed* | *Decrees granted* |
| 2003 | 826 | 467 |
| 2004 | 745 | 419 |
| 2005 | 700 | 385 |
| 2006 | 615 | 353 |
| 2007 | 502 | 329 |

*Source:*
HMCS FamilyMan system.
Published in Judicial and Court Statistics 2007, September 2008.

## Pleural Plaques

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish the Government's response to the consultation paper on pleural plaques; and if he will make a statement. [236535]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Government's consultation on pleural plaques closed on 1 October, and the responses are currently being analysed. We will seek to publish a response paper outlining the way forward as soon as possible.

## Prison Service: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed in each year since 1997. [235956]

**Mr. Hanson:** Information about the numbers of public sector Prison Service employees of any grade suspended from duty in each year since 1997 is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost by contacting 138 establishments across England and Wales.

Information about prison officer suspensions in the contracted prison estate 2003[1] to 31 October 2008 are set out in the following table.

[1] The Office for National Commissioning (formerly Office for Contracted Prisons) was not in operation before 2003. Prison officer includes: prison custody officer and senior officer for the contracted estate.

| | *Suspensions* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 15 |
| 2004 | 30 |
| 2005 | 34 |
| 2006 | 48 |
| 2007 | 51 |
| 2008 | 75 |

Prison officer dismissals in the public sector Prison Service and the contracted prison estate 1998[1] to 31 October 2008 set out in the following table.

[1] No dismissals data are available for 1997 as the public sector Prison Service personnel recording system was not established until 1998.

| | *Dismissals* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 21 |
| 1999 | 29 |
| 2000 | 72 |
| 2001 | 109 |
| 2002 | 141 |
| 2003 | 229 |
| 2004 | 200 |
| 2005 | 237 |
| 2006 | 225 |
| 2007 | 266 |
| 2008 | 176 |

The information includes dismissals for: inefficiency, conduct and performance reasons. Prison officer includes: prison officer, senior officer, and principal officer for the public sector prisons; and prison custody officer and senior officer for the contracted estate.

The number of dismissals increased significantly in 2003 due to a greater number of medical inefficiency dismissals as a result of more robust management of sickness absence in the public sector Prison Service from that time. In addition to this, the Office for National Commissioning (formerly Office for Contracted Prisons) began operating in 2003 and therefore data for contracted prisons are included from this date.

## Prisoners: Drugs

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners were treated for drug addiction in each year since 1997. [235952]

**Mr. Hanson:** Information about drug treatment programmes in prison was not collated centrally until 2001-02. The following table shows details from that year onwards.

| | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Drug treatment programmes* | | | | | | | |
| Starts male | 4,362 | 3,978 | 4,188 | 7,130 | 10,166 | 10,383 | 10,514 |
| Starts female[1] | 329 | 408 | 515 | 479 | 577 | 767 | 805 |
| Total | 4,691 | 4,386 | 4,703 | 7,609 | 10,743 | 11,150 | 11,319 |
| *CARATs* | | | | | | | |
| SMTAs[2] male | 36,031 | 49,576 | 48,876 | 53,262 | 59,118 | 58,386 | 58,828 |
| SMTAs female[1] | 3,307 | 4,320 | 5,249 | 5,763 | 6,893 | 7,287 | 6,995 |
| Total | 39,338 | 51,896 | 54,125 | 59,025 | 66,011 | 65,673 | 65,823 |
| *Clinical treatment*[3] | | | | | | | |
| Male[4] | n/a | n/a | n/a | 45,311 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Female | n/a | n/a | n/a | 8,592 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Total | 41,765 | 50,701 | 57,891 | 53,903 | 53,773 | 51,520 | 58,809 |

[1] The system for recording these figures is unable to distinguish gender other than by the type of establishment where the information is recorded. Some establishments may have been subject to re-role mid-year and some interventions may have been delivered on mixed sites. Therefore the gender split is a good approximation but will be subject to some inaccuracies.
[2] Substance Misuse Triage Assessments.
[3] Detoxification or maintenance prescriptions.
[4] 2004-05 is the only year that complete central data were collected on the number of female prisoners undergoing clinical treatment. This was carried out by survey.

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners tested positive for drugs in each year since 1997. [235958]

**Mr. Hanson:** Prisoners are subject to mandatory, voluntary and clinical drug tests. The number of positive tests for drugs under the mandatory drug testing programme is given in the following table. Voluntary and clinical

drug test results are not held centrally and could be obtained by surveying 138 establishments, which would only be at disproportionate cost.

All data in this answer have been drawn from an administrative data system. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

| | *(a) Number of male prisoners testing positive* | *(b) Number of female prisoners testing positive* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 19,637 | 596 |
| 1998-99 | 18,420 | 600 |
| 1999-2000 | 17,098 | 780 |
| 2000-01 | 15,990 | 812 |
| 2001-02 | 13,689 | 681 |
| 2002-03 | 12,304 | 578 |
| 2003-04 | 13,959 | 685 |
| 2004-05 | 14,274 | 813 |
| 2005-06 | 13,819 | 891 |
| 2006-07 | 12,342 | 930 |
| 2007-08 | 13,291 | 687 |

**Prisons: Childbirth**

**Sandra Osborne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women have given birth while serving a prison sentence in England in each of the last five years. [235686]

**Mr. Hanson:** The numbers of prisoners who have given birth while serving their custodial sentence since April 2005, when the Prison Service began collecting figures centrally, are as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| April 2008-October 2008 | 56 |
| April 2007-March 2008 | 102 |
| April 2006-March 2007 | 99 |
| April 2005-March 2006 | 106 |

The Government are seeking to encourage greater use of community sentences for women offenders where possible. Where a custodial sentence has been given, specific provision is made for those women who are pregnant or have babies with them in prison.

**Prisons: Death**

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* suicides, *(b)* deaths from natural causes and *(c)* suspicious deaths there were in prisons in each year since 1997. [235955]

**Mr. Malik:** The National Offender Management Service's system for classifying deaths in prison custody consists of four categories indicating the apparent cause of death. These are 'self-inflicted', 'natural causes', 'homicide' and 'other non-natural'. There is no specific category of 'suspicious deaths'. The deaths in prison custody since 1997 to 13 November 2007 have been classified as follows:

| | *Homicide* | *Natural causes* | *Other non-natural* | *Self-inflicted* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 2 | 48 | 1 | 68 | 119 |
| 1998 | 4 | 46 | 1 | 83 | 134 |
| 1999 | 0 | 58 | 0 | 91 | 149 |
| 2000 | 3 | 62 | 1 | 81 | 147 |
| 2001 | 0 | 68 | 1 | 73 | 142 |
| 2002 | 0 | 66 | 3 | 95 | 164 |
| 2003 | 1 | 86 | 2 | 94 | 183 |
| 2004 | 2 | 102 | 9 | 95 | 208 |
| 2005 | 3 | 88 | 5 | 78 | 174 |
| 2006 | 0 | 83 | 3 | 67 | 153 |
| 2007 | 2 | 90 | 0 | 92 | 184 |
| 2008 (year to date) | 3 | 80 | 2 | 51 | 136 |

There is also one further death in 2008 which remains unclassified. As inquests can take several years to be completed, all classifications are considered as provisional. Historical numbers can change slightly when new information is received.

**Small Claims: Internet**

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many small claims for matters relating to the trade of counterfeit goods over the internet were reported in 2007. [235830]

**Bridget Prentice:** There were approximately 1.2 million small claims issued in the county courts of England and Wales in 2007. However, figures relating solely to small claims about the trade of counterfeit goods over the internet are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## TREASURY

**Bank Services**

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps are being taken to prevent future instances of home state deposit guarantee schemes being unable to cover the savings of UK depositors. [231016]

**Ian Pearson:** The European Deposit Guarantee Schemes Directive (94/19/EC) sets the minimum level of compensation to retail depositors in credit institutions in the event of the failure of a deposit taker. The directive is in the course of being updated to increase the minimum level of coverage, reduce the payout delay and introduce 100 per cent. coverage of eligible deposits.

**Banking Supervision**

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the extent and scope of his responsibilities and accountability to Parliament in relation to the activity of the arms-length bodies managing the stakes taken by the Government in *(a)* the Royal Bank of Scotland, *(b)* Halifax/Bank of Scotland, *(c)* Lloyds TSB Bank and *(d)* Northern

Rock; what guidance has been offered in each case in responding to correspondence from hon. Members; and on what matters he will (i) answer questions and (ii) refer such questions to the executive bodies of each institution. [228296]

**Ian Pearson:** As part of the recapitalisation scheme announced on 8 October, it is intended that new non-executive directors will be appointed to the boards of each of RBS and the merged Lloyds TSB/HBOS. These will be independent non-executive directors appointed by the board of each bank. UK Financial Investments, the company which will manage the Treasury's shareholding, will work with those boards to ensure the individuals have appropriate commercial experience. The purpose behind their appointment is to strengthen the board of each bank and to provide independent oversight in respect of governance and other matters in the interests of all the shareholders of each bank.

Annual reports on UKFI's performance will be laid before Parliament, and the chair and chief executive will make themselves available for scrutiny by the relevant parliamentary committees.

Northern Rock (in common with all institutions in which UKFI has a stake) will continue to have its own independent board and management team, determining its own strategy.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (a) cards, (b) parties and (c) decorations in the last 12 months. [237495]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1668-69W.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Andrew George:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department has issued to staff responsible for handling calls from the public in respect of *(a)* accuracy of responses, *(b)* the cost to the caller, *(c)* the duration of calls, *(d)* customer satisfaction, *(e)* access to accurate records, *(f)* confidentiality, *(g)* access to staff capable of making executive decisions and *(h)* fulfilling undertakings to call a customer back; and what targets have been set for (i) each of the above categories and (ii) any other performance measures. [237088]

**Angela Eagle:** All Treasury officials are expected to comply with the provisions of the Civil Service Code and to deal with members of the public and their affairs fairly, efficiently, promptly, effectively and sensitively.

### Hotels

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on hotel bills in 2007-08. [237148]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 780W to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson).

### Housing: Valuation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 988W, on housing: valuation, if he will place in the Library a copy of the maps and boundaries of each locality within the billing authority of Bromley. [235868]

(2) pursuant to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1393W, on housing: valuation, for what reason the numerical co-efficient values used by the Valuation Office Agency are commercially confidential. [235875]

**Mr. Timms:** Valuation Office Agency (VOA) provides valuation services in competition with other providers. Publication of this information would weaken the competitive position of VOA.

### Kaupthing Singer and Friedland

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he gave to the partial or complete taking into public ownership of the UK operations of Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander. [230732]

**Ian Pearson:** On 8 October acting on the advice of the bank and FSA, the Chancellor acted to protect the retail depositors in Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, a UK-based banking subsidiary of Kaupthing Bank.

The Treasury used the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008 to ensure a resolution that preserves financial stability and provides protection and continuity of business for depositors. KSF's Kaupthing Edge deposit business was transferred to ING Direct, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ING Group, which operates through its branch in the UK. The remainder of Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander business was put into administration.

Any retail depositors eligible to claim under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme whose business has not been transferred to ING Direct will be paid out in full through the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

This was the right course of action to protect savers, ensure financial stability, and safeguard the interests of the taxpayer.

### Members: Correspondence

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 19 September 2008 from the hon. Member for Congleton on behalf of her constituent Mr. Robert Arian. [236241]

**Ian Pearson:** I understand the Financial Services Secretary has now replied to the hon. Lady.

### NHS: Consultants

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the recent analysis of consultants' NHS and private incomes funded by the Department of Health, on what occasions in the last

five years access to *(a)* anonymised, *(b)* pseudo-anonymised and *(c)* non-anonymised data from tax returns has been granted to (i) non-HM Revenue and Customs personnel and (ii) non-Civil Service personnel; and how many tax returns have been used in this way. [231976]

**Mr. Timms:** In the last five years, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has conducted sample surveys into consultants' earnings on behalf of Department of Health for the tax years 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, using data derived from HMRC records. HMRC has not released any data from this work to non-HM Revenue and Customs personnel in either pseudo-anonymised or non-anonymised form. Only anonymised outputs were released to Department of Health or to The NHS Information Centre for health and social care. The number of tax records used in each study is as follows:

| *Income tax year* | *Count of tax records* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 1,554 |
| 2002-03 | 21,864 |
| 2003-04 | 24,407 |
| 2004-05 | 22,814 |

In addition, at the request of Department of Health for 2003-04 only, HMRC created an anonymised statistical dataset relating to consultants' earnings. It contained only the data items for 24,407 cases that were necessary to enable an academic researcher acting on behalf of Department of Health to undertake statistical analysis. The researcher was only allowed supervised access to this one anonymised, statistical dataset on HMRC premises, in a stand alone, secure environment.

### Performance Appraisal

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235210]

**Angela Eagle:** During the reporting year 2007-08:

41 (6 per cent.) staff below SCS received a tranche 3 appraisal marking described as

"Some significant shortcomings over the performance year that need to be addressed or are being addressed, expected overall to be around 5 to 10% of people across the Treasury."

5 (7 per cent.) staff in the SCS received a group 4 marking described as

"Bottom 5-10% of performers—do not receive a bonus and have action taken to address under performance or ongoing poor performance, including the drawing up of a Performance Improvement Plan."

### Public Sector: Procurement

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will incorporate British Standards Institution Standard BS ISO 15686-5 on Standardized Method of Life Cycle Costing for Construction Procurement into public sector procurement of new buildings. [236828]

**Angela Eagle:** Government welcome the development of the Standardized Method of Life Cycle Costing for Construction Procurement. Officials from both the Office of Government Commerce and Defence Estates have also been involved with BSI and others in the development of this work.

Government policy, set out in the HM Treasury Green Book: "Appraisals and Evaluation in Central Government" already requires investment decisions to be made on the basis of value for money over the whole-life of the asset or service.

As the construction industry moves to adopt the standardised approach then that will help all sectors, including Government, to ensure that decision-making is appropriately informed.

### Tax Credit: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of children in Crosby constituency who have been taken out of poverty by tax credits. [236681]

**Mr. Timms:** Tax credits play a key role in making work pay and reducing poverty, and have helped to lift 600,000 children out of relative poverty since 1998-99.

Child poverty statistics are not available on a constituency basis, however, estimates of the number of recipient families with tax credits, including the number of children in these families, by constituency, as at 5 April 2008, are available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Geographical Analyses April 2008". This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

This shows that 9,700 children in Crosby were benefiting from tax credits in April 2008, though it is not known how many of these have been lifted above the poverty line as a result.

### UK Financial Investments

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements he has made for the accountability to Parliament of his Department's arms-length company, UK Financial Investments Limited (UKFI); from what budget UKFI will be funded; and what salary will be paid to *(a)* the chairperson, *(b)* the chief executive and *(c)* each of the non-executive board members. [234604]

**Ian Pearson:** Annual reports on UKFI's performance will be laid before Parliament and the chair and chief executive will make themselves available for scrutiny by the relevant parliamentary committees.

UKFI will be funded by HM Treasury which will in due course determine the remuneration packages of the chair, chief executive and non-executive board members.

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will appoint non-executive directors from *(a)* banking trades' unions, *(b)* relevant non-governmental organisations and *(c)* elected politicians as non-executive directors to the board of UK Financial Investments Ltd. [236231]

**Ian Pearson:** The Chancellor's letter of 3 November 2008 to the Chairman of the Treasury Committee announced the appointment of Sir Philip Hampton as

Chair of UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI). Three further non-executive directors will be recruited to the Board of UKFI on the basis of appropriate commercial skill and experience through a process of fair and open competition.

### Valuation Office: Information and Communications Technology

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's *(a)* Information Asset Register and *(b)* E-BAR post-implementation review. [235076]

**Mr. Timms:** The VOA does not currently hold an Information Asset Register. We are currently reviewing this position and associated use of the Government Information Asset Register (as held by Office of Public Sector Information).

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1429W. The post-implementation review is already in the Library.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer Question 228544, on pension funds, tabled by the hon. Member for North East Hertfordshire on 15 October 2008. [236729]

**Ian Pearson:** I have now done so and very much regret not having been in a position to do so earlier.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work for and *(b)* provide assistance to his Department. [236644]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office employs two full-time press officers, a Chief Press Officer based in Edinburgh and a Press Officer based in London.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his departmental website received in 2007-08. [236645]

**Ann McKechin:** Between March 2007 and April 2008, the Scotland Office website received 350,006 page hits and 94,714 visitors.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost of maintaining his departmental website was in 2007-08; and what it is expected to be in 2008-09. [236646]

**Ann McKechin:** Between March 2007 and April 2008, the cost of hosting the Scotland Office website was £550 and the cost of routine maintenance was £2,440. In the period 2008-09, the hosting cost is expected to be £1,700. This is due to the adoption of a new hosting contract that will enable the content management of the website to be brought in-house. The routine maintenance costs for 2008-09 are therefore expected to be minimal.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236931]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office sponsors the Boundary Commission for Scotland, a small advisory non-departmental public body responsible for reviews of:

constituencies and regions for the Scottish Parliament;

constituencies in Scotland for the Westminster Parliament.

The Commission's budget for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 is set out in the Scotland Office 2008 annual report which is available on the Scotland Office website.

Further information about the Commission can be found on its website:

www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk

### Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre: Children

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he plans to make an announcement on the details of an alternative to detention for children at Dungavel. [235996]

**Ann McKechin:** On Thursday 23 October my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced that the UK Border Agency, working with the Scottish Government, Glasgow City Council the Scottish Refugee Council and other partners, is going ahead with an alternatives to detention pilot based in Glasgow. The pilot is due to commence in early 2009 and run for an initial 18-month period, although this will kept under review when the pilot commences.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many official receptions have been hosted by the Government Equalities Office since its creation; what the cost was of each reception; and who attended each reception. [235474]

**Maria Eagle:** Since its creation on 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has hosted nine official receptions.

I refer the right hon. Member to a previous response on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 4W, which lists details up to and including February 2008. Details of the four receptions since February are listed as follows:

| Reception | Date | Cost (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Women in Business | 12 May 2008 | 3,972 |
| BAME Councillor's Taskforce | 19 May 2008 | 3,300 |
| Launch of a Framework for a Fairer Future (The Equality Bill) | 25 June 2008 | 3,892 |
| Women in Public Appointments | 14 July 2008 | 5,396 |
| Black History Month | 3 November 2008 | 8,731 |
| Total | | 25,291 |

All figures are inclusive of VAT.

Lists of those attending these receptions will be placed in the Commons Library. This will be subject to data protection requirements.

## WALES

### Departmental Expenditure

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on hotel bills in 2007-08. [237143]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** My Department is split over two sites with a requirement that some staff have to attend meetings in both London and Cardiff as well as supporting Ministers visiting different parts of Wales. For the year 2007-08, £26,879 was spent on hotels.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Loans

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on banks lending to farmers. [237199]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]*: DEFRA has not received any recent formal representations about banks lending to farmers. The issue has, on occasion, been informally raised by farming representatives at meetings, but I am not aware of any current concerns and my officials will remain in touch with the sector should any problems arise.

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many holdings claimed payments under the single payment scheme not exceeding 250 euros or equivalent in the last year for which figures are available. [230704]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Rural Payments Agency is the accredited paying agency for the common agricultural policy within England and, as such, does not hold equivalent information for single payment scheme (SPS) claimants in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The latest information available for English SPS claimants in 2007 shows that there were 7,475 claims with a value less than €250.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what value of payments were made under the single payment scheme in each of the last three years, broken down by claims *(a)* not exceeding £1, *(b)* between £1 and £100, *(c)* between £100 and £1,000, *(d)* between £1,000 and £10,000, *(e)* between £10,000 and £50,000, *(f)* between £50,000 and £100,000, *(g)* between £100,000 and £250,000, *(h)* between £250,000 and £500,000, *(i)* between £500,000 and £1,000,000, *(j)* between £1,000,000 and £2,000,000 and *(k)* more than £2,000,000. [230705]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Rural Payments Agency is the accredited paying agency for the common agricultural policy within England and, as such, does not hold information for single payment scheme (SPS) claimants in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The following table shows the payments, made by value groups, in England in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

| | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Value group | Number | £ | Number | £ | Number | £ |
| 0 to 0.99p | 69 | 5.21 | 8 | 0.09 | 5 | 0.79 |
| £1 to £99.99 | 18,112 | 898,534.50 | 9,186 | 528,220.46 | 3,537 | 231,971.23 |
| £100 to £999.99 | 27,852 | 10,562,649.70 | 26,247 | 10,664,320.98 | 25,442 | 11,165,845.04 |
| £1,000 to £9,999.99 | 32,398 | 144,129,777.75 | 33,327 | 144,190,623.10 | 37,465 | 157,388,954.71 |
| £10,000 to £49,999.99 | 31,614 | 735,783,916.99 | 31,562 | 733,872,075.35 | 31,266 | 713,844,182.21 |
| £50,000 to £99,999.99 | 5,352 | 364,965,724.21 | 5,063 | 343,586,384.35 | 4,722 | 320,080,430.15 |
| £100,000 to £249,999.99 | 1,668 | 232,135,957.58 | 1,470 | 203,294,728.89 | 1,380 | 193,459,905.15 |
| £250,000 to £499,999.99 | 148 | 48,156,413.15 | 125 | 41,565,049.93 | 103 | 34,109,130.32 |
| £500,000 to £999,999.99 | 20 | 12,501,319.57 | 16 | 10,635,422.49 | 16 | 10,501,927.45 |
| £1,000,000 to £1,999,999.99 | 6 | 7,063,245.99 | 5 | 5,554,856.48 | 4 | 4,709,381.74 |
| More than £2,000,000 | 1 | 2,173,791.69 | 1 | 2,412,054.35 | 1 | 2,191,054.26 |
| Total | 117,240 | 1,558,371,336.34 | 107,010 | 1,496,303,736.48 | 103,941 | 1,447,762,791.05 |

### Departmental Buildings

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 610W, on departmental buildings, whether his Department is paying empty property business rates in relation to 1A Page Street. [236041]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Department having claimed the empty property rates relief permitted by legislation, is now paying empty property business rates in respect of this vacant building.

### Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 654-56W, on domestic waste, what advice has been given to the local authorities by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme on how to meet the targets to reduce residual household waste. [236039]

**Jane Kennedy:** In order to reduce the amount of residual household waste for disposal, local authorities can promote a range of sustainable activities. These include waste prevention, encouraging re-use, home composting and increasing recycling. Local authorities are actively promoting all these options. WRAP offers a wide range of guidance and practical support to local authorities on these issues.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 401W, on the Waste and Resources Action Programme, whether the awareness programme included discussions of issues relating to *(a)* alternative weekly collection, *(b)* household waste collection and *(c)* charging for the collection of household waste. [236040]

**Jane Kennedy:** The awareness programme involved meetings at which WRAP staff updated individual political stakeholders on the full range of WRAP's activities. This included the four priorities in WRAP's current business plan: food waste, packaging waste, quality of materials and providing advice to local authorities on devising effective collection schemes.

### Floods: Essex

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps have been taken to strengthen flood protection measures in Essex. [235799]

**Jane Kennedy:** In the last year, the Environment Agency has invested approximately £22.7 million in Essex. This includes work on defence improvements, maintenance and the construction of new schemes. The Environment Agency has invested in strategic plans and the detailed appraisal of schemes to be constructed in future years. Improvements have been made to the accuracy and availability of flood warnings and the Essex multi-agency flood plan has been improved.

### Inspections

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Animal Health Executive Agency has spent on training its inspectors in each of the last five years, broken down by training programme. [237197]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* Animal Health (AH) became an Executive Agency of DEFRA on 1 April 2005 and can only report full year spend for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. AH do not hold figures of training by programme; this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The overall spend figures are shown in the following table:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 146,699 |
| 2006-07 | 631,909 |
| 2007-08 | 978,113 |

*Note:*
AH was called the 'State Veterinary Service' upon its inception on 1 April 2005 and was joined by the Dairy Hygiene Inspectorate, the Egg Marketing Inspectorate and the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service to together become 'Animal Health' on 1 April 2007.
*Source:*
These data were sourced from the Corporate Finance and Human Resources teams, both
located in Animal Health Corporate Centre at Worcester.

### Public Relations: Forestry Commission

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Forestry Commission has spent on *(a)* external public affairs and *(b)* public relations in each of the last five years. [236523]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Forestry Commission in England engages in a wide range of external communications activities including the promotion of forestry policy and the benefits of sustainable woodland management. It also promotes the public forest estate both as a sustainably managed asset and a major resource for public access and recreation. Promotion and communication of these activities is delivered though a wide range of channels including the media, publications, events, marketing of visitor attractions and on the internet. Indicative costs for this work over the last five years are:

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 529 |
| 2004-05 | 640 |
| 2005-06 | 847 |
| 2006-07 | 958 |
| 2007-08 | 980 |

### Recycling

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if the Environment Agency will take steps to increase the transparency of

the final destination of materials collected for recycling once the materials are transferred from local authorities to waste disposal companies. [235138]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Environment Agency is in the process of issuing guidance to Waste Disposal Authorities (WDA) clarifying that they should report details of the final destination of the waste (i.e. the name and address of the final destination facility in the UK) in their existing quarterly Waste Data Flow (WDF) return. A number of WDAs are already providing comprehensive final destination details.

### Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickle) of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 401W, on waste disposal: council tax, whether the charges levied through waste incentive pilot schemes will be classified as a form of taxation for the purposes of the national statistics. [235851]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Office for National Statistics has responsibility for determining the classification of income for the purposes of national accounts.

### Waste Management

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has issued on the co-mingling of commercial and domestic waste at the point of collection. [235929]

**Jane Kennedy:** None.

### Water: Meters

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what modelling his Department has done on the impact of water metering on low income groups; and if he will make a statement; [235659]

(2) what his Department's policy is on the future of water metering; and if he will make a statement. [235660]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government's water strategy for England "Future Water" was published in February 2008. In that report, an independent review was announced to advise on metering and charging. The review, led by Anna Walker, is currently under way and a call for evidence was issued on 14 November.

### Severn Barrage: Nature Conservation

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects a Severn Barrage would have in terms of identifying compensatory habitats under the EU Habitats Directive. [235338]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I have been asked to reply.

A high level review of the feasibility of a number of possible compensation and mitigation measures has been undertaken in this first phase of the feasibility study. This review will be published as part of a public consultation early in the new year, subject to an internal review of the feasibility study.

Should the decision be taken to go ahead with the second phase, then more work is anticipated within the study next year on the scope to mitigate environmental impacts through the construction and operation of tidal power scheme options, and on compensatory measures for impacts that cannot be mitigated.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Terrorist Activity

3. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of levels of terrorist activity in Northern Ireland. [235740]

**Paul Goggins:** The 20th IMC report confirms that Dissident Republicans remain a serious and continuing threat, intent on killing police officers. The report also makes clear, that while some loyalists want to make progress, this is disappointingly slow, particularly with regard to Decommissioning.

### Departmental Policy Priorities

6. **Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his Department's policy priorities are for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [235744]

**Paul Goggins:** My Department's main objective is to support devolved Government in Northern Ireland and to devolve policing and justice when requested to do so by the Assembly. The Northern Ireland Office's Strategic Objectives for the CSR2007 period are published on the NIO website.

### Saville Inquiry

7. **Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions the Government has had with Lord Saville or his inquiry staff on the Bloody Sunday report and the time taken to finalise it. [235745]

**Mr. Woodward:** Northern Ireland Office officials regularly meet inquiry staff to discuss corporate governance issues, including financial forecasts. Following news of the recent delay, senior NIO officials met the Inquiry Secretary to discuss urgent measures to control future costs.

### Policing and Justice

8. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent representations he has received on the devolution of policing and justice matters to the Northern Ireland Assembly. [235746]

**Mr. Woodward:** Following yesterday's historic agreement between First and Deputy First Minister on the devolution of policing and justice the Government continue to engage with political parties to help complete devolution in Northern Ireland.

12. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made on the devolution of policing and criminal justice matters to the Northern Ireland Assembly. [235752]

**Mr. Woodward:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for North-West Leicestershire (David Taylor).

9. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made on the devolution of policing to the Northern Ireland Assembly. [235748]

**Mr. Woodward:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for North-West Leicestershire (David Taylor).

### Republican Paramilitary Activity

10. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the conclusions of the recent report by the Independent Monitoring Commission on levels of republican paramilitary activity. [235750]

**Paul Goggins:** The 20th IMC report underlines the significant progress that Northern Ireland has made away from conflict and towards a more normal society. While they have no public support, the threat from dissident republicans is high and they remain determined to kill or injure police officers.

### Northern Ireland Executive

11. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effect on the operation of the planning system in Northern Ireland of the fact that the Northern Ireland Executive have not met recently. [235751]

**Paul Goggins:** The operation of the planning system is a devolved matter in Northern Ireland. I am sure that, when it meets, the Executive will give a high priority to issues that have an impact on economic and social development in Northern Ireland.

### Prisoners

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total prison population in Northern Ireland is. [235791]

**Paul Goggins:** At 17 November the total prison population in Northern Ireland was 1,556.

## TRANSPORT

### Aviation: Crew

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of drug and alcohol testing relating to persons in charge of an aeroplane; and if he will make a statement. [234912]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 introduced alcohol limits for persons performing specified aviation functions, including acting as a pilot of an aircraft. The prescribed limit for pilots is 20 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood. In addition the Act empowers the police to test persons performing aviation functions if they have reasonable suspicion that they are over the alcohol limit or are otherwise impaired by drink or drugs.

Since the introduction of this Bill a number of pilots have been convicted of exceeding the prescribed limit for alcohol. However, there is no evidence of widespread alcohol or drugs abuse by pilots. Nor have there been any accidents or incidents involving UK airlines that have been found to have resulted from alcohol or drugs use by pilots.

### Aviation: EU Action

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans there are for harmonising type approval of aircraft across the European Union; and if he will make a statement; [237003]

(2) what the cost to the applicant to obtain type approval from the Civil Aviation Authority for a new model of aircraft for use in the UK was for each of the last 10 such approved applications; and how long the application process took to complete in each case. [237004]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Under EC Regulation 216/2008 the type certification of the majority of aircraft manufactured or registered in EU member states is the responsibility of the European Aviation Safety Agency. This has been the position since 2003 when the agency came into being. However, certain aircraft types listed in annex II to the regulation are not covered by the agency's remit. The aviation authority of the member state in which any such aircraft is registered remains responsible for its type certification or, in the case of aircraft not eligible for a type certificate, the approval of a permit to fly. At this time there are no plans for harmonising for the certification requirements for these aircraft.

The Department for Transport does not hold detailed information relating to the time taken by the CAA to process each application for a type certificate or a type approval for permits to fly nor the charges made. Such information will be available from the CAA.

### Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the share of UK greenhouse gas emissions which will come from the aviation sector in 2050, calculated on the same basis as the figures in paragraph 1.6 of Annex K of the UK Air Passenger Demand and carbon dioxide forecasts published in November 2007 and on the assumption that the UK achieves an 80 per cent. cut in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 but with the other forecasts remaining unchanged. [236342]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* "UK Air Passenger Demand and $CO_2$ forecasts" (November 2007) included an estimate of the share of UK emissions accounted for by aviation in 2050. This

assumed the UK domestic target for $CO_2$ reductions in 2050 was 60 per cent. below 1990 levels and that abatement effort to meet the target was predominantly in the rest of the economy, with aviation abatement taking the form of fuel efficiency (resulting from fleet renewal and technological development) and air traffic management improvements, in line with the assumptions underlying the forecasts.

On the basis of the same assumptions used in the November 2007 document, but taking an 80 per cent. reduction target, the share for aviation in 2050 would be around 35 per cent. To account for the non-$CO_2$ climate change effects of aviation, consistent with the 2007 document, for simplicity a radiative forcing factor of 1.9 could be applied to aviation's $CO_2$ emissions. On this basis, aviation's share would rise to around 41 per cent. The relativity between the $CO_2$ and non-$CO_2$ impacts may change over this time frame which would imply a different radiative forcing factor.

These estimates are based on central emissions forecasts. Forecasts over such a long term time frame are subject to significant uncertainty. Adopting alternative underlying assumptions to reflect these uncertainties would therefore change the estimate of aviation's share of emissions.

Under an 80 per cent. target, not all parts of the UK economy would be expected to contribute equally to the total emissions reductions required. Sectors that are more carbon intensive, or in which abatement options are expensive or particularly difficult, would be expected to make up an increasing share of total UK emissions over time.

It should be noted that the Department for Transport is currently updating its forecasts of aviation emissions for all years to 2050 and these are expected to be published before the end of the year. The estimate of aviation's share of emissions will therefore be updated in line with those new estimates.

The basis of UK aviation $CO_2$ forecasts is estimates of emissions from UK sales of aviation fuels. This is consistent with the UK's reporting of international aviation emissions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Estimates of emissions from fuel used for international aviation do not form part of the UK's national emissions inventory, as there has been no international agreement on how to allocate them to individual countries.

### Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

**Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the revenue from the new toll charges for the Dartford Crossing in each of the next three years; and what estimate he has made of the amount to be for gone in revenue through the discount to Dartford and Thurrock residents in each year. [237186]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* In our 2006 consultation document on the proposed new charging regime we estimated that revenues could increase by around £7 million in the first year, or around 10 per cent., though this depends on how many users opt to pay by tag and therefore continue to pay £1.00 for cars. Our 2008 consultation document on the local discount scheme gave an indicative estimate that the local resident discount scheme could reduce revenues by about £2 million, depending on high levels of take-up by those eligible. On this basis the overall increase in revenues would be around £5 million per year.

### Driving: Licensing

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will delay implementation of the provisions of the Second EC Driving Licence Directive until the proposed network of multi-purpose test centres has been established; [233142]

(2) if he will permit the on-road and off-road testing of motorcycle drivers to take place separately until the proposed network of multi-purpose test centres has been established. [233143]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The implementation of the new practical motorcycle test has been deferred until the end of March 2009 to enable the development of new solutions for providing a wider range of locations from which to offer the test.

The Driving Standards Agency is discussing with motorcycling stakeholders a testing arrangement based on separate off and on-road modules. A formal consultation will be necessary if a modular test is to be published.

### Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Finance

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times since the formation of his Department the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has sought additional funding to cover budgetary shortfalls; how much funding was *(a)* sought and *(b)* granted on each occasion; and what the extent of the budgetary shortfall was in each case. [234781]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) budget is under continuous review through dialogue between the Agency and the Department for Transport, taking account of the ministerial targets and other priorities. It is through this process (including routine annual estimates, winter and spring supplementary reporting) that agreed budgetary adjustments are made including both increases and decreases in expenditure and increases and decreases in income generated. This also includes funding transfers to and from other Agencies/ Departments reflecting changes in work requirements.

Since the formation of the Department for Transport in 2002 the following adjustments were made to the MCA's budgetary position via the winter and spring supplementary process.

*£000*

| | *Winter supplementary* | *Spring supplementary* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | — | 1,200 |
| 2003-04 | 10,924 | 1,210 |
| 2004-05 | 12,958 | — |
| 2005-06 | 2,346 | -4,217 |
| 2006-07 | — | 3,107 |
| 2007-08 | 170 | 13,310 |

### Park and Ride Schemes: Finance

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding was provided from central Government to local government for the creation of park and ride schemes in the latest period for which figures are available; and what monitoring processes are in place to assess the effectiveness of such expenditure. [237006]

**Paul Clark:** Park and ride schemes in English local authorities outside London are one of a number of measures generally funded through the integrated transport block, which the Department for Transport allocates to support local authorities' local transport plans (LTPs). Allocations total £576 million for 2008-09.

During the first LTP period (2001-06), local transport authorities in England (outside London) spent a total of £72.5 million of DfT funding on improving 92 existing park and ride facilities and delivering 76 new park and ride schemes.

LTP guidance issued by the Department emphasises that it is the responsibility of local authorities to put systems in place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of such schemes. In addition, DfT commissions research periodically into the overall effectiveness of the integrated transport block funding: the latest findings from 2006 indicate that projects undertaken with this funding represent good value for public money.

### Roads: Accidents

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic collisions resulting in death or serious injury and involving one or more drivers with a recorded blood alcohol level of between 50 and 80 mg per 100 ml of blood were recorded in each of the last 10 years, broken down by police authority. [235828]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Information on the blood alcohol level of drivers involved in personal injury road accidents is not routinely collected.

The level of alcohol in the blood of road accident fatalities aged 16 or over who die within 12 hours of a road accident is provided by coroners in England and Wales and by Procurators Fiscal in Scotland. This information is only available for around two-thirds of motor vehicle drivers killed in personal injury road accidents. Information on the blood alcohol level of drivers who are not killed is not collected.

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of new roads were added to the Strategic Road Network in each of the last 10 years. [227086]

**Paul Clark:** The following table shows the total miles of new trunk road and motorway that have been added to the Strategic Road Network by the Highways Agency in each of the last 10 years.

*Miles*

| *Calendar year* | *Scheme additional length to SRN* | *Scheme additional lane capacity to SRN* | *Total extra capacity* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 38.6 | 39.2 | 77.8 |
| 1998 | 12.3 | 41.4 | 53.7 |
| 1999 | 15.6 | 13.4 | 29.0 |
| 2000 | 0.0 | 22.4 | 22.4 |
| 2001 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2002 | 19.0 | 19.0 | 19.0 |
| 2003 | 26.6 | 27.5 | 54.1 |
| 2004 | 10.9 | 16.8 | 27.7 |
| 2005 | 7.9 | 13.4 | 21.3 |
| 2006 | 15.3 | 22.5 | 37.8 |
| 2007 | 10.3 | 15.9 | 26.2 |
| Total | 156.5 | 212.5 | 369.0 |

The data do not take into account any de-trunking/realignment of the Strategic Road Network which may be within the scope of schemes.

The data are the result of an exercise carried out by the Highways Agency over the spring of 2008 to verify information relating to lane km of motorway and non-motorways built since 1997.

This table therefore supersedes any previous tables produced by the Highways Agency.

### Safety Service Delivery and Logistics Group

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the responsibilities of the Safety, Service Delivery and Logistics Group are; what projects the group is conducting; and from which budget project expenditure is met in each case. [234905]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Safety, Service Delivery and Logistics (SSDL) Group was created on 1 April 2007 as part of a Department for Transport (DFT) reorganisation. The new structure combined the former DVO Group with GCDA (Government Car and Despatch Agency), the Road and Vehicles Safety Standards (RVSS) directorate and the Logistics and Freight policy division. In April 2008, SSDL was joined by the Information Management Directorate (IMD). The Group brings policy and delivery agendas closer together and provides added momentum to the pace of change needed to deliver the Department's objectives.

The SSDL Group aims to be a leader in modern and efficient public service while promoting road safety, effective logistics, and a cleaner environment. The Group works closely with its partners to deliver quality services to customers.

The SSDL agencies' current capital plans are all included in their individual business plans, which are available in the House Library.

Of the five SSDL agencies, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), Driving Standards Agency (DSA) and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) are classified as trading funds and capital expenditure is therefore funded from repayable loans which are provided to them from the DFT or from statutory fees.

VCA and GCDA are funded centrally by the Department.

### Shipping: Safety

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Third Maritime Safety Package will be implemented in the UK. [237742]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The negotiations are still continuing between the EU member states and the European Parliament on the Third Maritime Safety Package. If agreement on the package is reached in the next few weeks, the UK will implement most of the legislation by 2011.

### Transport: Hazardous Materials

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Hazardous and Noxious Substance Convention will be implemented in the UK. [237743]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There are a number of technical problems with the text of the convention that have prevented the UK, together with many other EU member states and third country states, from ratifying the Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Convention, 1996. As a result, the requirements for bringing the convention into force internationally have not yet been met.

In order to correct the inherent problems with the current convention, the international maritime community has agreed to develop a protocol, the text of which was agreed at the Legal Committee of the International Maritime Organisation in October 2009. The UK will ratify the amended convention as soon as possible after the protocol has been agreed at a Diplomatic Conference (expected to take place in 2010).

### Transport: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much local transport grant was given to the City of York unitary authority in each year since its creation. [236882]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport has provided the following grants for local transport to the City of York since it was established as a unitary authority in April 1996 in the following two tables.

£ million

| | *Integrated transport block* | *Highways maintenance* | *Other funding*[1] | *Total local transport funding* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 4.141 | 1.419 | 0.247 | 5.807 |
| 2006-07 | 4.478 | 1.386 | 0.514 | 6.378 |
| 2005-06 | 4.900 | 1.325 | — | 6.225 |
| 2004-05 | 4.840 | 1.462 | 0.840 | 7.142 |
| 2003-04 | 4.700 | 1.281 | 2.200 | 8.181 |
| 2002-03 | 4.400 | 1.155 | 1.139 | 6.694 |
| 2001-02 | 4.900 | 1,095 | — | 5.995 |
| 2000-01 | 1.550 | 0.712 | — | 2.262 |

[1] Other funding covers detrunking, road safety grants, reward funding, re-allocated supplementary credit approvals (SCA), bus real time information.

Funding allocations made prior to local transport plan funding.

£ million

| | *Transport supplementary grant* | *Annual capital guideline* | *Supplementary credit approval* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 0.338 | 0.450 | 1.195 | 1.983 |
| 1998-99 | 0.168 | 0.189 | 0.770 | 1.127 |
| 1997-98 | [1]0.706 | [1]0.706 | 0.800 | 2.212 |
| 1996-97 | [1]1.284 | [1]1.284 | 0.772 | 3.34 |

[1] Covers funding of £3.238 million for the Peasholme Green Bridge major scheme.

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's Formula Grant.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK troops have been deployed as part of the operational mentor and liaison team programme in Afghanistan since September 2007; and how many have been killed or injured in each battalion. [234155]

**Mr. Hutton:** Seven UK operational mentoring and liaison teams (OMLTs) work alongside the Afghan National Army in Helmand province. These teams total between 250 and 300 personnel at any one time. Approximately 800 personnel have undertaken this role since September 2007.

Fatalities and injuries are not recorded centrally by tasking, and troops from the infantry battalions providing OMLTs undertake other tasks as well. The three battalions that have provided OMLT teams since September 2007 have suffered the following number of fatalities overall:

2nd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment (Herrick 7): 3

1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment (Herrick 8): 2

1st Battalion, The Rifles (Herrick 9): 0

For reasons of medical confidentiality, it is our policy not to produce a detailed breakdown of injuries by unit. However the Ministry of Defence does publish information regarding fatalities and statistical details of non-fatal injuries suffered by UK service personnel and civilian employees in Afghanistan on a fortnightly basis, two weeks in arrears. This can be found on the departmental website at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishFatalities.htm

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there have been any instances of aerial attacks on civilians in Afghanistan by British aircraft as a result of *(a)* error and *(b)* deception; and if he will make a statement. [236074]

**Mr. Hutton:** I have nothing to add to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Leyton and Wanstead (Harry Cohen) on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 118W.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the procedures are for ensuring that British military air strikes are not directed against civilians in Afghanistan. [236075]

**Mr. Hutton:** The deliberate targeting of civilians would represent a direct contravention of international law. A wide range of checks and balances exist within the UK military chain of command to ensure that this can never happen. These include provision of absolutely clear direction into theatre and the deployment of legal and other experts to ensure this direction is followed.

Sadly, on a very small number of occasions, civilian casualties inadvertently result from the use of air-launched weapons. The UK, along with our partners in the International Security Assistance Force, makes every effort possible to minimise the risks of this occurring. Release of air-launched weapons is coordinated by controllers on the ground, who are fully trained in the use of lethal force, law of armed conflict and the appropriate rules of engagement. Controllers and pilots communicate with each other to ensure that the target is accurately identified, using target designating equipment where appropriate, and the weapon and method of attack is selected so as to minimise any risk of civilian deaths or injury, or damage to civilian property.

The risk of civilians becoming involved in military operations is greatly exacerbated by the tactics employed by the insurgent forces, who frequently attack UK and ISAF forces from within civilian locations.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Harrier will be subject to a programme review in 2009 if it is withdrawn from Afghanistan *(a)* before and *(b)* after 1 April 2009. [236193]

**Mr. Quentin Davies** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* We keep all our programmes under regular review as part of our planning process. This applies irrespective of operational deployments.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Pakistani military personnel are *(a)* assigned, *(b)* attached and *(c)* embedded with UK armed forces in Regional Command South. [236451]

**Mr. Hutton:** There are currently no personnel from the Pakistani armed forces assigned, attached or embedded with UK armed forces in Regional Command (South).

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many anthropologists are assigned to work with UK armed forces operating in Afghanistan. [236452]

**Mr. Hutton:** There are no anthropologists assigned to work with UK armed forces operating in Afghanistan. Training on cultural issues is, however, provided to UK forces prior to their deployment to Afghanistan.

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many weeks passed between *(a)* the date of injury and the date of the decision that compensation was due and *(b)* the date of the decision that compensation was due and the date of first payment in the cases of each of the 18 personnel who were very seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 who have received compensation; [236626]

(2) how many weeks passed between *(a)* the date of injury and the date of the decision that compensation was due and *(b)* the date of the decision that compensation was due and the date of the first payment in the case of each of the 13 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 who have received compensation; [236628]

(3) how many weeks passed between *(a)* the date of injury and the date of the decision that compensation was due and *(b)* the date of the decision that compensation was due and the date of the first payment in the case of each of the 40 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2007 who have received compensation; [236629]

(4) how many weeks passed between *(a)* the date of injury and the date of the decision that compensation was due and *(b)* the date of the decision that compensation was due and the date of the first payment in the cases of each of the 23 personnel who were very seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2007 who have received compensation. [236635]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The time between an individual's date of injury and the date on which they make a claim for compensation under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) varies from person to person. For this reason, any figures produced on the time between the date of injury and the date of the decision that compensation is due will be misleading. The time between the date each claim was registered under the AFCS and the date of the decision that compensation is due, has been calculated for personnel that were seriously injured (SI) or very seriously injured (VSI) in Afghanistan during 2006 and 2007.

For data protection purposes and to maintain anonymity of claimants, information cannot be provided at individual level. Table 1 as follows presents the median length of time in weeks between the date on which a claim was registered under the AFCS and the date of the decision that compensation was due, for personnel with a cleared claim under the AFCS. Figures are presented by severity and year of injury in Afghanistan.

*Table 1: Median number of weeks between the date a claim was registered and the date of the decision that compensation was due, by severity and year of injury in Afghanistan*[1]

| | *Number of weeks (median)* |
|---|---|
| *2006* | |
| Seriously Injured | 10 |
| Very Seriously Injured | 13 |
| *2007* | |
| Seriously Injured | 14 |
| Very Seriously Injured | 14 |

[1] Figures are based on those that have had a decision made following their claim under the AFCS:
8 out of the 13 personnel who were SI and 16 of the 18 personnel who were VSI in Afghanistan during 2006, and 31 of the 40 personnel who were SI and 21 of the 23 personnel who were VSI in Afghanistan during 2007.

For data protection purposes and to maintain anonymity of claimants, information cannot be provided at individual level. Information on actual date of compensation payment under the AFCS is normally recorded on the joint personnel administration (JPA) database. JPA roll-out for the RAF, Navy and Army was 1 April 2006, 1 November 2006 and 1 April 2007 respectively. Payment dates prior

to JPA roll-out could be collected only at disproportionate cost. Table 2 presents the median length of time in days between the date of the decision that compensation was due under the AFCS and the actual date of payment, for those recorded on JPA. 63 out of 76 had a recorded payment date on JPA. Figures are presented by severity and year of injury in Afghanistan.

*Table 2: Median number of days between the date of the decision that compensation was due, and the actual date of payment, by severity and year of injury in Afghanistan[1, 2]*

| | *Number of days (median)* |
|---|---|
| *2006* | |
| Seriously Injured | 9 |
| Very Seriously Injured | 8 |
| *2007* | |
| Seriously Injured | 7 |
| Very Seriously Injured | 7 |

[1] Figures are based on those that have had a decision made following their claim under the AFCS:
8 out of the 13 personnel who were SI and 16 of the 18 personnel who were VSI in Afghanistan during 2006, and 31 of the 40 personnel who were SI and 21 of the 23 personnel who were VSI in Afghanistan during 2007.
[2] Figures are based on those that have payment details on JPA:
two out of the eight personnel who were SI and 10 out of the 16 personnel who were VSI in Afghanistan during 2006, and 30 out of the 31 personnel who were SI and all of those VSI in Afghanistan during 2007.

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much compensation has been paid to each of the 13 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 who have received compensation; [236627]

(2) how much compensation was awarded to each of the 40 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2007 who have received compensation; [236633]

(3) how much compensation was awarded to each of the 23 personnel who were very seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2007 who have received compensation. [236637]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Information on compensation amounts paid out to those personnel that were seriously injured or very seriously injured in Afghanistan during 2006 and 2007 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of the 13 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 have subsequently left military service; how many weeks passed from the date of the injury to the date of their leaving military service in each case; and whether each serviceman or servicewoman received compensation for their injury; [236630]

(2) how many of the 40 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2007 have subsequently left military service; how many weeks passed from the date of the injury to the date of their leaving military service in each case; and whether each serviceman or servicewoman received compensation for their injury; [236631]

(3) how many of the 18 personnel who were very seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 have subsequently left military service; how many weeks passed from the date of the injury to the date of their leaving military service in each case; and whether each serviceman or servicewoman who left in such circumstances received compensation for their injury; [236632]

(4) how many of the 23 personnel who were very seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2007 have subsequently left military service; how many weeks passed from the date of the injury to the date of their leaving military service in each case; and whether each serviceman or servicewoman who left in such circumstances received compensation for their injury. [236636]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Of the 13 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan during 2006, six personnel have subsequently left service as at 13 November 2008. Five of these personnel were awarded compensation following an in-service claim under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS), the remaining one person went on to have a claim automatically generated for them following a medical discharge. The outcome of this claim is currently pending.

Of the 18 personnel who were very seriously injured in Afghanistan during 2006, two personnel have subsequently left service as at 13 November 2008. Both were awarded compensation under the AFCS following an in-service claim registered whiles they were still serving.

Of the 40 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan during 2007, two personnel have subsequently left service as at 13 November 2008, Both were awarded compensation under the AFCS following an in-service claim registered while they were still serving.

Of the 23 personnel who were very seriously injured in Afghanistan during 2007, two personnel have subsequently left service as at 13 November 2008. Both were awarded compensation under the AFCS following an in-service claim registered while they were still serving.

For data protection purposes and to maintain anonymity of claimants, information cannot be provided on the time between the date of injury and the date of exit from service at individual level.

The following table presents the median length of time in weeks between the date of injury and date of exit from service for personnel that have subsequently left service following their injury. Figures are presented by severity and year of injury in Afghanistan.

*Median number of weeks between date of injury and date of exit from service, by severity and year of injury in Afghanistan for those that had left service by 13 November 2008*

| | *Number of weeks (median)* |
|---|---|
| *2006* | |
| Seriously injured | 58 |
| Very seriously injured | 79 |
| *2007* | |
| Seriously injured | 70 |
| Very seriously injured | 76 |

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of Scimitar armoured reconnaisance vehicles in Afghanistan have been serviceable in each of the last 12 months. [237064]

**Mr. Hutton:** The following table shows availability of the Scimitar Armoured Reconnaissance Vehicle in Afghanistan for each of the last 12 months.

| | *Average availability (percentage)* |
|---|---|
| November 2007 | 81 |
| December 2007 | 89 |
| January 2008 | [1] — |
| February 2008 | 78 |
| March 2008 | 77 |
| April 2008 | 49 |
| May 2008 | 36 |
| June 2008 | 24 |
| July 2008 | 53 |
| August 2008 | 37 |
| September 2008 | 87 |
| October 2008 | 75 |

[1] No figures available

Recognising that Scimitar availability in Afghanistan is much lower in summer due to extremely hot and dusty conditions, rapid modifications have been made this year to improve availability. The Scimitar vehicle is also about to undergo an urgent package of measures to improve its performance and availability in hot, high and dusty conditions.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the NATO and allied military presence in Afghanistan cost in each year for which figures are available. [237116]

**Mr. Hutton:** I am only able to comment on those costs relating to the MOD and NATO common-funded costs. I am not able to comment on (and nor does the Department hold information concerning) individual allies' operational costs. MOD identifies the costs of UK operations in terms of the net additional costs it has incurred, which includes the costs that the Department would have incurred regardless of the operation taking place, such as wages and salaries. Reduced costs on activities that have not occurred because of the operation—training exercises for example—are also taken into account in arriving at the net figures.

Operational costs are calculated on an annual basis which are then audited by the National Audit Office. The UK operational costs for Afghanistan are set out in the following table:

*£ million*

| | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *Total to date* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Operations in Afghanistan total resource costs | 187 | 236 | 36 | 58 | 148 | 560 | 1,071 | 2,296 |
| Expenditure on capital equipment | 34 | 75 | 10 | 9 | 51 | 178 | 433 | 790 |
| Total | 221 | 311 | 46 | 67 | 199 | 738 | 1,504 | 3,086 |

NATO common-funded costs for Afghanistan including the UK's share (which is incorporated in the operational costs) are set out in the following table:

| *Financial year* | *NATO cost[1] (£ million)* | *Approximate UK share (percentage)* | *Approximate UK financial contribution (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 35.771 | 12 | 4.293 |
| 2004-05 | 76.572 | 12 | 9.187 |
| 2005-06 | 81.488 | 12 | 9.779 |
| 2006-07 | 121.479 | 12 | 14.577 |
| 2007-08 | 162.291 | 12 | 16.222 |

[1] Running costs plus capital investment

### Armed Forces: Divorce

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 302W, what proportion of armed forces personnel disabled through injury or service were divorced in each year between 2002 and 2006, broken down by *(a)* those aged 24 years old and younger, *(b)* 25 to 34 years old, *(c)* 35 to 44 years old, *(d)* 45 to 54 years old and *(e)* those 55 years old and older; what assessment he has made of recent trends in divorce rates for service personnel who have seen active service; and if he will make a statement. [236489]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Information on numbers of armed forces personnel classed as disabled and divorced is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There has been no recent assessment of divorce rate trends for Service personnel.

### Armed Forces: Labour Turnover

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow of helicopter crew pilots was in each month in the last three years, broken down by helicopter type; [235428]

(2) what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow of helicopter crew pilots has been in each year since 2003, broken down by helicopter type. [235429]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information requested is not held centrally or available in the format requested. however some information is held by the single services and this is as follows:

*Royal Navy*

Helicopter crew inflow into the Royal Navy, by type of helicopter, between 1 April 2003 and 20 September 2008 is as follows:

| | *Inflow* |
|---|---|
| Sea King 4 | 62 |
| Sea King 5/7 | 4 |
| Lynx Mk8 | 44 |
| Lynx Mk7 | 9 |
| Merlin | 28 |

Pilot outflow from the Royal Navy in the period requested is not held in such a manner to allow a breakdown between pilots of fixed wing or rotary wing aircraft.

*Army*

Army inflow to trained strength from training is as follows:

*Inflow*

| | *2006* | | | *2007* | | | *2008* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Attack helicopter* | *Lynx* | *Gazelle* | *Attack helicopter* | *Lynx* | *Gazelle* | *Attack helicopter* | *Lynx* | *Gazelle* |
| January | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| February | — | 5 | — | — | 5 | — | — | — | — |
| March | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| April | — | — | — | — | 4 | 1 | — | 3 | — |
| May | 4 | 12 | 3 | | | | | | |
| June | — | — | — | 7 | — | — | 4 | — | 2 |
| July | — | 6 | — | — | 2 | — | — | 5 | — |
| August | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| September | — | 4 | — | — | 7 | — | — | 4 | — |
| October | 6 | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | 1 |
| November | — | 3 | — | 9 | — | — | — | — | — |
| December | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | 13 | 3 | — |
| Total | 10 | 30 | 5 | 16 | 21 | 4 | 17 | 15 | 6 |

Army outflow is as follows:

*Outflow*

| | *2006* | | | *2007* | | | *2008* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Attack helicopter* | *Lynx* | *Gazelle* | *Attack helicopter* | *Lynx* | *Gazelle* | *Attack helicopter* | *Lynx* | *Gazelle* |
| January | — | 3 | 2 | — | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | — |
| February | — | 3 | — | — | 4 | — | — | 4 | 1 |
| March | — | 1 | 2 | — | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | — |
| April | — | 3 | — | 1 | 5 | — | — | 3 | 1 |
| May | — | 7 | 2 | — | 3 | — | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| June | 1 | 3 | 1 | — | 3 | 2 | — | 4 | 3 |
| July | — | 1 | 1 | — | 3 | — | 1 | 5 | — |
| August | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 3 | — |
| September | — | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| October | — | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | — |
| November | — | 3 | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | — | 5 | — |
| December | — | 3 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 3 | — |
| Total | 2 | 37 | 14 | 4 | 33 | 7 | 10 | 37 | 6 |

*RAF*

RAF inflow to trained strength from training, between August 2005 and August 2008 is as follows:

| | *Inflow* |
|---|---|
| Chinook | 86 |
| Puma | 42 |
| Merlin | 46 |
| Sea King | 41 |

RAF outflow between April 2003 and March 2006 was some 100 helicopter pilots.

**Armed Forces: Self-mutilation**

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken at the Duchess of Kent Psychiatric Hospital to ensure that medical staff are trained in the procedures to be employed following an assessment that military personnel about to be discharged back to barracks may be at risk of self-harm. [236185]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Duchess of Kent Psychiatric Hospital was closed in 2003 as part of the Defence Medical Services' move (in accordance with clinical best practice) towards providing treatment regionally, primarily through enhanced out-patient facilities and the contracting-out of in-patient treatment. The military community treatment capability was enhanced and the Defence Medical Services provide service personnel with speedy access to skilled and effective help and treatment that is flexible and based around their individual needs. A military Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) is located a short distance from the old hospital ward.

Defence Medical Services mental health personnel undertake the same training, and obtain the same qualifications as their civilian counterparts. Psychologists and social workers who work for the defence mental health services are directly recruited fully trained, and all personnel engage in continuing professional development as recommended by the various professional bodies (such as the Royal College of Psychiatrists; Nursing and Midwifery Council and British Psychological Society). All training is conducted under the direction and administration of the Defence Postgraduate Medical Deanery and this organisation is advised by the Defence Consultant Advisor in Psychiatry.

The military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs) assess all service personnel referred to them for risk in accordance with NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) Clinical Guidelines which include the identification of clinical and demographic features known to be associated with risk of further self harm and/or suicide. An appropriate care plan is agreed with the individual, in consultation with the unit medical officer and appropriately supervised treatment is implemented, and similar procedures take place where individuals are being discharged from in-patient care.

Mental health practitioners will also alert the chain of command where there is clear risk of death or serious harm to the patient or others, or where reasons underpinning the suicidal intent may also impact on others, balancing the issues of confidentiality and consent against the duty of care to the patient, as well as to others who might be harmed by a suicide attempt.

### Army

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the relative costs of a Gurkha infantry battalion and an English line infantry battalion in light of current policy and recent legal judgments. [231763]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The cost of a Gurkha infantry is broadly in line with that of British line infantry battalion.

I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 141-42WS which explained that Gurkhas are now treated exactly the same as their UK recruited counterparts and receive the same benefits, with certain exceptions to satisfy the Nepalese Government.

The recent legal judgments in relation to pensions and immigration have had no impact on the cost of serving Gurkhas.

### Departmental Aviation

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many flights have been taken by his Department's civil servants of each grade in *(a)* first class, *(b)* business class and *(c)* economy in each month of 2008; [237286]

(2) how much *(a)* first class, *(b)* business class and *(c)* economy class air travel for his Department's civil servants cost his Department in the last 12 months; and what criteria are used to determine the class in which such staff fly. [237287]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All travel is conducted in accordance with the guidelines in Joint Service Publication (JSP) 800: Defence Movements and Transportation Regulations, Volume 2, Passenger Travel Instructions which sets out the criteria to be applied, dependent upon rank and the length of the flight involved.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237434]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. We apply the same principles to buying televisions, DVD players and stereo equipment that we do to buying all goods or services. These principles include securing best value for money, ensuring probity and accountability, enabling competition wherever possible, and ensuring compliance with the relevant provisions of UK and EU law.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work and *(b)* provide assistance for his Department. [232972]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** There are currently 108 full-time press officers listed in the Chief Office of Information's White Book for the Ministry of Defence not including those in agencies.

Press offices include civilian and military staff working across the Department (including within the single services) and are defined as those who directly interface with national or regional media on news issues.

### Departmental Land

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of the overseas estate is in each grade, broken down by location. [235430]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Of the overseas estate, only living accommodation is graded for either condition or charge. Grade for charge (GfC) is an assessment of the chargeable condition of accommodation, along with other factors such as its size, location and closeness to amenities.

Other than GfC no separate assessment is made of the condition of all 71,000 service family accommodation (SFA) properties worldwide. Overseas SFA is at the following GfC:

| | G1fC | | G2fC | | G3fC | | G4fC | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Country | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Cyprus | ... | ... | 504 | 22 | 173 | 8 | 1,211 | 54 |
| Falkland/Ascension Islands | — | — | — | — | — | — | 96 | 100 |
| Germany | 2,058 | 16 | 5,943 | 47 | 3,508 | 30 | 1,061 | 8 |
| Gibraltar | 52 | 11 | 96 | 21 | 87 | 19 | 194 | 43 |
| Rest of the world | 187 | 10 | 658 | 35 | 430 | 23 | 562 | 30 |
| Total | 2,297 | 13 | 7,211 | 42 | 4,198 | 24 | 3,124 | 18 |

As well as being assessed for its grade for charge, all single living accommodation (SLA) is also separately assessed for its physical condition and 'scale', as defined in Joint Service Publication 319 which is available to view at

http://www.defence-estates.mod.uk/publications/isp/isp315/volume1/index.php.

This methodology, which excludes environmental and location factors, is considered a better indicator of the physical condition of the accommodation.

As at June 2008, overseas SLA bed-spaces were at the following grade.

| | Grade 1 | | Grade 2 | | Grade 3 | | Grade 4 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Country | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| Cyprus | 26 | 2 | ... | ... | 614 | 43 | 782 | 55 |
| Falkland/Ascension Islands | 10 | 0.3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,438 | 99.7 |
| Germany | 2,639 | 17 | 1,547 | 10 | 4,746 | 31 | 6,504 | 42 |
| Gibraltar | ... | ... | 225 | 52 | 84 | 19 | 128 | 29 |
| Rest of the world | 32 | 2 | 44 | 3 | 59 | 3 | 1,523 | 92 |
| Total | 2,707 | 12 | 1,816 | 8 | 5,503 | 25 | 12,375 | 55 |

We accept that some service accommodation is not of a standard that our service personnel and their families deserve and steps are being taken to address this. Over the next decade £8.4 billion will be spent on accommodation, of which over £3 billion will be on improving and upgrading accommodation.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1032W, how many staff in his Department are receiving full salaries without being allocated work. [234420]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** As at 5 November 2008, there were some 525 MOD civil servants who were in the civilian redeployment pool because their substantive posts had reached an end, or because they were returning from overseas or extended absence. A further 446 were in the redeployment pool because their posts were due to end within six months. Those staff receive preferential consideration for posts. While in the redeployment pool, staff whose substantive posts have ended remain in their posts, for which they continue to receive their normal salaries. They continue to be funded and managed by their previous management, who assist them with their development and job search and employ them on appropriate temporary tasks. As I explained in my answer on 21 October, *Official Report*, column 191W, while there may exceptionally be occasions where such temporary work is not available, that situation is continuously changing and is not recorded centrally.

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235227]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** For the 2007-08 reporting year 93 MOD civilian staff were recorded as not receiving a performance award due to unsatisfactory work performance that was subject to the Department's restoring efficiency procedures.

This figure excludes MOD trading funds and agencies and does not include specialist occupational groups such as teachers, NHS grades, fire fighters and policeman, for whom records are not held centrally.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236920]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The remit of each of the non-departmental public bodies sponsored by the MOD can be found in the supplementary document on NDPBs to the MOD annual report and accounts 2007-08, which can be found on the MOD internet site at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/MODAnnualReports0708/SupplementaryDocuments200708.htm

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1230W, in respect of funding of Executive NDPBs. The advisory NDPBs sponsored by the Department incur little or no expenditure and are resourced from within the Department.

### European Carrier Group Interoperability Initiative

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Declaration of Intent with EU Partners on the European Carrier Group Interoperability Initiative. [235432]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** I shall place a copy of the Declaration of Intent in the Library of the House.

### Future Large Aircraft: Safety

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a fuel inerting gas system will be fitted to the UK A400M fleet. [237069]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Yes, with the exception of one development aircraft that will either be retro-fitted with fuel-tank inerting at a later date, or if this proves impossible, excluded from use in areas of significant operational threat.

### Future Surface Combatant

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the future roles are projected for each variant of the Future Surface Combatant. [235629]

**Mr. Quentin Davies** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* It is currently planned that the Future Surface Combatant will replace and build on the capabilities of the T22 and T23 frigates. The programme is still in the concept phase, and the requirements for numbers and variants have not yet been finalised. The future roles to be undertaken by FSC have yet to be fully defined but will be coherent with the capabilities called for in the 2004 Defence White Paper, 'Delivering Security in a Changing World, Future Capabilities' (Cm 6269).

### Military Aircraft

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which close air support capabilities provided by Harriers are not able to be provided by Tornados. [236789]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 775W.

### Military Aircraft: Training

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much live training with submarines have (a) Merlin HM MK1 and (b) Nimrod MR2 crews have undertaken in each month of the last three years. [237070]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The amount of time spent live training by Merlin HM MK1 and Nimrod MR2 crews with submarines over the last three years has been recorded as follows:

*Merlin HM MK1*

*Hours: Minutes*

| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|
| January | 9:10 | 12:50 | 12:35 |
| February | 11:30 | 27:55 | 80:35 |
| March | 5:40 | 40:20 | 63:15 |
| April | 25:15 | 98:35 | 120:10 |
| May | 145:20 | 116:00 | 24:10 |
| June | 176:35 | 63:20 | 32:45 |
| July | 0 | 36:40 | 23:50 |
| August | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| September | 54:30 | 7:35 | 52:30 |
| October | 24:00 | 58:00 | 98:45 |
| November | 25:35 | 49:05 | — |
| December | 0 | 9:10 | — |

*Nimrod MR2*

*Hours: Minutes*

| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|
| January | 13:20 | 23:15 | 0 |
| February | 125:10 | 13:10 | 0 |
| March | 79:10 | 21:25 | 0 |
| April | 15:35 | 38:40 | 176:00 |
| May | 46:05 | 32:30 | 79:00 |
| June | 147:35 | 14:00 | 12:35 |
| July | 12:10 | 11:55 | 245:30 |
| August | 21:15 | 19:25 | 19:30 |
| September | 94:05 | 71:00 | 6:10 |
| October | 46:45 | 87:55 | 0 |
| November | 31:20 | 52:30 | — |
| December | 6:50 | 0 | — |

These figures do not reflect operational flying or airborne synthetic anti-submarine warfare training.

### Military Attachés

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 309-10W, on military attachés, what the reasons for the increase in the cost for the defence section in Albania between 2000-01 and 2001-02 were. [236761]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The reason for the increase in cost for the Defence Section in Albania between 2000-01 and 2001-02 was that in March 2001, the last month of financial year 2000-01, a Military Liaison Officer (MLO) was seconded to the British embassy in Albania to help assess the feasibility of establishing a defence section in that country. His pay-related costs during that time were funded from another budgetary area within the Ministry of Defence while his subsistence costs were

funded from the attaché budget, as shown in the answer of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 309-10W. In April 2001 an accredited defence attaché and his support staff were deployed to Albania and funded from the attaché budget, with the result that the costs of the defence section for the full financial year (2001-02) are shown in the answer of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 309-10W.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 309-10W, on military attachés, if he will publish a breakdown of the cost of the defence sections in *(a)* Paris and *(b)* Moscow for each of the last three years. [236762]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The following table provides a breakdown of the cost for the Defence sections in Paris and Moscow for the last three financial years.

| | *Financial year* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| *Defence Section Paris* | | | |
| Pay-related costs including ERNIC, pension contributions and costs of living allowance | 721,228 | 801,544 | 821,582 |
| Support costs including residential utilities, medical and dental costs, travel and subsistence, local school children's fees, entertainment, IT equipment, vehicle servicing repairs and personal security enhancements | 423,182 | 352,524 | 361,337 |
| Total cost | 1,144,410 | 1,154,068 | 1,182,919 |
| *Defence Section Moscow* | | | |
| Pay-related costs including ERNIC, pension contributions, and costs of living allowance | 1,154,091 | 1,128,165 | 1,112,310 |
| Support costs including residential utilities, medical and dental costs, travel and subsistence, local school children's fees, entertainment, IT equipment, vehicle servicing repairs and personal security enhancements | 380,539 | 386,993 | 440,737 |
| Total cost | 1,534,631 | 1,515,158 | 1,553,047 |

## Military Decorations

**Christopher Fraser:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will bring forward proposals to establish a medal for members of the armed forces injured or killed in combat, analogous to the Purple Heart medal issued in the United States. [236454]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement the then Defence Secretary made on 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 10WS which announced the plans for additional recognition for the families of members of the armed forces who die on operations and as a result of terrorist action. He made it clear that much detailed work would be required to work out the detail of this plan. Good progress is being made but it will be some months before we are ready to implement the plan. We hope to announce further details before the end of the year on matters such as the design and the qualifying criteria.

## Military Police

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fatal incidents were investigated by the Royal Military Police Special Investigation Branch in each overseas theatre of operations since Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's inspection of August 2006; and what the outcome of each investigation was. [236157]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** When UK armed forces personnel are killed on operations, the Royal Military Police Special Investigation branch RMP(SIB) carry out an investigation in order to determine if there is any criminal liability on the part of UK personnel. The evidence they gather is passed to the military chain of command. In more serious cases, the case papers may be referred for trial by court martial.

The RMP(SIB) have investigated 129 incidents involving UK armed forces fatalities which have occurred since 1 August 2006. Of these, 106 investigations resulted in no further action being taken against any member of the UK armed forces; 20 are ongoing; and three were referred to the Army Prosecuting Authority (APA). Of the three cases referred to the APA, one was discontinued and two resulted in trial by court martial.

The evidence collated by the RMP(SIB) is also passed to coroners. For details of outstanding inquests and verdicts, I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Defence and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 36WS.

## Navy: Defence Equipment

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to provide Royal Navy ships with non-lethal weapons similar to those available to the US Navy for the interdiction of pirates in the Northern Indian Ocean. [237198]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* The MOD has no current plans to fit non-lethal weapons to Royal Navy ships, although research continues to establish their potential utility. As with all emerging technologies, MOD continues to review the possibilities such innovation presents.

UK weapon systems are consistent with international protocols, such as the Geneva convention. Their use is governed by Rules of Engagement, which ensures the application of proportionate force appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions.

### Nuclear Disarmament

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the implications for UK nuclear weapons policy of the speech by the United Nations Secretary-General on 24 October 2008 on the importance of nuclear disarmament and security in a nuclear weapons-free world. [236369]

**Mr. Hutton:** I welcome the contribution to the debate on multilateral nuclear disarmament made by Mr. Ban in his speech to the East-West Institute in New York on 24 October and, specifically, his acknowledgment of the UK's leading role. It is important that all states work together to create the security environment conducive to further multilateral disarmament, leading ultimately to a world free of nuclear weapons. This would include zero tolerance on instances of proliferation.

### Piracy: Detainees

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance has been issued to Royal Navy commanders on the detention of pirates on board Royal Navy vessels; and if he will make a statement. [237195]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* Commanding officers of Royal Navy ships are issued with guidance on the applicable law and principles relating to the handling and detention of those suspected of committing offences on the high seas. In addition, the handling of detainees and the humanitarian principles governing that activity are laid down in UK armed forces doctrine. More generally, the conduct of counter-piracy operations is governed as necessary by the applicable rules of engagement specific to a particular mission.

### RAF Brize Norton

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much further infrastructure work is required at RAF Brize Norton before the Hercules fleet arrives; and what his estimate is of the cost of that work. [237386]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** A number of infrastructure projects are being undertaken at RAF Brize Norton in preparation for the arrival of the Hercules fleet. These include the relocation of a simulator training facility; relocation of Forward Support and stores; provision of suitable freight handling capacity; expansion of the aircraft battery bay and engine bay; relocation of Hercules Force HQ. Additionally the relocation of 47 Air Despatch Squadron will be required as part of the move.

Other infrastructure work is also being undertaken at Brize Norton which does not relate solely to the arrival of the Hercules fleet.

The full costs of all infrastructure works related to the arrival of the Hercules fleet are not identified separately and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest estimate is of the timing of the Hercules fleet's removal to RAF Brize Norton; and how that removal will be phased. [237387]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The move of the C130K and C130J fleets from RAF Lyneham to RAF Brize Norton is being planned for Summer 2011. The move will be phased to ensure support to operations is maintained.

### Submarines

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the maximum future endurance on station of the Astute-class submarines. [236076]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Once deployed, Astute can patrol for 90 days and should not require refuelling throughout her full service life of over 25 years.

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the crew strength per boat is in terms of *(a)* officers and *(b)* men, in respect of the current generation of attack submarines; and what the crew strength will be in respect of each Astute-class submarine; [236077]

(2) what assessment he has made of the practicability of having two crews for each Astute-class submarine. [236078]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The manpower liability for an Astute and Trafalgar Class submarine is as follows:

| *Class* | *Trafalgar* | *Astute* |
|---|---|---|
| Officers | 15 | 16 |
| Senior Rates | 54 | 51 |
| Junior Rates | 84 | 73 |
| Total | 153 | 140 |

The Astute Class of submarine is and will continue to be manned using the watch rotational manning system currently employed for Royal Navy attack submarines. This system allows the required availability of the submarines to be met while ensuring leave and training periods for all personnel.

### Tornado Aircraft

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of flying hours for Tornado GR4 aircrew has been in each month in 2008 to date. [236462]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Average monthly flying hours for Tornado aircrew is not recorded centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### USA: Nuclear Weapons

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the implications for UK nuclear weapons policy of the speech made by the United States Defence Secretary Robert Gates on 28 October 2008 in respect of United States plans to retain and replace its nuclear weapons system and warheads. [236370]

**Mr. Hutton:** In his speech at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, Secretary Gates considered a number of elements of the United States nuclear weapons policy. His general assessments closely

match those articulated in the 2006 White Paper "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994).

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (a) cards, (b) parties and (c) decorations in the last 12 months. [237491]

**Mr. Khan:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1322W, to the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr. Prisk) and the answers given by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns) on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1472W and the hon. Member for Guildford (Anne Milton) on 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 839W. Information on decorations could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

### Council Tax: Fraud

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1258W, on council tax, if she will place in the Library a copy of the Audit Commission guidance to local authority fraud investigators on how to follow up potential frauds and other anomalies. [235860]

**John Healey:** The guidance issued by the Audit Commission on the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) is limited to how to interpret and prioritise the data matches released through NFI. The Commission does not provide guidance on the investigation of the referrals. It is the responsibility of each participating body to investigate matches, where appropriate, in line with their own policies and procedures.

As part of its continued development programme, the Commission has introduced online training tutorials for NFI 2008-09. This training material is integrated into the NFI web application and as such cannot be provided separately. Brief guidance notes to supplement the online material will be made available before the launch of the NFI 2008-09 results on 28 January 2009. A copy of those notes will then be placed in the Library.

Copies of the Commission's guidance material issued to participating bodies for NFI 2006-07 have been placed in the Library, although this material is now out of date.

### Council Tax: Pensions

**Sir John Stanley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of council tax receipts in England were used to fund pension schemes that are funded by local authorities in the latest period for which figures are available. [237002]

**John Healey:** A proportion of total local authority revenue goes towards meeting pension liabilities and costs, but there is no specific proportion of council tax receipts which is used to meet this liability.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by her Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236918]

**Mr. Khan:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 227-28W. Information on NDPBs' remits may be found on their websites.

### Energy Performance Certificates

**Mr. Cox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has made an assessment of the suitability of reduced data SAP conventions as a model for producing energy performance certificates. [235482]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Reduced Data Standard Assessment Procedure (RDSAP) was developed from the Government's Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP), which apply to all new buildings, for the specific purposes of undertaking energy surveys of existing dwellings. The assessment on suitability was carried out during a three year development period which saw extensive research, analysis and testing by industry relating to the projects specific purposes, and the Building Research Establishment, before RDSAP was approved for use.

### Essex County Council

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with Essex County Council on its proposal for privatisation of its services; and if she will make a statement. [236975]

**Mr. Khan:** No such discussions have taken place.

### Housing Benefit

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effect on the supply of private rented accommodation of the introduction of the local housing allowances. [237251]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** No assessment has been made of the effect on the supply of private rented accommodation of the introduction of the local housing allowance as it is too early to do so. The local housing allowance became operational, nationwide, from 7 April 2008 and only applies to new claimants or existing claimants who have moved to a different address.

The independent review of the private rented sector which Ministers commissioned on 23 January 2008 concluded on 23 October and the published report, headed by Julie Rugg of the university of York, contains major recommendations to improve the way in which local authorities secure accommodation in the private rented sector for low income and vulnerable people.

### Housing: Derelict Land

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she plans to take to make brownfield sites available for housing development. [229864]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Building on brownfield land is essential if we are going to develop the homes that the country needs. Communities and Local Government's policies and programmes play a key part in ensuring that this happens. Through 'Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 3: Housing', for example, local planning authorities are required to plan for the long term by identifying developable sites for housing. The policy guidance maintains a continuing focus on recycling land and retains the national target that at least 60 per cent. of new homes should be built on brownfield land. Current performance against this target is 77 per cent.

Policy guidance is also supported by priorities given to delivery bodies, such as the new Homes and Communities Agency which will be established later this year. Sustainability, including the reuse of brownfield land, will be at the heart of its work with a priority to bring about the most effective use of land and the ability to acquire derelict land for the provision of new housing.

Also, in March this year the Government published their response to English Partnerships' recommendations for a national brownfield strategy. The strategy considers brownfield land in the widest sense including all types of development and will help site owners, developers and regulators in the process of returning brownfield land to beneficial use. Work in developing the strategy has demonstrated the importance of a joined-up approach to developing brownfield policy. CLG and DEFRA have agreed to sponsor a new national body—the National Brownfield Forum—to secure better co-ordination at national level. The forum brings together key Whitehall Departments, agencies and industry stakeholders and promotes a more cohesive and inclusive approach to brownfield policy development and encourages knowledge sharing and best practice.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 124-5W, on housing: low incomes, and with reference to the December 2004 letter to local authority directors of housing from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Divisional Head of Housing Data and Statistics, which property attributes and fields were requested by the Valuation Office Agency; and which were *(a)* top priority and *(b)* mandatory. [236152]

**John Healey:** The information requested is provided in the following list. No information was imported directly into the Valuation Office Agency's property attribute database.

*Mandatory*

Address
Data provider's property reference number
Reference number of the data provider
Report date
Date that the data relates to

*Top priority*

Report generator
Valuation
Valuation cloned or not
Date of valuation
Type of dwelling or other form of accommodation
Form of structure within which the dwelling is located
Lifts
Year built
Floorspace
Number of private living rooms
Number of bedrooms
Number of bathrooms for exclusive use of the tenants

### Housing: Valuation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1400W, on housing: valuation, how many localities have been given a name in addition to a unique reference number. [235869]

**John Healey:** None.

### Information Commissioner

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will implement the recommendations made in respect of her Department by the Information Commissioner in Practice Recommendation, reference FPR0189170. [236132]

**Mr. Khan:** Communities and Local Government will implement the recommendations made by the Information Commissioner in his Practice Recommendation, and is already making significant improvements in its performance.

### Local Authorities: Business

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have introduced business improvement districts. [236182]

**John Healey:** The following list shows the local authorities which have introduced business improvement districts:

*Eastern region*

Bedford borough council
Great Yarmouth borough council
Ipswich borough council

*East midlands*

Derby city council
North Kesteven district council

*London*

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Islington council
LB of Havering
LB of Camden
LB of Southwark
LB of Lambeth

LB of Ealing
LB of Redbridge
Waltham Forest
Westminster city council

*South-east*

Arun district council
Brighton and Hove council
Croydon council
Fareham borough council
Winchester city council

*South-west*

Bristol city council
Plymouth city council
Swindon borough council
Taunton Deane borough council
West Dorset district council

*North-east*

Hartlepool borough council

*North-west*

Allerdale borough council
Blackburn with Darwen borough council
Blackpool borough council
Bolton metropolitan borough council
Halton borough council
Hyndburn borough council
Liverpool city council
Oldham borough council
Vale Royal borough council

*West midlands*

Birmingham city council
Cannock Chase DC
Coventry city council
Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council
Rugby borough council
Sandwell metropolitan borough council
West Sussex county council

*Yorkshire and Humberside*

Hull city council
Ryedale borough council

**Local Authorities: Debt Collection**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities have to hire bailiffs to collect unpaid *(a)* council tax, *(b)* council housing rent and *(c)* parking fines. [235833]

**John Healey:** Local authority enforcement powers, including the levying of distress, for the collection of unpaid council tax are contained in schedule 4 to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and part VI of the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/613).

Under part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (England) General Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/3483) local authorities in England that have civil parking enforcement powers have the right to use certificated bailiffs to enforce unpaid penalty charge notices.

There are no powers for local authorities to use privately-employed certified bailiffs in respect of arrears of rent owed by their residential tenants. Action against tenants in rent arrears must take the form of court proceedings, in which case, court bailiffs may be used for enforcement of the order.

**Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the policy basis was on which the NUTS 2 territorial groupings were used for the distribution of the new round of funding from the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme. [235928]

**John Healey:** The proposed basis for the distribution of rewards in the new round of the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme is currently subject to consultation. The consultation closes on 20 November 2008. Local authorities have been invited to include, in their responses to the consultation, the sub-regional groupings they consider to be appropriate. No decision has yet been made about the groupings to be used for distributing reward in 2009-10.

**Local Government: Bank Services**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the average change in rate of return on local authority investments in 2009-10 resulting from new investment strategies prompted by the collapse of Icelandic banks; [235834]

(2) what estimate she has made of the aggregate loss incurred by local authorities as a result of a reduction in interest earned upon unreturned deposits held by Icelandic banks. [235836]

**John Healey:** We have made no such estimates. The rate of return on investments by local authorities is a matter for individual councils, taking into account the Department's investment guidance.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the length of time it will take for local authorities to recover assets deposited in Icelandic banks. [235835]

**John Healey:** The Government continue to work with the Icelandic authorities to ensure a fair deal for all UK depositors. The administrators of Heritable Bank Plc and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Limited bank, Ernst and Young have agreed to provide an estimate on the level of recoverable funds so that local authorities may take this estimate into account in planning their budgets for financial year 2009-10.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities may invest in government-guaranteed bank bonds. [235837]

**John Healey:** A local authority may invest in government-guaranteed bank bonds provided that this has been agreed by full council as part of its annual investment strategy.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith) of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 343W, on local authorities: bank services, if she will place in the Library the advice to local authorities from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance. [235865]

**John Healey:** I will arrange for a copy of the advice to local authorities from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy to be placed in the Library.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department's predecessor made of the amount of unrecovered deposits by local authorities in the former Bank of Credit and Commerce International, expressed as a proportion of all local authority deposits in 1991-92. [236129]

**John Healey:** According to the liquidators' website at:

http://www.bcci.info/

admitted creditors of BCCI will have received 86.5 per cent. of their claims by December 2008.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of exposure of each local authority to Icelandic banks is. [236219]

**John Healey:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on 6 November, 2008 *Official Report*, column 724W.

### Local Government: Elections

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the likely effect on voter turnout of the decision to hold the forthcoming English local elections and elections to the European Parliament on the same date. [235802]

**John Healey:** When taking the decisions, approved by Parliament, to hold the 2009 English local elections and European Parliament elections on the same date, we had regard to the evidence which showed that the turnout for the combined local and European elections in 2004, was significantly higher than the turnout for the previous equivalent elections which were not combined. For the European elections in 2004, the voter turnout was 38.5 per cent. compared to 24 per cent. in the previous European elections in 1999. For the 2004 district council elections, turnout was 41 per cent. compared to 30 per cent. for the previous equivalent district elections held in 2000.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the likely effect on public expenditure of the decision to hold the forthcoming English local elections and elections to the European Parliament on the same date; and what plans have been made on the use of any savings accruing from that decision. [235803]

**John Healey:** While it is difficult to provide an accurate estimate of such savings, the indications are that savings in the region of £10 million could result from holding the English local elections and elections to the European Parliament on the same day. To the extent that the costs of the European elections are reduced, this will be reflected in a lower call on the Consolidated Fund, while any reduction in the costs of local elections will reduce the call on councils' own resources.

### Local Government: Reorganisation

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department takes to consult representatives of the historic counties when taking decisions on unitary authorities. [235800]

**John Healey:** The Association of British Counties, which promotes the historic counties, have made representations to us during our consideration of councils' unitary proposals and the current implementation of the nine new unitary councils approved by Parliament.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her assessment is of the impact of retrospective changes to business rates on the port of Liverpool on employment and economic activity in Merseyside; and if she will make a statement. [237303]

**John Healey:** There is a concern for businesses in the current economic climate receiving large backdated rated liabilities that have to be paid immediately, as the position for a number of port occupiers has demonstrated. We are looking urgently at options for mitigating the financial impact on businesses facing immediate payment of such significant backdated liabilities.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1284W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, how many sub-locations there are in each billing authority area in England. [236033]

**John Healey:** The information requested cannot be provided without disproportionate cost.

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which her Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236890]

**Mr. Khan:** There been no formal complaints of racial abuse relating to staff in the Department in the last 12 months.

### Robert Tym Partnership

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the Robert Tym Partnership to present its report on council tax and empty properties to her Department. [236190]

**John Healey:** I expect this in due course.

### Severn Barrage

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has held discussions with the insurance industry on the effects on levels of home insurance of the potential flooding arising from the construction of a Severn Barrage. [235335]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I have been asked to reply.

Assessment of impacts on flood risk is an integral part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) commissioned by the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study. Should this Study proceed following internal review, further work will be undertaken to better understand the impacts on flood risk, land drainage and ground water levels arising from the construction of the short listed tidal power options for the Severn Estuary.

### Small Businesses: Tax Allowances

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of *(a)* the number of firms that have taken up small business rate relief and *(b)* the reduction in business rate revenue attributable to the relief in the latest period for which figures are available. [235970]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 559W, and on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 132W.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate she has made of the take-up rate of small business rate relief. [235971]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 901W.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1284W, on small business rates: tax allowances, if she will place in the Library a copy of the business rates information letter dated 19th September 2008. [236026]

**John Healey:** All business rates information letters are available on the Department's website at the following internet address:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/busrats1.htm

The letter in question can be found at the following address:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/busrats/bri52008.pdf.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedure small firms will have to follow to claim the proposed exemption from supplementary business rates. [236092]

**John Healey:** The Government are consulting on technical issues before finalising detailed arrangements.

### Travelling People

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many cases there have been of Green Belt land being released in order to build publicly-owned Gypsy and Traveller sites in the last 10 years. [237750]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We do not hold information on the release through the development plan process of Green Belt land for Gypsy and Traveller sites.

### Valuation Office: Databases

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 684W, on Valuation Office: databases, what the 2008-09 budget for the database alignment exercise is; and whether the budget includes payments to Ordnance Survey. [236022]

**John Healey:** The database alignment exercise is being undertaken by Ordnance Survey. No payments are being made to Ordinance Survey for the alignment work.

## HEALTH

### Alcoholic Drinks: Learning Disability

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with a learning disability received NHS treatment for *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drug abuse in the last five years. [236826]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of children and young people who have parents with alcohol use problems. [237041]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England, published in March 2004, estimated 1.3 million children were living with at least one parent who misused alcohol. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the level of primary care trust spending on services to reduce alcohol harm. [237160]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Data on national health service spend on alcohol interventions are not collected, however, in 2005 the Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project reported that the NHS in England, in 2003-04, spent an estimated £217 million on alcohol interventions. An extra £15 million in additional funding has been included within primary care trusts (PCTs) general allocations from 2007-08 to improve alcohol interventions.

Additionally, the National Audit Office have carried out an audit of NHS spend on alcohol interventions. Their report, "Reducing Alcohol Harm: health services in England for alcohol misuse", was published in November 2008 and found, that where primary care trust expenditure on alcohol services was known, an average of £600,000 was spent on commissioning alcohol services in 2006-07. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

### Care Homes: Injuries

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department provides on manual handling in order to minimise the risk of bruising to care home residents or persons in other care settings; [234839]

(2) what research his Department has commissioned on and what assessment it has made of the reasons for bruising of residents of care homes and persons in other care settings; [234840]

(3) what standards his Department has set for the *(a)* monitoring and *(b)* reporting of bruising caused to care home residents. [234841]

**Phil Hope:** All health and care providers must ensure compliance with the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992.

The Care Homes Regulations 2001 and the Domiciliary Care Agencies Regulations 2002 require care providers to make suitable arrangements to provide a safe system for moving and handling service users.

The National Minimum Standards for Care Homes for Younger Adults, Older People and Domiciliary Care Agencies require care managers to ensure safe working practices, including moving and handling and use of techniques for moving people and objects that avoid injury to services users or staff.

The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), as the regulator, will require registered care providers to adhere to the relevant regulations on lifting and handling and to ensure that staff are trained and updated in appropriate techniques and on how to use equipment by an accredited trainer, and for equipment to be maintained at intervals recommended by the manufacturer.

The Department has not commissioned research into bruising of residents in care settings and does not specifically require bruising to be monitored or reported. However, Regulation 37 of the Care Homes Regulations requires care homes to keep records of and notify CSCI without delay of the death of, serious injury to and any event in the care home which adversely affects the well-being or safety of any service user. CSCI inspectors assess and view these records.

CSCI issues guidance logs to care providers on the CSCI Professionals website at:

http://www.csci.org.uk/professional/care_providers/all_services/guidance/guidance_log_care_homes_for_o.aspx.

These include guidance as to procedures CSCI would advise or expect to see in terms of manual handling in a care home.

Guidance on lifting and handling is also available on the Social Care Institute for Excellence website at:

http://www.scie-peoplemanagement.org.uk/resource/docPreview.asp?docID=18.

Through the National Carers Strategy, launched in June 2008, the "Caring with Confidence" programme has been established as a training programme for carers, with the first training delivered in August 2008 and distance-training modules available from January 2009. It is being run by a consortium, led by the Expert Patients Programme, and also includes the three main carers organisations—Carers UK, Crossroads and the Princess Royal Trust for Carers—and Partners in Policymaking. There is £4.4 million a year to fund the training programme, which will cover a range of issues, including lifting and handling.

### Care Homes: Inspections

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures relating to infection control form part of the Commission for Social Care Inspection's care home inspection programme; and if he will make a statement. [237040]

**Phil Hope:** Providers of registered care services are responsible of the health and welfare of people using their services. The Care Homes Regulations 2001 require care homes to make suitable arrangements to prevent infection, toxic conditions and the spread of infection, and to maintain standards of hygiene. The national minimum standards (NMS) for care homes reinforce these requirements. The NMS relating to infection control are key standards; the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) will always refer to them during a key inspection.

CSCI requires providers to report on the performance of their service annually. This includes specific questions about infection control. If the previous performance of the home gives rise to concerns, or CSCI has received information which raises particular issues, then it will focus on these areas during an inspection.

### Continuing Care: Direct Payments

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received continuing care payments in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority and *(c)* each NHS trust in each of the last five years. [236944]

**Phil Hope:** Data on the total number of people in receipt of continuing care in each year are not collected centrally.

### Departmental Co-ordination

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has received from HM Treasury in the last six months. [235724]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Treasury issues a wide range of policy and financial guidance to Departments. This includes guidance on the publication of 2008 Autumn Performance Reports, and aspects of accounting including the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for each of the sites owned by his Department and registered on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land; what construction projects are planned for each site; and when he expects each site to be returned to use. [236442]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department is actively pursuing the disposal of all the sites in its control that are currently included on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land. It will be for the purchasers of these sites to determine the use to which they are put and when they are returned to use.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 406-7W, on departmental public relations, which firms were employed; and what topic of work each undertook. [233879]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The public relations (PR) agencies which were employed through the Central Office of Information (COI) framework agreement and the topics of work were as follows:

*2005-06*

The Forster Company - Alcohol Harm Reduction Stakeholder Engagement Programme

Trimedia Communications - EI 11 (health insurance card) PR programme

Munro and Forster Communications - NHS Institute PR

*2006-07*

Band and Brown Communications - PR for National Breastfeeding Awareness Week

Trimedia Communications - Independent Reconfiguration Panel PR

Pier 55 Ltd - NHS Business Services Authority advertorials

*2007-08*

Band and Brown Communications - PR for National Breastfeeding Awareness Week

### Disabled People: North East

**Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many young people in *(a)* Gateshead and *(b)* Sunderland are registered as physically disabled. [235963]

**Phil Hope:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### Elderly: Mentally Incapacitated

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* care homes and *(b)* beds for the elderly mentally infirm there were in (i) England and (ii) each local authority in each of the last five years. [234362]

**Phil Hope:** I am informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that it does not register care homes according to the age of residents. CSCI inspectors will decide at the time of an inspection whether to inspect a home against the national minimum standards (NMS) for care homes for older people or younger adults. This decision is based on the age profile of the residents of the home at the time of inspection.

CSCI does not register care homes according to the client groups, such as those suffering from dementia, which they may accommodate. CSCI will register a home as being able to care for at least one service user from a particular client group. These client groups do not include the "elderly mentally infirm". CSCI registers homes as being able to care for people with dementia, people with learning disability and people with a mental disorder—not including a learning disability or dementia.

Information on the numbers of care homes with at least one place registered to care for older people with dementia and/or mental disorder which were active in each local authority area and England on 31 March at the end of each financial year shown, that had been inspected at some point prior against the NMS for older people (though not necessarily during the year in question), has been placed in the Library.

### Health Services: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department has incurred on the establishment of new health service facilities in Crosby constituency since 1997. [236691]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not collected centrally. However, the Sefton Primary Care Trust is a partner in the Liverpool and Sefton Local Improvement Finance Trust scheme which has delivered six primary care centres for patients. This includes the Litherland Town Hall Health Centre which was redeveloped at a cost of £5.1 million and opened to patients in September 2005.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what capital expenditure his Department has incurred on health service projects in Crosby constituency since 1997. [236692]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the total expenditure on purchased additions of fixed assets by national health service body. The Department does not hold information relating to the reasons for this expenditure, or for the geographical areas in which it is spent.

*£000*

| | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sefton Primary Care Trust | — | — | — | — | 886 | 743 |
| Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust | 8,994 | 14,751 | 5,329 | 4,645 | 917 | — |
| Royal Liverpool Children's Hospitals NHS Trust | 3,898 | 3,885 | 2,852 | 3,790 | 3,781 | 5,848 |

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | £000 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust | 4,740 | 20,302 | 18,702 | 13,279 | 6,790 | 6,498 |
| Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Trust | 2,605 | 6,584 | 14,417 | 20,406 | 8,173 | 8,815 |
| Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery NHS Trust | 975 | 1,537 | 3,390 | 1,458 | 1,439 | 3,989 |
| Total purchased fixed assets | 21,212 | 47,059 | 44,690 | 43,578 | 21,986 | 25,893 |

*Notes:*
1. Data are not available for foundation trusts, so the information for Aintree Hospital NHS Trust only covers the period to 31 July 2006.
2. Sefton Primary Care Trust came into existence in 2006-07, so data prior to this is not available.
3. Levels of capital expenditure vary from year to year depending on local investment decisions.

*Source:*
Audited summarisation schedules

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes there were in Crosby constituency in 1997; and how many there have been in 2008 to date. [236700]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows finished consultant episodes (FCEs) at the Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Sefton primary care trust (PCT), and the former Southport and Formby and South Sefton PCTs.

| | | PCT of responsibility | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust as a provider | Sefton PCT | Southport and Formby PCT | South Sefton PCT |
| 2006-07 | 100,008 | 95,548 | — | — |
| 2005-06 | 97,945 | — | 28,118 | 56,691 |
| 2004-05 | 91,900 | — | 25,360 | 53,478 |
| 2003-04 | 86,747 | — | 26,363 | 52,619 |
| 2002-03 | 78,117 | — | 26,613 | 47,269 |
| 2001-02 | 74,542 | — | — | — |
| 2000-01 | 78,248 | — | — | — |
| 1999-2000 | 74,910 | — | — | — |
| 1998-99 | 73,596 | — | — | — |
| 1997-98 | 80,535 | — | — | — |

*Notes:*
1. The Southport and Formby PCT and the South Sefton PCTs merged in 2006-07 to create the Sefton PCT—these two PCTs can be added together to compare with 2006-07.
2. As a result of the merger of the Southport and Formby PCT and the South Sefton PCT, figures are provided for these PCTs from 2002-03 to 2005-06. A complex merger occurred prior to 2002-03 and it is not possible to trace which trusts should be included in order to get an accurate comparable figure.
3. Ungrossed data—figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data.
4. A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which the FCE finishes. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
5. It is also important that the PCT and trust figures are not added together, as the same FCEs may be counted under both organisations. This is because the trust data look at activity provided by the trust, whereas the PCT activity looks at activity commissioned by the PCT (which may then be provided at Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust).
6. Data Quality—HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for health and social care.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in Crosby constituency waited more than six months for treatment in 1997; and how many have done so in 2008 to date. [236701]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is not available at constituency level.

At quarter 4 1996-97, there were 2,946 patients waiting more than six months for treatment in the former health authority area, which includes the Crosby constituency.

During 2008, no patients within the Sefton primary care trust area have waited more than six months for treatment.

### Hospitals: Admissions

**Mr. Syms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the average length of stay in hospital of a patient in days in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [235461]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The median length of stay is two days. This figure relates to 2006-07 activity in NHS hospitals in England, and activity performed in the independent sector in England which was commissioned by the NHS in England. This is the most recent year for which information is available.

### Hospitals: East of England

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by the East of England strategic health authority on improving services in hospitals to compensate for the closure of other hospitals in the region in the latest period for which figures are available. [235732]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is not held centrally. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this directly with NHS East of England.

### Hospitals: Waiting Lists

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of additional activity to meet the 18 week target for operation waiting times in each of the last four years; [237043]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely changes in NHS *(a)* activity levels and *(b)* costs from (i) achieving and (ii) maintaining the 18 week target for operation waiting times in the next two years; [237044]

(3) if he will estimate the cost to the NHS of reducing the maximum operation waiting time to *(a)* 17 weeks, *(b)* 16 weeks, *(c)* 14 weeks, *(d)* 12 weeks and *(e)* eight weeks. [237045]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The 2004 comprehensive spending review provided for an extra £1,000 million and £1,900 million in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively for extra outpatient and inpatient activity needed to cover demand growth, existing waiting time initiatives and progress towards the 18 week waiting time target.

Achievement of the 18 week target has required the national health service to increase elective activity at a rate to meet both underlying demand and also clear the backlog of waiters. Achievement of the 18 week target will reduce the required rate of growth to just underlying activity. The Department has not made an estimate of the savings of meeting the 18 week target.

There are no current plans centrally to estimate the cost to the NHS of reducing waiting times below the existing public service agreement 18 week target agreed with HM Treasury. However, primary care trusts may set and fund local stretch targets which include further reductions in maximum waiting times in some areas.

### Incontinence: Medical Equipment

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will meet representatives of the User Group Coalition to discuss the revised proposals on Part IX of the Drug Tariff; and if he will make a statement. [234678]

**Phil Hope:** In conducting the review of arrangements under part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in primary care—departmental officials have sought the views of a wide range of interested parties, including patient representatives. The User Coalition Group has met with officials—as have individual members of the group. Unfortunately, due to diary commitments I am unable to meet the group. However, I have asked departmental officials to contact the chair of the group to organise a meeting.

**Mr. Syms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the likelihood of including contractors for the dispensing of intermittent catheters in the proposed new arrangements for prescription fees under Part IX of the Drug Tariff; and if he will make a statement. [235458]

**Phil Hope:** The review of the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in primary care had considered all appliances listed in Part IXA (catheter related), Part IXB and Part IXC. Intermittent catheters are included in Part IXC and consequently have been part of this review.

In addition, the review is considering reimbursement for items and remuneration for services to both dispensing appliance contractors (DACs) and pharmacy contractors. If such DACs dispense intermittent catheters then they would be included in any new arrangements for the provision of stoma and urology appliances and related services in primary care under Part IX of the Drug Tariff.

### Medical Treatments

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which treatments have been appraised by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; which have been *(a)* fully recommended, *(b)* partly recommended and *(c)* not recommended for use in the NHS; and in respect of each treatment what the (i) indication for which it was appraised and (ii) estimated annual eligible patient population is. [237026]

**Dawn Primarolo:** A summary of technology appraisal guidance published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is shown in the following table. Information on the estimated eligible annual population could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

*NICE technology appraisals published as at October 2008*

| *No.* | *Title of guidance* | *Date of issue* | *Recommendation* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Wisdom teeth | March 2000 | Partly recommended |
| 2 | Hip replacement | April 2000 | Partly recommended |
| 3 | Taxanes for ovarian cancer | May 2000 | Partly recommended |
| 4 | Coronary artery stents | May 2000 | Partly recommended |
| 5 | Liquid-based cytology—cervical screening | June 2000 | Not recommended |
| 6 | Taxanes for breast cancer | June 2000 | Partly recommended |
| 7 | Proton pump inhibitors | July 2000 | Partly recommended |
| 8 | Hearing aids | July 2000 | Partly recommended |
| 9 | Rosiglitazone for type 2 diabetes | August 2000 | Partly recommended |
| 10 | Inhaler systems for under 5s | August 2000 | Recommended |
| 11 | Implantable cardioverter defibrillators | September 2000 | Partly recommended |
| 12 | Glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitors | September 2000 | Recommended |
| 13 | Methylphenidate for Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder | October 2000 | Recommended |
| 14 | Ribavirin and interferon alpha for hepatitis C | October 2000 | Partly recommended |
| 15 | Zanamivir for influenza | November 2000 | Partly recommended |
| 16 | Autologous cartilage transplantation in knee joints | December 2000 | Not recommended |
| 17 | Laparoscopic surgery for colorectal cancer | January 2001 | Not recommended |
| 18 | Laparoscopic surgery for inguinal hernia | December 2000 | Partly recommended |
| 19 | Donepezil, Rivastigmine and Galantamine for Alzheimer's disease | January 2001 | Partly recommended |
| 20 | Riluzole for motor neurone disease | January 2001 | Recommended |
| 21 | Pioglitazone for type 2 diabetes | March 2001 | Partly recommended |
| 22 | Orlistat for obesity | March 2001 | Partly recommended |
| 23 | Temozolomide for brain cancer | April 2001 | Partly recommended |

*NICE technology appraisals published as at October 2008*

| *No.* | *Title of guidance* | *Date of issue* | *Recommendation* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 24 | Difficult to heal surgical wounds | April 2001 | Recommended |
| 25 | Gemcitabine for pancreatic cancer | May 2001 | Partly recommended |
| 26 | Non-small cell lung cancer | June 2001 | Recommended |
| 27 | Cox II for osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis | July 2001 | Partly recommended |
| 28 | Topetecan for advanced ovarian cancer | August 2001 | Partly recommended |
| 29 | Fludarabine for B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukaemia | September 2001 | Recommended |
| 30 | Taxanes for breast cancer—review | September 2001 | Partly recommended |
| 31 | Sibutramine for obesity in adults | October 2001 | Recommended |
| 32 | Beta interferon and glatiramer | January 2002 | Not recommended |
| 33 | Colorectal cancer | March 2002 | Partly recommended |
| 34 | Tratuzumab breast cancer | March 2002 | Partly recommended |
| 35 | Enteracept juvenile arthritis | March 2002 | Partly recommended |
| 36 | Enteracept and infliximab rheumatoid arthritis | March 2002 | Partly recommended |
| 37 | Rituximab lymphoma | March 2002 | Partly recommended |
| 38 | Inhalers 5-15 | March 2002 | Recommended |
| 39 | Zyban and nicotine replacement therapy | March 2002 | Recommended |
| 40 | Infliximab for Crohn's disease | May 2002 | Partly recommended |
| 41 | Routine anti-D rhesus negative women | May 2002 | Recommended |
| 42 | Human growth hormone for children | May 2002 | Recommended |
| 43 | Atypical antipsychotics | June 2002 | Recommended |
| 44 | Metal on metal | June 2002 | Partly recommended |
| 45 | Pegylated liposomal doxorubicin hydrochloride (Caelyx) for ovarian cancer | July 2002 | Partly recommended |
| 46 | Surgery for morbid obesity | July 2002 | Partly recommended |
| 47 | Glycoproteins—review | September 2002 | Recommended |
| 48 | Home vs hospital haemodialysis | September 2002 | Partly recommended |
| 49 | Ultrasonic locating devices for pacing central venous lines | September 2002 | Recommended |
| 50 | Imatinib for chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) | October 2002 | Recommended |
| 51 | Computerised cognitive behavioural therapy | October 2002 | Not recommended |
| 52 | Thrombolysis | October 2002 | Recommended |
| 53 | Long acting insulin analogues (glargine) | December 2002 | Partly recommended |
| 54 | Vinorelbine for breast cancer | December 2002 | Partly recommended |
| 55 | Pachitaxel for ovarian cancer | January 2003 | Recommended |
| 56 | Tension free vaginal tape | February 2003 | Recommended |
| 57 | Subcutaneous insulin infusion (insulin pumps) | February 2003 | Partly recommended |
| 58 | Zanamivir, oseltamivir and amantidine for the treatment of flu | February 2003 | Partly recommended |
| 59 | Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) | April 2003 | Partly recommended |
| 60 | Patient education models diabetes | April 2003 | Recommended |
| 61 | Capecitabine and tegafur with uracil for metastatic colorectal cancer | May 2003 | Recommended |
| 62 | Capecitabine for locally advance breast cancer | May 2003 | Recommended |
| 63 | Glitazones for type 2 diabetes—review | August 2003 | Partly recommended |
| 64 | Human growth hormone in adults | August 2003 | Partly recommended |
| 65 | Rituximab for aggressive non Hodgkin's lymphoma | September 2003 | Partly recommended |
| 66 | Olanzapine and valporate semisodium for bipolar 1 disorder | September 2003 | Recommended |
| 67 | Oseltamivir and amantidine for prophylaxis of flu | September 2003 | Partly recommended |
| 68 | Photodynamic therapy (PDT) for macular degeneration | September 2003 | Partly recommended |
| 69 | Use of liquid-based cytology for cervical screening | October 2003 | Recommended |
| 70 | Use of imatanib for chronic myeloid leukaemia | October 2003 | Partly recommended |
| 71 | Use of coronary artery stents | October 2003 | Partly recommended |
| 72 | Rheumatoid arthritis—anakinra | November 2003 | Not recommended |
| 73 | Myocardial perfusion scintigraphy for the diagnosis and management of angina and myocardial infarction | November 2003 | Partly recommended |
| 74 | Pre-hospital initiation of fluid replacement therapy in trauma | January 2004 | Partly recommended |
| 75 | Hepatitis C—pegylated interferons, ribavarin and alfa interferon | January 2004 | Partly recommended |
| 76 | Newer drugs for epilepsy in adults | March 2004 | Partly recommended |
| 77 | Newer hypnotic drugs for insomnia | April 2004 | Partly recommended |
| 78 | Fluid-filled thermal balloon and microwave endometrial ablation techniques for heavy menstrual bleeding | April 2004 | Partly recommended |
| 79 | Newer drugs for epilepsy in children | April 2004 | Partly recommended |
| 80 | Acute coronary syndromes—clopidogrel | July 2004 | Recommended |
| 81 | Atopic dermatitis (eczema)—topical steroids | August 2004 | Partly recommended |
| 82 | Atopic dermatitis (eczema)—pimecrolimus and tacrolimus | August 2004 | Partly recommended |
| 83 | Hernia—laparoscopic surgery—review | September 2004 | Partly recommended |
| 84 | Sepsis (severe)—drotrecogin | September 2004 | Recommended |
| 85 | Renal transplantation—immunosuppressive regimens (adults) | September 2004 | Partly recommended |
| 86 | Gastro-intestinal stromal tumours (GIST)—imatinib | October 2004 | Partly recommended |

*NICE technology appraisals published as at October 2008*

| *No* | *Title of guidance* | *Date of issue* | *Recommendation* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 87 | Secondary osteoporosis | January 2005 | Partly recommended |
| 88 | Dual-chamber pacemakers for the treatment of symptomatic bradycardia | February 2005 | Partly recommended |
| 89 | Cartilage injury—autologous chondrocyte implantation (ACI)—review | May 2005 | Not recommended |
| 90 | Vascular disease—clopidogrel and dipyridamole | May 2005 | Partly recommended |
| 91 | Ovarian cancer (advanced)—paclitaxel, pegylated liposomal doxorubicin hydrochloride and topotecan—review | May 2005 | Partly recommended |
| 92 | Tooth decay—Healozone | July 2005 | Not recommended |
| 93 | Colorectal cancer (advanced)—irinotecan, oxaliplatin and raltitrexed—review | August 2005 | Partly recommended |
| 94 | Cardiovascular disease—statins | January 2006 | Partly recommended |
| 95 | Arrhythmia—implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs)—review | January 2006 | Partly recommended |
| 96 | Hepatitis B (chronic)—adefovir dipivoxil and pegylated interferon alpha-2a | February 2006 | Partly recommended |
| 97 | Depression and anxiety—computerised cognitive behavioural therapy (CCBT) | February 2006 | Partly recommended |
| 98 | Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)—methylphenidate, atomoxetine and dexamfetamine—review | March 2006 | Partly recommended |
| 99 | Immunosuppressive therapy for renal transplantation in children and adolescents | April 2006 | Partly recommended |
| 100 | Capecitabine and oxaliplatin in the adjuvant treatment of stage III (Dukes' C) colon cancer | April 2006 | Recommended |
| 101 | Docetaxel for hormone refractory prostate cancer | June 2006 | Recommended |
| 102 | Parent-training/education programmes in the management of children with conduct disorders | July 2006 | Recommended |
| 103 | Etanercept and efalizumab for psoriasis | July 2006 | Partly recommended |
| 104 | Etanercept and infliximab for psoriatic arthritis | July 2006 | Partly recommended |
| 105 | Laparoscopic surgery for colorectal cancer | August 2006 | Recommended |
| 106 | Peginterferon alfa and ribavirin for the treatment of mild chronic hepatitis C | August 2006 | Recommended |
| 107 | Trastuzumab for the adjuvant treatment of early-stage HER2-positive breast cancer | August 2006 | Partly recommended |
| 108 | Breast cancer (early)—paclitaxel | September 2006 | Not recommended |
| 109 | Breast cancer (early)—docetaxel | September 2006 | Recommended |
| 110 | Follicular lymphoma—rituximab | September 2006 | Recommended |
| 111 | Alzheimer's—donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine (review) and memantine | November 2006 | Partly recommended |
| 112 | Breast cancer (early)—hormonal treatments | November 2006 | Recommended |
| 113 | Diabetes (types 1 and 2)—inhaled insulin | December 2006 | Partly recommended |
| 114 | Drug misuse—methadone and buprenorphine | January 2007 | Recommended |
| 115 | Drug misuse—naltrexone | January 2007 | Partly recommended |
| 116 | Breast cancer—gemcitabine | January 2007 | Partly recommended |
| 117 | Hyperparathyroidism—cinacalcet | January 2007 | Partly recommended |
| 118 | Colorectal cancer (metastatic)—bevacizumab and cetuximab | January 2007 | Not recommended |
| 119 | Leukaemia (lymphocytic)—fludarabine | February 2007 | Not recommended |
| 120 | Heart failure—cardiac resynchronisation | May 2007 | Partly recommended |
| 121 | Glioma (newly diagnosed and high grade)—carmustine implants and temozolomide | June 2007 | Partly recommended |
| 122 | Ischaemic stroke (acute)—alteplase | June 2007 | Recommended |
| 123 | Smoking cessation—varenicline | July 2007 | Recommended |
| 124 | Non-small cell lung cancer—pemetrexed | August 2007 | Not recommended |
| 125 | Psoriatic arthritis (moderate to severe)—adalimumab | August 2007 | Partly recommended |
| 126 | Rheumatoid arthritis (refractory)—rituximab | August 2007 | Partly recommended |
| 127 | Multiple sclerosis—natalizumab | August 2007 | Recommended |
| 128 | Haemorrhoid—stapled haemorrhoidopexy | September 2007 | Recommended |
| 129 | Velcade—multiple myeloma | October 2007 | Recommended |
| 130 | Rheumatoid arthritis—adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab | October 2007 | Partly recommended |
| 131 | Asthma (in children)—corticosteroids | November 2007 | Partly recommended |
| 132 | Hypercholesterolaemia—ezetimibe | November 2007 | Partly recommended |
| 133 | Asthma (uncontrolled)—omalizumab | November 2007 | Partly recommended |
| 134 | Psoriasis—infliximab | January 2008 | Partly recommended |
| 135 | Mesothelioma—pemetrexed disodium | January 2008 | Partly recommended |
| 136 | Structural neuroimaging in first-episode psychosis | February 2008 | Not recommended |
| 137 | Lymphoma (follicular non-Hodgkin's)—rituximab | February 2008 | Recommended |
| 138 | Asthma (in adults)—corticosteroids | March 2008 | Partly recommended |
| 139 | Sleep apnoea—continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) | March 2008 | Partly recommended |
| 140 | Colitis (ulcerative)—infliximab | April 2008 | Not recommended |
| 141 | Rheumatoid arthritis (refractory)—abatacept | April 2008 | Not recommended |
| 142 | Anaemia (cancer-treatment induced)—erythropoietin (alpha and beta) and darbepoetin | May 2008 | Partly recommended |
| 143 | Ankylosing spondylitis—adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab | May 2008 | Partly recommended |
| 144 | Obesity—rimonabant | June 2008 | Partly recommended |
| 145 | Head and neck cancer—cetuximab | June 2008 | Partly recommended |
| 146 | Psoriasis—adalimumab | June 2008 | Partly recommended |
| 147 | Breast cancer (advanced and metastatic)—bevacizumab | June 2008 | Terminated |
| 148 | Lung cancer (non-small-cell)—bevacizumab | June 2008 | Terminated |
| 149 | Glioma (recurrent)—carmustine implants | June 2008 | Terminated |

*NICE technology appraisals published as at October 2008*

| No | Title of guidance | Date of issue | Recommendation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 150 | Colorectal cancer (metastatic)—cetuximab | June 2008 | Terminated |
| 151 | Diabetes—insulin pump therapy | July 2008 | Partly recommended |
| 152 | Coronary artery disease—drug-eluting stents | July 2008 | Partly recommended |
| 153 | Hepatitis B—entecavir | August 2008 | Recommended |
| 154 | Hepatitis B—telbivudine | August 2008 | Not recommended |
| 155 | Macular degeneration (age-related)—ranibizumab and pegaptanib | August 2008 | Partly recommended |
| 156 | Pregnancy (rhesus negative women)—routine anti-D (review) | August 2008 | Partly recommended |
| 157 | Venous thromboembolism—dabigatran | September 2008 | Recommended |
| 158 | Influenza (prophylaxis)—amantadine, oseltamivir and zanamivir | September 2008 | Partly recommended |
| 159 | Pain (chronic neuropathic or ischaemic)—spinal cord stimulation | October 2008 | Partly recommended |
| 160 | Osteoporosis—primary prevention | October 2008 | Partly recommended |
| 161 | Osteoporosis—secondary prevention including strontium ranelate | October 2008 | Partly recommended |

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what basis the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) decided on a patient population not normally exceeding 7,000 as one of the criteria for consideration of a treatment under the supplementary advice on appraising end-of-life medicines announced by NICE on 4 November 2008; and what consideration was given to applying the advice to patient populations of *(a)* more than and *(b)* fewer than 7,000. [237032]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently carrying out a public consultation on supplementary advice to its appraisal committees when they are asked to appraise life-extending medicines licensed for terminal illnesses affecting small numbers of patients.

The supplementary advice has been developed independently by NICE and states that

"The population for which the medicine is indicated and licensed should not normally exceed 7,000, with the intention of including medicines for rarer cancers and other uncommon conditions, and small groups within larger populations. The reason for selecting a small population maximum figure is that it may sometimes be the case that the costs involved in developing medicines for small groups of patients need to be reflected in a higher price, at least for the first indication."

NICE will consider the comments it receives in response to the consultation.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which interventions *(a)* have been and *(b)* are being assessed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) through its (i) Single Technology Appraisal and (ii) Multiple Technology Appraisal processes; for which indications each treatment has been assessed; what estimate has been made of the annual eligible patient population for each treatment; and in respect of each treatment on which date (A) the treatment received its product licence, (B) the treatment was referred to NICE, (C) NICE began its appraisal and (D) NICE plans to complete its appraisal. [237086]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 370-76W, showing the information requested on the timings of single technology appraisals published and in development by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). Information on appraisals conducted through NICE's multiple technology appraisal programme and information on the estimated eligible annual population for all appraisals could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

## Mental Health Services: Children

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of ensuring that no child under the age of 16 years is placed in an adult mental health in-patient ward. [237035]

**Ann Keen:** No estimate has been made.

The national health service has made significant progress on this issue and the latest available figures, for July to September 2008, show only five bed days for under-16s on adult psychiatric wards. This is the lowest figure since data collection started in 2005.

## Mental Health Services: Standards

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has undertaken to establish the long-term recovery levels of patients receiving private mental health care for the purposes of benchmarking. [235817]

**Phil Hope:** The Department has not undertaken any research.

## Methadone

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were prescribed methadone in *(a)* the Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust area and *(b)* Stroud constituency in each of the last 10 years. [235961]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not hold information on the number of patients treated with a particular drug. However we are able to provide two related sources of data covering the Gloucestershire and Stroud areas. These are the number of methadone prescriptions and the number of people receiving specialist prescribing treatment for drug misuse.

The number of items prescribed and dispensed for methadone is in the following table. This information covers the last 60 months and is based on the primary care trust (PCT) that most closely represents the area requested.

*Note:*

Methadone can be used to treat more than one condition—it is licensed for use in opioid dependence, as an analgesic and as a cough suppressant.

*Number of prescription items (not individuals receiving prescriptions) of methadone*

| *Financial year* | *Gloucestershire PCT*[1] |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 5,995 |
| 2006-07 | 5,559 |
| 2005-06 | 3,990 |
| 2004-05 | 3,046 |

[1] Due to changes in PCT configuration Gloucestershire PCT comprised the following PCTs, pre 2006 changes:
Cheltenham and Tewkesbury PCT
Cotswold and Vale PCT
West Gloucestershire PCT

The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse's (NTA) National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) collects data on people in drug treatment in England.

NDTMS records numbers of people receiving specialist prescribing for drug treatment rather than the type of drug which is prescribed. Most of those in treatment receive oral methadone, but buprenorphine or other substitute opioids may also be prescribed.

The NDTMS only records data based on local authority boundaries, and only since 2004-05. The NDTMS does not break down data specifically for Stroud.

Data for the number of people receiving prescribing treatment in the Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust area, for each of the years since 2004-05 are given in the following table.

*Number of individual receiving prescribing treating (including methadone) for drug misuse*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 865 |
| 2005-06 | 1,314 |
| 2006-07 | 1,358 |
| 2007-08 | 1,467 |

### Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what budget was allocated within the East of Englahd strategic health authority to reduce MRSA in hospitals in the latest period for which figures are available. [235731]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not held centrally. Funding to deliver reduced methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in hospitals is made available to the national health service mostly through general primary care trust (PCT) allocations. Individual PCT allocations are not broken down into funding or budgets for specific initiatives. It is for the national health service to decide locally how best to meet the national priorities set out in the "NHS Operating Framework" (a copy of which is available in the Library), including how much funding to make available. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this directly with NHS East of England.

### NHS: Consultants

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the analysis of consultants' NHS and private incomes funded by his Department what permission was sought from consultants to use this data; in what ways the data were anonymised; and how much the study cost; [232029]

(2) with reference to the analysis of consultants' NHS and private incomes funded by his Department, what the *(a)* total income, *(b)* private income and *(c)* NHS income was of NHS consultants in the period analysed, broken down by (i) place of work and (ii) place of NHS employment; [232030]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of HM Revenue and Customs correspondence files relating to securing access to the tax return database to complete the analysis of consultants NHS and private incomes undertaken by his Department; [232451]

(4) in which regions those consultants funded by his Department and included in its analysis of consultant NHS and private income worked; and what other studies involving interrogation of consultants' and future consultants' tax returns he has commissioned in the last 11 years. [232452]

**Ann Keen:** The following table gives national health service consultants' average total income, average private income and average NHS income for 2003-04.

The information is presented by pre-2006 strategic health authority (SHA).

Information by place of work and place of NHS employment is not available.

*Consultant earnings 2003-04*

| *SHA* | *Average total income (£)* | *Average NHS income (£)* | *Average private income (£)* | *Number of consultants in sample* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cheshire and Merseyside | 131,639 | 75,630 | 56,009 | 1,297 |
| Essex | 131,226 | 75,005 | 56,221 | 552 |
| County Durham and Tees Valley | 124,735 | 73,772 | 50,963 | 604 |
| Shropshire and Staffordshire | 119,291 | 71,384 | 47,907 | 649 |
| North West London | 118,843 | 73,021 | 45,822 | 1,028 |
| Birmingham and the Black Country | 116,981 | 72,290 | 44,691 | 1,309 |
| Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire | 118,096 | 74,880 | 43,216 | 595 |
| Cumbria and Lancashire | 119,013 | 75,464 | 43,549 | 793 |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear | 109,788 | 70,902 | 39,486 | 982 |
| Dorset and Somerset | 114,396 | 75,543 | 38,853 | 595 |
| North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire | 110,466 | 75,929 | 34,537 | 637 |
| Thames Valley | 108,074 | 72,987 | 35,087 | 903 |
| Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire | 108,640 | 74,195 | 32,446 | 984 |
| South East London | 106,266 | 74,449 | 31,816 | 995 |
| Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland | 110,989 | 78,331 | 32,658 | 647 |
| South West Peninsula | 102,429 | 73,827 | 28,602 | 757 |

*Consultant earnings 2003-04*

| SHA | Average total income (£) | Average NHS income (£) | Average private income (£) | Number of consultants in sample |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East London | 111,569 | 81,749 | 29,820 | 711 |
| West Midlands South | 105,397 | 77,413 | 27,984 | 680 |
| North Central London | 106,003 | 77,863 | 28,140 | 1,044 |
| Surrey and Sussex | 103,711 | 77,426 | 26,285 | 1,172 |
| Kent and Medway | 106,769 | 80,011 | 26,758 | 583 |
| West Yorkshire | 102,264 | 77,290 | 24,974 | 1,156 |
| South West London | 98,580 | 74,665 | 23,915 | 704 |
| Trent | 104,591 | 81,995 | 22,596 | 1,082 |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight | 102,154 | 81,050 | 21,104 | 818 |
| Greater Manchester | 102,399 | 81,801 | 20,598 | 1,468 |
| Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire | 102,254 | 81,694 | 20,560 | 1,093 |
| South Yorkshire | 101,578 | 81,400 | 20,178 | 809 |

Notes

1. Source: The Table is taken from the article: "Analysis of consultants' NHS and private income in England 2003-04"—Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine 2008.

2. The income variables used were from employment income (assumed to be NHS income) and self-employment income (assumed to be income from private medical practice).

The table also shows the regions in which these consultants worked.

In summer 2006, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) statisticians created an anonymised statistical dataset for research into the staff market forces factor (MFF) used in NHS resource allocation. The dataset was created by linking selected variables supplied by NHS Information Centre for health and social care from the 2003 NHS Medical and Dental Workforce Census with three income variables derived from HMRC records: total employment income, total self-employment income and the sum of these two variables. Any variables used to link the data were removed prior to access by the academic researcher contracted by Department. This deliberately partial data set contained only the information required by the researcher to carry out the statistical (regression) analysis used in the review of the MFF.

The researcher had access to only this anonymised, statistical dataset. The statistical analyses were undertaken on HMRC premises. Having signed appropriate confidentiality undertakings, the researcher was allowed supervised access to the dataset in an isolated environment with no connection to either HMRC networks and administrative data systems or to external sites via internet or e-mail. HMRC reviewed all statistical output compiled by the researcher and released only aggregate non-disclosive summaries. No outputs based on single or small number of records were released. The smallest sample count in the published report was 30. This is well within the guidelines for dissemination of statistics in National Statistics protocols. The researcher was not allowed to return to the dataset once the agreed analysis had been completed.

As will be clear from the table, it was impossible to link records in the statistical dataset with any data relating to an identifiable individual, so no permission was sought from NHS consultants for this research to take place.

The total cost of the contract for research into the staff MFF was £75,000. The analysis of private sector earnings of NHS consultants was a relatively small, but influential part of the review of the MFF. The final research report on the review of the staff MFF will be made available on the Department of Health website alongside the PCT revenue allocations, to be announced at the time of the Operating Framework for the NHS later this year.

The correspondence files relating to securing access to the tax return data base do not exist, since no one was given access to a data base of tax returns. The process that was followed to give access to an anonymised data set is as described.

In the last 11 years, HMRC has conducted surveys into consultants' earnings on behalf of the Department of Health for tax years 1998-99 to 2004-05 inclusive, using data from HMRC records. No outputs from this work have been provided to non-HM Revenue and Customs personnel in either pseudo-anonymised or non-anonymised form. HMRC released only anonymised outputs to the Department of Health or to the NHS Information Centre for health and Social care.

In addition, at the request of the Department for 2003-04 only, HMRC created an anonymised statistical dataset relating to consultants' earnings. It contained only the pre-arranged data items for a sample of 24,407 cases that were necessary to enable researchers acting on behalf of the Department of Health to undertake statistical analysis. The researchers were allowed supervised access to the dataset on HMRC premises. HMRC reviewed the outputs from the statistical analysis to ensure that only non-disclosive summary and aggregate statistics were compiled and used in the report.

### NHS: Improving Access to Medicines

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 5.12 of the report to his Department on improving access to NHS medicines by Professor Mike Richards CBE, how his Department plans to encourage primary care trusts to work together to make proactive commissioning decisions. [235619]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** On 4 November, the Secretary of State accepted this recommendation and the national health service chief executive wrote to all strategic health authority (SHA) chief executives to ask them to review, by April 2009, the way in which primary care trusts in their area collaborate to support effective decision-making on new drugs.

All SHAs are now taking forward this piece of work in their local areas.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to implement Recommendation 3 of improving access to medicines for NHS patients. [237062]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We will publish in the new year a set of core principles to inform the way in which primary care trusts make decisions about funding new drugs, followed by detailed good practice guidance for the national health service.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for implementing Recommendation 6 of improving access to medicines for NHS patients; whether he plans to publish the results of the work; and if he will make a statement. [237081]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Secretary of State has asked Professor Mike Richards to take forward this piece of work, with a view to making the results public at the end of 2009.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Statement of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 131-33, on NHS patients: access to medicines, which drugs he will refer back to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for re-appraisal. [237097]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We have no plans to refer any drugs or treatments back to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) for reappraisal. NICE already has a system in place for periodically reviewing those appraisals it has published.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Statement of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 131-33, on NHS patients: access to medicines, what steps he expects the NHS trust to take with regard to the funding of any treatment needed as a result of complications in circumstances where it is not possible to identify whether complications have resulted from a patient's private or NHS treatment. [235729]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The draft revised guidance published by the Department on 4 November is clear that, where patients pay for additional, private treatment, the national health service should not be expected to meet any predictable costs resulting from the private element of care. Copies of the guidance have already been placed in the Library.

However, in circumstances where it is not possible to identify whether complications have resulted from a patient's private or NHS treatment, or in an emergency, patients should, of course, be entitled to NHS care.

## NHS: Manpower

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent staff work at *(a)* the NHS Blood and Transplant Authority, *(b)* NHS Professionals, *(c)* the Commission for Social Care Inspection, *(d)* the General Social Care Council, *(e)* the Healthcare Commission, *(f)* the Appointments Commission, *(g)* the Mental Health Act Commission, *(h)* the Social Care Institute for Excellence, *(i)* the Hepatitis Advisory Group, *(j)* the AIDS Expert Advisory Group and *(k)* the Healthcare Regulatory Council. [233287]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *Arm's Length Bodies* | |
| NHS Blood and Transplant | [1]5,579.86 |
| NHS Professionals | [1]272.32 |
| Commission for Social Care Inspection | [1]1,541.20 |
| General Social Care Council | [1]200.60 |
| Healthcare Commission | [1]867.00 |
| Appointments Commission | [1]44.75 |
| Mental Health Act Commission | [1]41.00 |
| Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence | [1]16.00 |
| *Charities* | |
| Social Care Institute for Excellence | [1]68.00 |
| Advisory Non-Departmental Public Bodies | — |
| Neither of these bodies employ staff. | — |
| Hepatitis Advisory Group | — |
| AIDS Expert Advisory Group | — |

[1] Whole-time equivalent.

## NHS: Private Sector

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 11 of his Department's equality impact assessment on NHS patients who wish to pay for additional private care, which private treatments currently unavailable will be made available on the NHS. [235608]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The future use of specific interventions within the national health service will depend on a variety of factors, including recommendations made by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 9.6 of his Department's consultation document on Guidance on NHS patients who wish to pay for additional private care, what his Department's definition is of unreasonable profit. [235617]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The draft revised guidance the Department published on 4 November sets out the clear principles that should be applied to every situation where a national health service patient chooses to purchase additional care privately.

One of these principles is that the NHS should not be seen to be profiting unreasonably from patients in these circumstances.

The Department does not consider it sensible to try to define this at a national level and the Government do not set prices for private healthcare. Instead, the principle set out in the guidance sets a clear expectation to all NHS organisations that any charges they make in their capacity as providers of private care must be reasonable and justifiable. It is then for NHS organisations to apply this principle locally, in line with their particular local circumstances.

A copy of the guidance has already been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on whether patients will have to pay for the full cost of the NHS element if they wish to proceed with the private element in cases where it is impossible to separate a private element of a patient's treatment from an NHS-provided element. [235618]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The draft revised guidance, published by the Department of Health on 4 November, sets out clearly the principles that should apply in circumstances where patients wish to purchase additional, private care. It says that:

"As overriding rules, it is essential that:

the NHS should never subsidise private care with public money, which would breach core NHS principles; and

patients should never be charged for their NHS care, which would contravene the founding principles and legislation of the NHS."

The guidance goes on to say that,

"in order to ensure that there is no risk of the NHS subsidising private care:

It should always be clear whether an individual procedure or treatment is privately funded or NHS funded.

Private and NHS care should be kept as clearly separate as possible.

Private care should be carried out at a different time and place. A different place would include the facilities of a private health care provider, or part of an NHS organisation which has been designated for private care, including amenity beds.

This guidance applies to additional private health care that patients receive over and above their NHS care. It does not permit a "pick and mix" approach where patients can pay to upgrade any individual elements of their NHS care."

The guidance has already been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Statement of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 131-33, on NHS patients: access to medicines, how many patients he expects will take up the right to purchase separate private care in each of the next three years. [235730]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The measures announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 4 November will improve access to drugs for national health service patients, reducing the number of patients likely to purchase additional care privately. The Department does not have sufficient data to estimate patient numbers reliably.

However, the Secretary of State accepted Professor Mike Richards's recommendation that the Department should commission a national audit of demand for unfunded drugs. The Secretary of State has asked Professor Richards to lead this work.

## Nurses: Maternity Services

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered neonatal nurses he estimates will be required in neonatal intensive care units in *(a)* Wandsworth and *(b)* London in (i) 2009, (ii) 2010 and (iii) 2011. [237298]

**Ann Keen:** It is for local national health service organisations to analyse their local work force needs and develop plans, in liaison with commissioners, providers and service users, to deliver high quality, safe services and take action to secure the appropriate staff and skills to deliver these services.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered neonatal nurses there are in *(a)* Wandsworth and *(b)* London. [237299]

**Ann Keen:** Neonatal nurses are not currently identifiable within the NHS census data collected by the Information Centre for health and social care. The number of qualified paediatric nurses in the London strategic health authority area, Kingston Hospital NHS Trust, and St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust can be found in the following table.

*NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified paediatric nurses in the London strategic health authority area and each specified organisation as at 30 September 2007*

| | *Headcount* |
|---|---|
| London strategic health authority area | 4,164 |
| *Of which:* | |
| Kingston Hospital NHS Trust | 70 |
| St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust | 146 |

*Note:*
Data quality: Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.
*Source:*
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

## Obesity

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he holds on the number of children who have been estimated to be obese or seriously overweight in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and how many teenagers have been diagnosed with diabetes in each such year. [235823]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Information on the percentage of children aged two to 15 who are overweight or obese in each of the last 10 years is available from the "Health Survey for England 2006 Latest trends: Children trend

tables 2006" published on 31 January 2008. The information can be found on table 4. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Further information on the percentage of children who are overweight or obese is also available for the year 2006-07 for those in school year reception (aged four to five) and year 6 (aged 10 to 11) from the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). This information is available in the "National Child Measurement Programme: 2006/07 school year, headline results" published on 21 February 2008. The prevalence of obese children can be found in table 1 (page 3). This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Information on the number of teenagers diagnosed with diabetes in each of the last 10 years is not available.

### Patient Choice Schemes

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts use NHS Direct as their Choose and Book appointments line. [236955]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** All primary care trusts have the facility to use the Choose and Book appointments line run by NHS Direct on behalf of the national health service.

While the vast majority of primary care trusts use this service for all of their calls, five primary care trusts have taken the operational decision to only use it for out of hours services between the period 07.00 to 09.00 and 17.00 to 22.00 hours Monday to Friday and 07.00 to 22.00 on a Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays.

Where primary care trusts take the decision to organise their own service outside of the nationally provided arrangement, the service is funded locally by the primary care trust.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost per call to the NHS Direct National Choose and Book appointments line was in each of the last three years; and how much income the service generated in each year. [237164]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect information on the cost incurred by individual patients calling the national 0845 608 8888 number. The actual cost incurred by patients will vary depending on whether a patient calls from a landline or mobile and what cost tariff they are on with the phone service provider. The National Choose and Book Appointment Line do not generate any income from patient calls made to the service.

Patients can also book their appointment, free of charge, either via the internet or in their general practitioner (GP) surgery at the time of their referral by the GP.

The cost to NHS Direct of providing the National Choose and Book Appointment Line service is paid for from national health service financial resources.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what proportion of appointments booked via the NHS Direct National Choose and Book appointments line a hard copy confirmation of the booking was posted to the patient within two days in each of the last 36 months. [237165]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The NHS Direct choose and book appointments line are not responsible for posting a hard copy confirmation of a patient's booking. Details of a patient's appointment are conveyed over the telephone when patients choose to book their appointment in this way, with clinical details about a patient's appointment sent by the provider of their choice who in most cases will send the patient a hard copy confirmation of their booking.

### Prescriptions

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of prescription items were dispensed to patients as repeat prescriptions in *(a)* Vale of York constituency and *(b)* England in the last three years. [233208]

**Phil Hope:** The Department does not hold the information regarding the percentage of prescriptions which are issued as repeat prescriptions.

### Quality Adjusted Life Year

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the progress on the research commissioned by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) from the National Institute for Health Research to consider public opinion on NICE's use of the Quality Adjusted Life Year as a basis for its recommendations. [234674]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We have made no such assessment. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is an independent organisation and is responsible for considering the impact of research on its methods and processes.

NICE commissioned the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) to conduct two pieces of research into the use of the Quality Adjusted Life Year (QALY). The 'What is the value to society of a QALY?' report was published in July 2008 and 'The relative societal value of health gains to different beneficiaries' report was published in August 2008.

### Sight Impaired

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered blind people there are, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* constituency; and if he will make a statement. [235925]

**Phil Hope:** Data on the number of registered blind and partially sighted people are not collected centrally by constituency but are available for councils with adult social services responsibilities and Government office regions.

Information collected 31 March 2008, shows that 153,000 people were on the register of blind people, a slight increase of around 500 (0.3 per cent.) from March 2006 although there were 10,200 new registrations to the register of blind people, a fall of 5 per cent. compared to 2006.

The following table shows the number of blind and partially sighted people registered with councils with adult social services responsibilities in England.

*Number of blind and partially sighted people registered with councils with adult social services responsibilities in England as at 31 March 2008*

*Rounded numbers*

| | Total number of people (all ages) registered as: | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Blind* | *Partially sighted* |
| *England* | 152,980 | 156,285 |
| *North East* | 6,785 | 8,310 |
| Durham | 1,475 | 1,805 |
| Northumberland | 720 | 840 |
| Darlington | 250 | 320 |
| Hartlepool | 220 | 190 |
| Middlesbrough | 290 | 475 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 250 | 460 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 365 | 530 |
| Gateshead | 505 | 710 |
| Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 810 | 840 |
| North Tyneside | 635 | 675 |
| South Tyneside | 450 | 480 |
| Sunderland | 805 | 990 |
| *North West* | 22,550 | 24,675 |
| Cheshire | 1,995 | 2,000 |
| Cumbria | 1,350 | 1,555 |
| Lancashire | 3,540 | 4,540 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 530 | 835 |
| Blackpool | 565 | 870 |
| Halton | 255 | 360 |
| Warrington | 435 | 580 |
| Bolton | 750 | 1,020 |
| Bury | 865 | 750 |
| Knowsley | 455 | 560 |
| Liverpool | 1,195 | 1,120 |
| Manchester | 1,890 | 1,770 |
| Oldham | 870 | 775 |
| Rochdale | 1,525 | 835 |
| Salford | 1,025 | 1,065 |
| Sefton | 1,025 | 975 |
| St Helens | 335 | 565 |
| Stockport | 620 | 885 |
| Tameside | 665 | 580 |
| Trafford | 825 | 725 |
| Wigan | 675 | 1,005 |
| Wirral | 1,155 | 1,320 |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | 17,150 | 17,935 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,780 | 1,905 |
| East Riding | 1,055 | 1,125 |
| Kingston-upon-Hull | 735 | 705 |
| NE Lincolnshire | 425 | 355 |
| North Lincolnshire | 600 | 385 |
| York | 430 | 555 |
| Barnsley | 1,810 | 1,220 |
| Bradford | 1,670 | 1,725 |
| Calderdale | 480 | 465 |
| Doncaster | 760 | 1,225 |
| Kirklees | 785 | 670 |
| Leeds | 2,780 | 2,460 |
| Rotherham | 860 | 1,360 |
| Sheffield | 1,730 | 1,890 |
| Wakefield | 1,250 | 1,895 |
| *East Midlands* | 13,120 | 14,700 |

*Number of blind and partially sighted people registered with councils with adult social services responsibilities in England as at 31 March 2008*

*Rounded numbers*

| | Total number of people (all ages) registered as: | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Blind* | *Partially sighted* |
| Derbyshire | 3,040 | 3,070 |
| Leicestershire | 1,520 | 1,980 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,990 | 2,450 |
| Northamptonshire | 1,705 | 1,285 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,830 | 2,820 |
| Derby | 995 | 590 |
| Leicester | 1,035 | 1,135 |
| Nottingham | 915 | 1265 |
| Rutland | 85 | 100 |
| *West Midlands* | 15,975 | 16,215 |
| Shropshire | 695 | 650 |
| Staffordshire | 2,085 | 1,930 |
| Warwickshire | 1,335 | 1,600 |
| Worcestershire | 1,125 | 1,205 |
| Herefordshire | 780 | 1,385 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 750 | 640 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 305 | 390 |
| Birmingham | 4,690 | 3,965 |
| Coventry | 665 | 805 |
| Dudley | 800 | 810 |
| Sandwell | 850 | 805 |
| Solihull | 510 | 420 |
| Walsall | 700 | 825 |
| Wolverhampton | 690 | 785 |
| *South West* | 15,145 | 14,855 |
| Cornwall | 1,700 | 1,760 |
| Devon | 2,075 | 2,080 |
| Dorset | 1,260 | 1,365 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,530 | 1,885 |
| Isles of Scilly | — | 10 |
| Somerset | 1,560 | 1,275 |
| Wiltshire | 1,455 | 1,285 |
| Bath and NE Somerset | 540 | 535 |
| Bournemouth | 845 | 670 |
| Bristol | 930 | 1,025 |
| North Somerset | 670 | 635 |
| Plymouth | 640 | 570 |
| Poole | 645 | 635 |
| South Gloucestershire | 505 | 385 |
| Swindon | 305 | 285 |
| Torbay | 480 | 460 |
| *Eastern* | 15,110 | 14,740 |
| Bedfordshire | 665 | 680 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,595 | 1,105 |
| Essex | 3,215 | 3,485 |
| Hertfordshire | 3,100 | 3,055 |
| Norfolk | 2,600 | 2,330 |
| Suffolk | 2,210 | 2,185 |
| Luton | 555 | 430 |
| Peterborough | 500 | 480 |
| Southend | 440 | 670 |
| Thurrock | 225 | 320 |
| *London* | 21,650 | 17,665 |
| Camden | 665 | 640 |
| Greenwich | 465 | 600 |
| Hackney | 590 | 450 |

*Number of blind and partially sighted people registered with councils with adult social services responsibilities in England as at 31 March 2008*

*Rounded numbers*

| | *Total number of people (all ages) registered as:* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Blind* | *Partially sighted* |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 520 | 330 |
| Islington | 680 | 600 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 585 | 355 |
| Lambeth | 840 | 160 |
| Lewisham | 660 | 450 |
| Southwark | 750 | 520 |
| Tower Hamlets | 395 | 430 |
| Wandsworth | 785 | 630 |
| Westminster | 810 | 540 |
| City of London | 10 | 20 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 345 | 395 |
| Barnet | 950 | 905 |
| Bexley | 390 | 450 |
| Brent | 1,380 | 935 |
| Bromley | 955 | 1,020 |
| Croydon | 955 | 745 |
| Ealing | 970 | 650 |
| Enfield | 565 | 500 |
| Haringey | 915 | 685 |
| Harrow | 630 | 530 |
| Havering | 365 | 510 |
| Hillingdon | 645 | 730 |
| Hounslow | 750 | 710 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 345 | 260 |
| Merton | 590 | 515 |
| Newham | 965 | 610 |
| Redbridge | 915 | 830 |
| Richmond-upon-Thames | 370 | 270 |
| Sutton | 595 | 535 |
| Waltham Forest | 305 | 160 |
| *South East* | 25,495 | 27,190 |
| Buckinghamshire | 980 | 1,105 |
| East Sussex | 2,365 | 2,280 |
| Hampshire | 3,340 | 4,730 |
| Kent | 4,955 | 6,410 |
| Oxfordshire | 2,105 | 1,820 |
| Surrey | 2,455 | 1,840 |
| West Sussex | 4,000 | 3,945 |
| Bracknell Forest | 215 | 180 |
| Brighton and Hove | 900 | 645 |
| Isle of Wight | 365 | 470 |
| Medway Towns | 405 | 545 |
| Milton Keynes | 555 | 445 |
| Portsmouth | 505 | 430 |
| Reading | 480 | 490 |
| Slough | 285 | 205 |
| Southampton | 605 | 690 |
| West Berkshire | 325 | 370 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 370 | 320 |
| Wokingham | 285 | 270 |

*Notes:*
1. '—' = 6 or less (or less than 50 for national and regional totals)
2. Figures may not add up because of rounding.

*Source:*
National figures are actual figures from 150 SSDA902 forms.

## Sugar

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the health effects of a significant reduction in the sugar content of soft drinks. [235819]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Current United Kingdom dietary recommendations for maximal levels of sugar intake are based on a review of the evidence carried out by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy (COMA) in 1991, and are in line with a more recent review by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2003. The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition, which now advises the Government on nutrition issues, are about to embark on a review of the evidence on carbohydrates and health, including sugars and sources of sugar. As a result, dietary advice and any recommendations on specific foods will be amended accordingly.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what meetings officials of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Food Standards Agency have had with representatives of food and soft drink manufacturers on the reduction of added sugar levels in food products in the last 12 months; what good practice case studies his Department has identified as suitable for promotion to manufacturers; and what steps he plans to take further to encourage manufacturers to reduce the calorific content of food products; [235820]

(2) what steps the Food Standards Agency is taking to encourage major retailers to reduce the sugar content of their own brand food and beverage products; [235822]

(3) what targets the Food Standards Agency has set for the substitution of extrinsic sugars by low calorie sweeteners in *(a)* food and *(b)* beverages; what progress has been made towards those targets; what assessment he has made of the public health benefits which will arise as a result of future progress towards those targets; and if he will make a statement. [235832]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has lead responsibility for taking forward the work with industry to reduce consumption of, and levels of, sugar in food, including drinks with added sugar, as laid down in the cross-Government obesity strategy "Healthy Weight Healthy Lives".

As part of this initiative, the FSA is meeting with food industry representatives, including the major retailers and their suppliers, to pursue reductions in sugar to soft drinks. It has met with representatives of the soft drinks industry on four occasions over the past 12 months—one soft drinks industry meeting and individual meetings with Britvic (twice) and Coca Cola Bottlers (Ulster). In these discussions, examples of sugar reductions achieved have been reported by Britvic, Coca Cola and GlaxoSmithKline in some of their branded ranges. Departmental officials have not met with industry to discuss sugar reduction specifically.

The FSA is developing aspirational targets for reductions in added sugar and saturated fat in a range of key contributing food products as part of its Saturated Fat and Energy Intake Programme.

Sugar reductions in soft drinks are being encouraged by the FSA while maintaining taste, quality and consumer acceptability. Specific targets for the substitution of sugar with sweeteners have not been set.

### Surgery

**Mr. Syms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the average *(a)* length of hospital stay of an invasive surgery patient and *(b)* cost per day for an invasive surgery patient to stay in hospital in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [235459]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is not possible to provide an estimate of the average cost per day, as the data collected as part of the annual NHS reference cost collection include all costs associated with treatment and service provision, and not just the cost of the stay in hospital.

It is not possible to provide an estimate of the average length of stay, as specific data relating to the average length of stay for invasive surgery patients are not collected centrally.

### Wines: Hazardous Substances

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what checks are in place to ensure that wine sold in the UK does not contain harmful levels of metals such as lead, zinc and copper; and if he will make a statement. [237005]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Food Authorities and the Food Standards Agency wine standards inspectors as part of their routine enforcement work carry out checks including sampling on wine sold within the United Kingdom to ensure that the wine complies with relevant wine-sector and food safety legislation.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### BT: Public Telephones

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on BT's public service obligation on the provision of public pay phones. [233618]

**Ian Pearson:** BERR officials have received correspondence from a number of local authorities on BT's national rationalisation programme. Under Office of Communications (Ofcom) guidelines, unitary authority consent is required before BT can remove a payphone where there is not another payphone located within 400 m and BT has therefore been consulting with local authorities across England, Wales and Scotland on proposals to remove low-usage payphones in their area. Ofcom is aware of BT's plans and BT are adhering to its guidelines for payphone removals. Further details on Ofcom's guidelines is available from their website at:

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/uso/uso_statement/uso_plain_english/

### Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of employees in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours per week. [233825]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department considers flexible working opportunities are a key part of a healthy and productive working environment.

Flexible working options available include a range of working patterns that can be requested by all staff and can help individuals gain a work-life balance. These include home-working, flexi-time, part-time working, job share, compressed hours and annualised or term-time working.

Guidance, available to all staff and managers, contains best practice hints and tips for flexible workers and managers, specific guidance on skills and how to manage work and performance.

Currently 56 per cent of staff in the Department report that they work flexibly.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of maintaining the Departmental website for the 2007-08 financial year is; and what forecast has been made of the cost of maintaining websites within his responsibility for the 2008-09 financial year. [231379]

**Mr. McFadden:** The main cost elements of the upkeep of the Department's website are:

The Rhythmyx content management system (CMS). The CMS is used by staff across the Department and cost £1,029,474.83 in 2007-08. The forecast cost for 2008-9 is £1,180,000.

Provision and maintenance of the site's search engine facility by a third-party supplier, Open Objects. In 2007-08 this cost £15,784.2. The forecast cost for 2008-9 is £25,000.

### Postal Services: Liverpool

**Mrs. Ellman:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his assessment is of the impact of Royal Mail's proposal to close the sorting office at Copperas Hill, Liverpool on employment in the city; and if he will make a statement. [237302]

**Mr. McFadden:** Decisions relating to operational matters, which include decisions on the restructuring of Royal Mail's sorting office operations, are the direct responsibility of the company's management.

Given that volumes of mail are falling due to the upsurge in the use of digital media for communications, it is important that Royal Mail structures its operations as efficiently as possible so that it can compete in a liberalised market, while continuing to maintain the universal postal service at affordable prices.

### Regulation: Departmental Coordination

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance his Department has given to other Government Departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies on their obligations under the Code of Practice on Guidance on Regulation. [233543]

**Ian Pearson:** Guidance on how to comply with the obligations under the code is contained in a Guide to the Code of Practice on Guidance, published alongside the code of practice. The guide is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46951.pdf

The Anderson Review of Guidance was announced in the Enterprise White Paper in April 2008 and will report at the end of November. The review will make a series of further recommendations on how to improve guidance for business.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Bereavement Benefits: Publications

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons leaflet D49 on bereavement benefits has been withdrawn; and what plans he has to publish a replacement for it. [235471]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* Leaflet D49 (titled "What to do after a death in England and Wales") was published in April 2006. A review of the leaflet earlier in 2008 raised a risk that some of the details in the leaflet were now inaccurate, and could mislead citizens if the title remained in circulation.

More recent versions of the information within D49 continue to be available on several government websites, and can be printed locally by the individual or on their behalf, during the brief period while a replacement to D49 is prepared.

The replacement to D49 is currently being agreed by senior policy officials from four different Government Departments responsible for registrars, coroners, probate and benefits. It is expected that the replacement leaflet DWP1027 will be published in December 2008.

To ensure that citizens are aware of their entitlement to bereavement benefits, an interim factsheet has also been produced to fill the gap until the replacement leaflet is published. The factsheet is available online, and has been made available to registrars and coroners offices across Great Britain for them to issue as appropriate.

### Child Support Agency: Complaints

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints about the Child Support Agency were received by the Independent Case Examiner in each of the last three years; and how many cases accepted by the Examiner have taken *(a)* more than six months, *(b)* more than nine months and *(c)* 12 months or more to reach a conclusion. [235889]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Independent Case Examiner's office does not hold all the information in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the table.

| | *Number of complaints received about the Child Support Agency* | *Average case clearance in weeks for cases accepted* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 3,187 | 22.46 |
| 2006-07 | 3,927 | 18.86 |
| 2007-08 | 3,860 | 21.21 |

### Children: Maintenance

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of children who would be lifted from both *(a)* absolute and *(b)* relative poverty should all non-resident parents pay child maintenance; and if he will make a statement. [233097]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 4 November 2008]:* The receipt of child maintenance payments currently helps to lift around 100,000 children out of relative poverty.

We estimate that, under the current system of child maintenance, if all non-resident parents with a positive maintenance liability paid their child maintenance this would lift around 100,000 more children out of relative poverty.

Estimates of the impact on absolute poverty if all non-resident parents paid child maintenance are not available.

*Notes:*

1. Number of children lifted out of poverty is defined as the number of children in households lifted above 60 per cent. of equivalised median household income before housing costs after the receipt of child maintenance payments.

2. Estimates are based on analysis of 2006-07 Family Resources Survey and are rounded to the nearest 100,000.

### Council Tax

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received council tax benefit in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* the Vale of York constituency in each year since 1997. [237120]

**Kitty Ussher:** Information is not available at parliamentary constituency level. Information is available for North Yorkshire for benefit units comprising single people and couples.

The following table provides the number of benefit units receiving council tax benefit in each year since 1997.

*North Yorkshire*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 35,330 |
| 1998 | 32,940 |
| 1999 | 32,900 |
| 2000 | 30,890 |
| 2001 | 30,980 |
| 2002 | 30,070 |
| 2003 | 30,260 |
| 2004 | 33,280 |
| 2005 | 33,830 |

*North Yorkshire*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 35,160 |
| 2007 | 35,440 |

*Notes:*
1. Data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.

*Source:*
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. case load stock-count taken in May 1997 to May 2007.

Jobseeker's allowance (income-based) are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07". Estimates of the number of people eligible for the additional amount for carers in pension credit are not available.

The number of people in receipt of pension credit and carer's allowance over the last five years is shown in table 1 and all pension credit expenditure on recipients entitled to the extra amount for carers is shown in table 2.

*Table 1: Pension credit and carer's allowance*

| | | *Pension credit* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *As at February each year* | *Carer's allowance* | *Total pension credit recipients* | *Recipients with the additional amount for caring* |
| 2004 | 656,310 | 2,282,300 | 95,200 |
| 2005 | 721,610 | 2,654,670 | 153,810 |
| 2006 | 777,910 | 2,709,220 | 187,830 |
| 2007 | 823,820 | 2,730,940 | 215,050 |
| 2008 | 872,080 | 2,723,140 | 237,700 |

*Notes:*
1. Carer's allowance figures include those people who are entitled to carer's allowance but who do not receive a payment as a result of the overlapping benefit rules.
2. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Pension credit recipients are people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
4. From February 2005, estimates are derived from Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data. Prior to this, information on receipt of carer's addition in pension credit is not available from the same source, so estimates are derived from 5 per cent. Sample data.

*Source:*
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

*Table 2: Pension credit expenditure*

| | | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|
| | *Expenditure in cash terms* | *Expenditure in 2008-09 prices* |
| 2003-04[1] | 143 | 164 |
| 2004-05 | 447 | 500 |
| 2005-06 | 593 | 649 |
| 2006-07 | 717 | 762 |
| 2007-08 | 856 | 881 |

[1] Part year.

*Source:*
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data, 5 per cent. sample data and DWP accounting systems.

### Council Tax: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people he estimates were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* in receipt of council tax benefit in Crosby constituency in each year since 1997. [236608]

**Kitty Ussher:** The information is not available in the format requested.

The latest estimates of the number of entitled non-recipients of means-tested benefit in Great Britain are published in the report 'Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07', copies of which are available in the Library. The report includes information about council tax benefit, income support, pension credit, housing benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income based).

Estimates of eligibility are not available below the level of Great Britain.

Information for recipients of council tax benefit is not available at constituency level.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 59W, on departmental buildings, what the cost of each refurbishment was. [233387]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Details of the costs associated with all completed refurbishments, as provided in the reply of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 59W, will be placed in the Library.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much surplus land *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies own; and what the (i) area and (ii) estimated monetary value of each site is. [236425]

**Jonathan Shaw:** My Department and its agencies do not hold any surplus land.

### Departmental Manpower

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of the headcount reduction in his Department in each year since 2004 were *(a)* redeployed within his Department including its business units, *(b)* redeployed elsewhere within the Civil Service, including the names of the destination departments and *(c)* placed on his Department's employment register. [219496]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

From March 2004 to March 2008 staffing in the Department was reduced by 31,101 full-time equivalent posts. During this period a number of staff were declared surplus. The number of surplus staff who were redeployed internally or to other Government Departments together with the relative proportions to the reduction (where information is held) is shown in the following table.

| | Surplus staff redeployed within DWP | Proportion of reduction in staffing (percentage) | Surplus staff who transferred to other Departments | Proportion of reduction in staffing (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | Information not held. | n/a | Information not held | n/a |
| 2005-06 | 1,896 | 30 | 254 | 4 |
| 2006-07 | 2,830 | 45 | 147 | 2 |
| 2007-08 | 1,881 | 30 | 182 | 3 |
| Total | 6,607 | 35 | 583 | 3 |

*Note:*
Proportions are approximate as headcount reductions were measured on a full-time equivalent basis and surplus/redeployments on an individual member of staff basis.

Over the same period 3,272 staff, who had not been declared surplus, also voluntarily transferred to other Departments. A breakdown for each year is shown in the following table:

| | Staff transferring to other Government Department | Proportion of reduction in staffing (percentage) |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 1,128 | 11 |
| 2005-06 | 826 | 13 |
| 2006-07 | 618 | 10 |
| 2007-08 | 700 | 11 |
| Total | 3,272 | 11 |

*Note:*
Proportions are approximate as headcount reductions were measured on a full-time equivalent basis and surplus-redeployments on an individual member of staff member.

Only limited information is available on the Department to which all transferees moved to during the period. The available information is summarised in the following table:

| Department | Number of staff transferring from DWP |
|---|---|
| Home Office | 435 |
| Ministry of Justice | 137 |
| Department for Transport | 116 |
| Ministry of Defence | 68 |
| Department for Trade and Industry | 64 |
| Scottish Executive | 64 |
| Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | 62 |
| HM Revenue and Customs | 55 |
| Department of Health | 39 |
| HM Treasury and Treasury Solicitor | 36 |
| Department for Education and Skills | 34 |
| HM Land Registry | 31 |
| Crown Prosecution Service | 27 |
| Department for Communities and Local Government | 21 |
| Cabinet Office | 20 |
| Health and Safety Executive | 10 |
| Others | 75 |
| Total | 1,294 |

*Note:*
Departmental names shown as at the time staff member transferred.

In addition to normal resignations and retirements over the four year period, 8,370 staff left the Department on a voluntary basis under early release schemes. Of these no member of staff was required to leave the Department against their will.

No personnel records are kept on whether or not staff who leave the Department join the employment register.

## Departmental Official Visits

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228786]

**Jonathan Shaw:** During the 12 months from September 2007 to August 2008 the Department employed an average of 114,000 staff.

The total spent on overnight accommodation for staff in that period was £12.4 million.

## Departmental Postal Services

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to monitor the cost of its mail services in the last 12 months. [221486]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

The Department for Work and Pensions proactively monitors and manages the cost of its mail services to ensure best value for money from the utilisation of public funds. Over the past 12 months, the Department has continued to work closely with Royal Mail to make improved use of new postal products/services (e.g. introducing Packet post and Clean Mail advance services to DWP sites). Since the introduction of online business accounts by Royal Mail in September 2007, the Department has used this service extensively to obtain clearer visibility of management information on the postal spend across the DWP network.

The Department has made use of liberalisation within the postal market place for down stream access from our two service delivery centres with our provider UK Mail. The Department will continue to monitor the developing postal market place, and maximise the use of pan-Government opportunities to maximise costs and efficiencies for business delivery and taxpayers.

## Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* reviews and *(b)* public consultations have been initiated by his Department since 27 June 2007. [221363]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

Information on the number of reviews that the Department and its agencies have undertaken since 27 June 2007 is not held centrally. However, the Department for Work and Pensions constantly keeps under review its regulation, policy and operations.

Current and closed public consultations are set out in the following table.

| Date | Title |
|---|---|
| 21 July 2008 | No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility |
| 5 June 2008 | Pension risk sharing consultation paper - June 2008 |
| 29 May 2008 | The Pension Sharing (Pension Credit Benefit) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 |
| 28 May 2008 | The Pension Protection Fund (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No 2) Regulations 2008 |
| 12 May 2008 | Launch of public debate on the future of care and support. |
| 25 April 2008 | The powers of the Pensions Regulator—Amendments to the anti-avoidance measures in the Pensions Act 2004 |
| 31 March 2008 | Updating the Myners principles: a consultation |
| 27 March 2008 | Financial Assistance Scheme (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008 |
| 6 March 2008 | Financial Assistance Scheme (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2008 |

| Date | Title |
|---|---|
| 6 March 2008 | Revision of the annuity factors employed by the Financial Assistance Scheme |
| 3 March 2008 | Independent Living Strategy Consultation |
| 19 December 2007 | The Pension Protection Fund (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008 |
| 10 December 2007 | Pensions: Contracting Out - Self Invested Personal Pensions and Other changes |
| 6 December 2007 | Consultation on pension levies-related regulations |
| *3 December 2007* | *Improving specialist disability employment services* |
| 25 October 2007 | The Occupational Pension Schemes (Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures Consequential and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008 |
| 22 October 2007 | Consultation on the Government response to the independent report on the deregulatory review of private pensions |
| 16 October 2007 | The Occupational Pension Schemes (Non-European Schemes Exemption) Regulations 2007 |
| 10 October 2007 | Consultation on the success of the Occupational Pension Schemes (Cross-border activities) Regulations 2005 in implementing the cross-border provisions of Directive 2003/41 |
| 1 October 2007 | Flexible Retirement and Pension Provision |
| 29 August 2007 | Financial Assistance Scheme (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2007 |
| 8 August 2007 | The Merger of the Health and Safety Commission and the Health and Safety Executive |
| 7 August 2007 | Amendments to the Occupational Pension Schemes (Employer Debt) Regulations 2005 Draft regulations showing track changes Impact assessment— Occupational Pension Schemes (Employer Debt) Definition of employment cessation event |
| 31 July 2007 | The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (EEA States) Regulations 2007 |
| 18 July 2007 | In work, better off: next steps to full employment |
| 6 July 2007 | Approaches to the Calculations of Pensions Transfer Values |

*Source*
Department for Work and Pensions' website

### Disability Living Allowance

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who received *(a)* disability living allowance higher rate mobility component and *(b)* war pensioners' mobility component in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many vehicle excise duty exemptions were made for each group. [220310]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

At November 2007, 1,719,920 people were in receipt of the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance. Information about the number of vehicle excise duty exemption certificates issued by this Department for people in this group could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information about the war pensioners' mobility component is a matter for my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of operational staff he estimates will be fully trained to operate the IT systems for the introduction of the employment and support allowance; [220211]

(2) how many Jobcentre Plus branches operate the customer account management system in anticipation of the introduction of the employment and support allowance. [220247]

**Mr. McNulty:** The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

*The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief* Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what proportion of operational staff he estimates will be fully trained to operate the IT systems for the introduction of the Employment and Support Allowance on 27th October 2008; and how many Jobcentre Plus branches operate the Customer Account Management system in anticipation of the introduction of the Employment and Support Allowance. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

For the introduction of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), we are introducing the Customer Account Management (CAM) system to capture new claim information and we have adapted the Jobseeker's Allowance Payment System to make payments to ESA customers.

CAM will not be deployed within Jobcentre Plus offices before the introduction of ESA. Jobcentre Plus is implementing ESA using a carefully phased approach. The CAM system will initially be deployed in one of the 64 Benefit Delivery Centres, its linked Jobcentres, and the 6 Contact Centres that will handle ESA claims from 27 October 2008. The rest of the Benefit Delivery Centre and Jobcentre network processing ESA will operate clerical data input processes, with CAM rolling out fully following an evaluation of the initial deployment of the system. Further roll out is currently planned, subject to evaluation for the first half of 2009.

We have put in place a rolling training plan to ensure that staff can confidently use these new programmes whilst maintaining a full service to our customers.

This phased approach to CAM will provide an opportunity to learn from the initial deployment to ensure that a fully optimised system rolls out nationally. We are confident that, with the plans we have in place, ESA will be successfully delivered in October 2008, but we do not underestimate the challenge for Jobcentre Plus that ESA represents. ESA is not simply a new benefit but a cultural shift to focus on customers' capability to improve their lives through finding and staying in work.

### Health and Safety Executive: Inspections

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of Health and Safety Executive inspections on safety in the workplace. [219332]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

Inspection is an important part of ensuring Health and Safety laws are adhered to. Research has indicated that inspection has an influence in this respect; alongside a variety of other factors which are also influential.

HSE influences employers in many different ways; including the provision of advice and guidance, and interventions through inspection, campaigns, blitzes and formal enforcement. The prime factor which governs whether there are fatalities, injuries or ill

health at work is the motivation of the employer. Changes in employer motivation cannot solely be achieved through HSE inspection.

HSE regularly reviews and revisits the impact of its interventions on health and safety outcomes. HSE is already developing further research that assesses the impact of inspection and associated activities, over and above the influence of other factors, on health and safety outcomes.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Health and Safety Executive inspections he expects to take place in 2008. [219334]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) expects to increase its operational productivity by 2 per cent. in 2008-09, compared to that in 2007-08. In 2007-08, HSE spent 190,561 days on frontline activity which includes inspection, investigation, assessment of safety cases and other work.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Health and Safety Executive inspections took place in each of the last three years. [219335]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) records the amount of time spent on frontline activity which includes inspection, investigation, assessment of safety cases and other work, rather than the number of inspections carried out.

For the three years; 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, the time spent by HSE on frontline activity was:

*Health and Safety Executive Inspections*

| *Frontline activity* | *Number of days* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 174,040 |
| 2006-07 | 184,843 |
| 2007-08 | 190,561 |

## Health and Safety Executive: Manpower

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many inspectors were employed by the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate in each of the last five years, broken down by division. [236567]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The answer to the question is provided in the following table.

*Number of inspectors[1] working in the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate 1 April 2004 to 1 April 2008*

*Headcount*

| *Division* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Director of NSD | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Civil Nuclear Power Regulation | 56 | 58 | 53 | 61 | 44 |
| Nuclear Chemical and Research Site Regulation | 58 | 53 | 48 | 50 | 54 |
| Defence Nuclear Facilities Regulation | 38 | 40 | 41 | 41 | 39 |
| Operational Strategy, Communication and Stakeholder Engagement and Business Systems[2] | 29 | 22 | 25 | 28 | 17 |
| Nuclear Reactor Generic Design Assessment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Total | 182 | 174 | 168 | 181 | 173 |

[1] These are primarily nuclear installations inspectors, but also include a small number of other HSE-grade inspectors involved in the work of regulating nuclear installations. At 1 October 2008, there were 164 nuclear installations inspectors in post (approximately 159 full-time equivalents).

[2] These figures include 17 corporate topic group inspectors in April 2004, 10 in April 2005, 8 in April 2006, and 8 in April 2007. ND managed two of HSE's corporate topic groups on radiation and on electrical and control instrumentation but these did not contribute to the work of regulating nuclear installations.

## Incapacity Benefit

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Government's policy is on the future of incapacity benefit; what related initiatives he *(a)* has recently introduced and *(b)* plans to introduce; and if he will make a statement. [219449]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 17 July 2008]:* The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

From April 2008, Pathways to Work support has been available to everyone in Great Britain on incapacity benefits. This is mandatory for new customers.

From October 2008 incapacity benefits will be replaced for new customers by the employment and support allowance. Employment and support allowance will include the new work capability assessment, focusing on what people can do, not what they cannot.

From 2009 Pathways to Work support will be mandatory for existing claimants under the age of 25. Also from 2009, we plan to start applying the new work capability assessment to incapacity benefits customers who are under the age of 25 to establish entitlement to employment and support allowance and to the rest of the incapacity benefits claimants from 2010, as and when customers are due to have their benefit entitlement reassessed. This means that over a three year period everyone on incapacity benefits will have been reassessed using the new test, and transferred either to employment and support allowance or to jobseekers allowance.

**Angela Browning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what transitional support will be available for incapacity benefit claimants who fail the new work capability assessment and move onto other benefits; and what account this support will take of *(a)* whether people continue to have disabilities and *(b)* the period for which people have been out of work. [220323]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

The new work capability assessment is a fairer and more accurate test of capability for work than the current personal capability assessment.

Those customers who move to jobseeker's allowance following a work capability assessment will have voluntary early entry to the supported job-search stage of the new jobseeker's allowance and flexible new deal programme, at the discretion of their personal adviser. All longer-term job seekers will have the enhanced personal, specialised support of the flexible new deal.

**Angela Browning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the financial effects of the introduction of employment and support allowance on couples in the support group during the course of their claim, compared to the rates of payment of incapacity benefit; and whether these effects will apply to couples where one or both are claiming on the grounds of a terminal illness. [220324]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

Employment and support allowance will replace incapacity benefit and income support paid on grounds of incapacity from 27 October 2008. Compared to the existing system, couples in the support group who would have had no entitlement to the enhanced disability premium will receive £10.30 a week more under employment support allowance than income support paid on grounds of incapacity. Those who would have been entitled to the couple rate of income support and also already entitled to the enhanced disability premium would receive £7.85 a week less. There are no actual cash losers as existing customers will have the cash level of their existing benefits protected.

Employment and support allowance rates are paid after 14 weeks of the claim whereas the higher income support rates are generally paid after 52 weeks of incapacity or 28 weeks for those who are terminally ill or receive the higher rate care component of disability living allowance. In employment and support allowance the higher rates of benefit are paid immediately to people who are terminally ill.

### Income Support: Lone Parents

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of lone parents affected by the changes to the eligibility rules for income support coming into effect in November 2008 who have children *(a)* living in (i) relative poverty and (ii) absolute poverty before the changes came into effect and *(b)* who will be living in each such state immediately after the changes came into effect; and if he will make a statement. [230279]

**Kitty Ussher:** The most common and internationally recognised threshold to measure relative low income poverty is income below 60 per cent. of the contemporary median. A threshold of 60 per cent. of the 1998-99 median has been used to measure absolute poverty. Specific information regarding low income for the UK is available in 'Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2006-07'.

'Ready for work: full employment in our generation', Cm 7290, (published in December 2007) announced increased obligations for lone parents to be introduced from November 2008. Lone parents who are claiming income support solely based on being a lone parent move onto a more appropriate benefit when their youngest child is: 12 and over from November 2008; 10 and over from October 2009; seven and over from October 2010.

The Department's current estimates suggest that the changes to the eligibility rules for income support for lone parents will, by helping more lone parents into employment, help lift around an extra 70,000 children out of relative low income after five years.

The following table shows the number of children aged seven and over in lone parent families in receipt of income support in relative and absolute low income at 2006-07.

*Numbers of children aged seven or over in lone parent families where their parent is in receipt of income support and the youngest child in the family is aged seven or over in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary and 1998-99 median income, before and after housing costs, United Kingdom, 2006-07*

*Million*

| | *Number in low income households* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Low income threshold* | *Before housing costs* | *After housing costs* |
| Below 60 per cent. of contemporary median | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| Below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median | 0.1 | 0.3 |

*Notes:*
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data.
2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for HBAI figures is single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'HBAI' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
6. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.
7. Figures have been presented on both a Before Housing Cost (BHC) and After Housing Cost (AHC) basis. For BHC, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for AHC they are.

*Source:*
Households Below Average Income 2006-07, DWP

Some lone parents are exempt from these changes and will still be able to receive income support. These include lone parents: who are in receipt of carer's allowance; have a child for whom they are receiving the middle or higher rate care component of disability living allowance; who are fostering.

### Income Support: Mortgages

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 704W, on income support: mortgage costs, if he will review the qualification criteria to take account of family circumstances where two incomes have been necessary to meet mortgage repayments. [237255]

**Kitty Ussher:** We are currently considering all the ways in which we can help people, including couples, who are having difficulty in paying their mortgage.

### Independent Case Examiner for the Child Support Agency: Manpower

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed by the Independent Case Examiner in each of the last three years. [235890]

**Kitty Usher:** The information is in the table.

| | Number of staff in post |
|---|---|
| 4 April 2005 | 93 |
| 3 April 2006 | 90.6 |
| 2 April 2007 | 90.3 |

### Independent Living Fund

**Dr. Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contribution the Independent Living Fund makes to the delivery of his policy on personalised care and support for adults. [237091]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Independent Living Fund plays a vital role in the delivery of policy on personalised care and support for adults.

The fund works in partnership with local authorities by making direct cash payments to enable severely disabled people to live independently. Over the last 20 years the fund has assisted more than 45,000 people to live independently in the community and we know it is much appreciated by its users.

The Independent Living Fund was one of six funding streams that have taken part in the Department of Health led individual budget pilots. The Government are currently considering the findings from the evaluation of the individual budget pilots and will look carefully at issues identified during the pilot phase.

### Independent Living Funds

**Dr. Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to implement the recommendations of the 2007 review of the Independent Living Funds. [237256]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The report of the Independent Living Fund review recognised the ground-breaking role played by the fund in enabling severely disabled people to live independently.

The report included 68 recommendations, a number of which have already been implemented by the trustees.

The recommendations specifically on the future of the fund largely relate to the outcome of the Individual Budgets pilots. The Government are currently considering the findings from the Individual Budget pilots evaluation report which was published on 21 October 2008 and will look carefully at issues identified during the pilot phase.

### Industrial Accidents: Construction

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many construction industry workers died as a result of workplace accidents in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [219880]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

*Fatal injuries to workers in the construction industry[1]*

| | Year[2] | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08* |
| Employees | 43 | 54 | 54 |
| Self employed | 17 | 25 | 18 |
| Workers[3] | 60 | 79 | 72 |

[1] Section F 'Construction', determined according to Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). This system is used in UK official statistics for classifying businesses by the main type of economic activity they are engaged in, and is the responsibility of the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The latest version is 'SIC 2003'.
[2] The annual basis is the planning year 1 April to 31 March. Statistics for 2007-08 are provisional, denoted by '*'.
[3] The term 'workers' includes employees and the self-employed combined.
*Source:*
RIDDOR (The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995)

### Industrial Health and Safety: Construction

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to improve the safety of high tower cranes. [219336]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

Work to improve safety arising from the use of tower cranes in construction is already being taken forward in a number of ways by both the construction industry and the Health and Safety Executive. Bodies such as the Strategic Forum for Construction and the Construction Plant-Hire Association are working to improve industry guidance on matters such as crane maintenance, crane operator competence and working conditions and better sharing of good practice. As well as giving substantial support to the work of industry, the Health and Safety Executive is taking action to improve safety through a mix of enforcement initiatives and the provision of guidance. Future work will also take account of the findings from the inquiries into recent accidents involving tower cranes that the Health and Safety Executive are currently undertaking.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Health and Safety Executive inspections of construction sites took place in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [219339]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) records the amount of time spent on frontline activity—which includes inspection, investigation, assessment of safety cases and other work—rather than the number of inspections carried out.

For the three years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 the estimated amount of frontline activity spent on construction was:

*Health and Safety Executive Inspections*

| Frontline activity[1] | Number of days |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 23,153 |
| 2006-07 | 27,222 |
| 2007-08 | 28,505 |

[1] These figures exclude time spent travelling to and from workplaces which have been visited.

These figures are based on a proportion of HSE's overall frontline activity in each of these years, reflecting the size of HSE's Construction Division compared to the Field Operations Directorate as a whole.

### Minimum Wage: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Crosby constituency experienced a rise in income as a result of the introduction of the national minimum wage; and what estimate he has made of the number of such people whose income is affected by the national minimum wage in 2008. [236678]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have been asked to reply.

Evidence from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) shows that a growing number of people are affected by the National Minimum Wage (NMW). BERR estimates using ASHE data that in 1999 around 1 million people in the UK were covered by the introduction of the NMW. This rises to around 1.1 million people covered by the October 2008 uprating of the NMW. This reflects an increasing importance of the NMW when determining the hourly wage of the low paid. The adult NMW has risen by around 59 per cent during this period from £3.60 to £5.73 per hour. The rise in the NMW has been greater than average earnings over this period.

Information for individual parliamentary constituencies is not readily available in the ASHE dataset. However, information is available on a government office region basis. In 1999 around 120,000 employees in North West and Mersey were covered by the introduction of the National Minimum Wage. This estimate is based on Spring 1998 ASHE data. Using Spring 2008 ASHE data we estimate that around 130,000 employees were covered by the latest October 2008 NMW upratings.

It is difficult to isolate the effect of the NMW on income as income is affected by hours worked and other sources of income such as tax credits. However, evidence suggests that since its introduction the NMW is affecting more people and the hourly wage is rising faster than average earnings benefiting the lowest paid in the economy.

### Motability

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's role is in the administration of the motability scheme; and if he will make a statement. [219529]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

Motability is a charitable company incorporated by Royal Charter. It is responsible for the administration of the Motability scheme.

### National Insurance

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance registration numbers have been issued to *(a)* non-UK nationals of each nationality and *(b)* UK citizens in (i) each year and (ii) each quarter since 1st January 2004. [233537]

**Mr. McNulty:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 917W, on the number of national insurance registrations issued to adult non-UK nationals in each year since 1 January 2004.

The number of national insurance numbers issued to adult non-UK nationals in each quarter since 1 January 2004 has been placed in the Library.

The majority of UK nationals are registered with national insurance numbers (NINOs) as part of the juvenile registration process just prior to the age of 16. A small number of UK nationals apply for a NINO as adults and would go through the adult NINO allocation process. The data are not held in a format which allows us to extract a figure for UK nationals registered for a NINO under the adult NINO allocation process.

Figures for the juvenile registration process are as follows:

| *Period* | *Juvenile registration volumes (thousand)* | *Percentage change* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 753.6 | |
| 2004-05 | 743.2 | -1.4 |
| 2005-06 | 722.9 | -2.7 |
| 2006-07 | 772.1 | +6.8 |
| 2007-08 | 667.3 | -15.7 |

*Notes:*
1. Reporting period for juvenile registration is 1 April to 31 March.
2. For the majority of juveniles the registration process takes place just prior to the 16th birthday. However, some juveniles may initially miss out on this process, but can be recorded as part of this process until the age of 19.
3. There may be a small number of young foreign nationals who obtain a national insurance number through the juvenile registration process. These will not appear in the foreign nationals total for adult national insurance number registrations. However, the majority of juvenile registrations are for UK nationals.

*Source:*
Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs National Insurance Recording System (NIRS2) Management Information

The fall in registrations during 2007-08 was due to delays in the administrative allocation process following the loss of HMRC child benefit data. The backlog of registrations was completed on 8 May 2008

Figures for the juvenile registration process by quarter since 1 January 2004 are as follows:

| *Period* | *Juvenile registrations volumes (Thousand)* |
|---|---|
| *2004-05* | |
| January 2004 to March 2005 | 181.0 |
| *2005-06* | |
| April 2005 to June 2005 | 193.0 |
| July 2005 to September 2005 | 183.1 |
| October 2005 to December 2005 | 164.0 |
| January 2005 to March 2006 | 182.8 |
| *2006-07* | |
| April 2006 to June 2006 | 199.3 |
| July 2006 to September 2006 | 202.1 |
| October 2006 to December 2006 | 187.7 |
| January 2006 to March 2007 | 183.0 |
| *2007-08* | |
| April 2007 to June 2007 | 189.6 |
| July 2007 to September 2007 | 198.1 |

| Period | Juvenile registrations volumes (Thousand) |
|---|---|
| October 2007 to December2007 | 113.8 |
| January 2007 to March 2008 | 165.8 |

*Notes:*
1. Reporting period for juvenile registration is 1 April to 31 March.
2. For the majority of juveniles the registration process takes place just prior to the 16th birthday. However, some juveniles may initially miss out on this process, but can be recorded as part of this process until the age of 19.
3. There may be a small number of young foreign nationals who obtain a national insurance number through the juvenile registration process. These will not appear in the foreign nationals total for adult national insurance number registrations. However, the majority of juvenile registrations are for UK nationals

*Source:*
Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs National Insurance Recording System (NIRS2) Management Information

### Pension Credit: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Enfield, North constituency received pension credits in each year since 2003. [235416]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is in the following table.

*Number of household recipients and individual beneficiaries of pension credit in Enfield, North, 2003-08*

| | Household recipients | Individual beneficiaries |
|---|---|---|
| November 2003 | 3,240 | 3,930 |
| May 2004 | 3,620 | 4,430 |
| May 2005 | 3,960 | 4,870 |
| May 2006 | 4,050 | 5,010 |
| May 2007 | 4,090 | 5,030 |
| May 2008 | 4,120 | 5,050 |

*Notes:*
1. Case loads are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
3. Individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

### Pension Credit: South Yorkshire

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Doncaster, *(b)* Barnsley and *(c)* South Yorkshire received pension credit in each year since its inception. [236302]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is in the following tables.

*Number of household recipients and individual beneficiaries of pension credit in Doncaster, Barnsley and South Yorkshire, 2003-08*

| | Doncaster | | Barnsley | | South Yorkshire | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Household recipients | Individual beneficiaries | Household recipients | Individual beneficiaries | Household recipients | Individual beneficiaries |
| November 2003 | 11,500 | 13,960 | 9,790 | 11,880 | 57,970 | 70,410 |
| May 2004 | 14,510 | 17,890 | 11,840 | 14,570 | 69,670 | 85,880 |
| May 2005 | 15,780 | 19,520 | 12,530 | 15,480 | 74,020 | 91,640 |
| May 2006 | 16,150 | 20,070 | 12,610 | 15,650 | 74,390 | 92,480 |
| May 2007 | 16,300 | 20,310 | 12,720 | 15,860 | 74,790 | 93,140 |
| May 2008 | 16,230 | 20,260 | 12,690 | 15,840 | 74,110 | 92,360 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
3. Individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data.

### Post Office Card Account

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of compensation to be paid to unsuccessful bidders for the Post Office Card Account contract. [236998]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* The other bidders who were still in the competition at the point we halted it will be reimbursed for their reasonable bid costs.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to his Department was of the tendering and bidding process for the Post Office Card Account. [236999]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* It is not possible to give a precise figure as many of the staff involved were undertaking work on the procurement process alongside other duties, or work which would have been necessary in any event to put in place a new contract with the Post Office.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the costs of the Post Office Card Account tender process over the last three years; and how much compensation will be paid to participants in the tendering process. [237403]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** It is not possible to give a precise figure for the costs of the tendering process as many of the staff involved were undertaking work on the procurement process alongside other duties, or work which would have been necessary in any event to put in place a new contract with the Post Office.

The other bidders who were still in the competition at the point we halted it will be reimbursed for their reasonable bid costs. The precise amount is still to be agreed.

### Post Office Card Account: Romsey

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of Romsey constituency *(a)* have a Post Office card account and *(b)* had a Post Office card account in each of the last five years. [235950]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information is not available in the precise format requested.

The following table shows the number of benefit and pension accounts paid into a Post Office card account in Romsey constituency in each of the last five years.

*Post Office Card Accounts*

| As at April each year | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 560 |
| 2005 | 3,700 |
| 2006 | 3,660 |
| 2007 | 3,480 |
| 2008 | 3,210 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures refer to payment accounts live and in payment on the specified date. Claimants with more than one account will be counted for each account.

*Source:*
DWP, Information Directorate.

### Poverty: Children

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of children in child poverty in *(a)* Glasgow North West constituency, *(b)* Glasgow and *(c)* Scotland. [234848]

**Kitty Ussher:** Our public service agreement "Halve the number of children in poverty by 2010-11, on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020" includes a range of indicators related to low income for children. Our preferred measure of relative low income poverty for children is defined as being in a household with a household income of less than 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income on a before housing cost basis.

Latest information for Scotland shows that 210,000 children in Scotland were in households with household incomes below 60 per cent. of median income on a before housing cost basis. The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below this level.

*Notes:*

1. The source of this information is the 2006-07 Scottish Households Below Average Income publication.

2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

3. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.

4. Figures are based on survey data and as such are subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error.

5. Number of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 10,000 children.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in Crosby constituency were living in absolute poverty in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest date for which figures are available; and what percentage of all children living in absolute poverty this represented in each year. [236679]

**Kitty Ussher:** The information requested is not available.

Our child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the number of children in absolute poverty at Government office region level. Information is therefore not available at parliamentary constituency level.

### Poverty: Pensioners

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners are living in absolute poverty in Crosby constituency; and how many did so in 1997. [236605]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures of poverty.

Our Public Service Agreement "Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in later life" includes a range of indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are relative low income (below 50 and 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), and absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices), all measured after housing costs have been taken into account.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government Office Region. Information for the north west on the numbers of pensioners below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices is given in the following table.

*Number of pensioners below 60 per cent. of the 1998-99 median household income uprated in line with prices after housing costs, North West*

| | *Number (million)* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 to 1999-2000 | 0.3 |
| 2004-05 to 2006-07 | 0.1 |

*Notes:*
1. Three survey year averages are given as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
4. Figures are based on survey data and as such are subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error.
5. Numbers of pensioners in low income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 pensioners.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners were living in poverty in each region of the UK *(a)* after housing costs and *(b)* before housing costs in each year since 1990. [234499]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures of poverty.

Our public service agreement "Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in later life" includes a range of indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are relative low income (below 50 and 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), and absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices), all measured after housing costs have been taken into account.

Information that is available on the number of pensioners living below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, after and before housing costs, by Government office region is given in the following tables.

*Table 1: Number of pensioners falling below 60 per cent. of contemporary media household income, after housing costs by region or country*

*Million*

| | *1994-95 to 1996-97* | *1995-96 to 1997-98* | *1996-97 to 1998-99* | *1997-98 to 1999-2000* | *1998-99 to 2000-01* | *1999-2000 to 2001-02* | *2000-01 to 2002-03* | *2001-02 to 2003-04* | *2002-03 to 2004-05* | *2003-04 to 2005-06* | *2004-05 to 2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| North West | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| East Midlands | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| West Midlands | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| East of England | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| London | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| South East | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| South West | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Scotland | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Wales | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Northern Ireland | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |

*Table 2: Number of pensioners falling below 60 per cent. of contemporary media household income, before housing costs by region or country*

*Million*

| | *1994-95 to 1996-97* | *1995-96 to 1997-98* | *1996-97 to 1998-99* | *1997-98 to 1999-2000* | *1998-99 to 2000-01* | *1999-2000 to 2001-02* | *2000-01 to 2002-03* | *2001-02 to 2003-04* | *2002-03 to 2004-05* | *2003-04 to 2005-06* | *2004-05 to 2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| North West | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| East Midlands | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| West Midlands | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| East of England | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| London | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| South East | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| South West | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Scotland | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Wales | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Northern Ireland | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |

Notes:

1. Three survey year averages are given as regional single year figures are subject to volatility.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
4. Figures are based on survey data and as such are subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error.
5. Figures have been presented on both a Before Housing Cost and After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted for a income, while for After Housing Cost they are.
6. Numbers of pensioners in low income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 pensioners.
7. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
8. Data for Northern Ireland are only available from 1998-99 to 2000-01 onwards.
9. Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2006/07".

### Social Security Benefits

**Angela Browning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the Work-Focused Health Related Assessment questionnaire which claimants of employment and support allowance will be required to complete from October 2008. [220326]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

Claimants of employment and support allowance will not be required to fill in a questionnaire in relation to the Work Focussed Health Related Assessment. The Work Focused Health Related Assessment is a discussion between the customer and the health care professional carrying out the work capability assessment. Health professionals will use an aide-mémoire for this discussion, and a copy has been placed in the Library.

The purpose of the Work Focused Health Related Assessment is to explore with customers their aspirations for engaging in or returning to work, and their views of the help that would support them getting back to work. It will also offer advice about health related interventions that will support a return to work. After the Work Focused Health Related Assessment the health care professional will complete a report and send a copy of that report to the customer.

### Social Security Benefits: Appeals

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether he has set a target for the proportion of successful appeals for *(a)* incapacity for work cases and *(b)* disability living allowance cases; [234435]

(2) whether his Department has a performance indicator for the proportion of successful appeals that will trigger a review of the quality of initial decision-making for *(a)* incapacity for work cases and *(b)* disability living allowance cases. [234436]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There is no target for the proportion of successful incapacity benefits appeals.

There is no performance indicator for the proportion of successful incapacity benefits and disability living allowance appeals that will trigger a review of the quality of initial decision-making.

The Pension, Disability and Carers Service has an internal target that no more than 45 per cent. of disability living allowance cases that are heard by an appeal tribunal should be successful or changed.

Jobcentre Plus and the Pension, Disability and Carers Service will also continue to work with the Tribunals Service to monitor decision making issues and identify any areas for improvement.

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total cost to his Department was of appeals relating to *(a)* incapacity for work cases, *(b)* disability living allowance cases and *(c)* such cases in which the appeal was successfully defended by the Secretary of State in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average cost of each case in each category was. [234437]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The cost of incapacity benefit appeals only started to be measured separately in April 2008. It is, therefore, not yet possible to provide the information requested.

The total cost to the Pension, Disability and Carers Service of processing all disability living allowance appeals in 2007-08 was an estimated £11.8 million. The average cost of each appeal was an estimated £134. Information about the cost of those appeals that were successfully defended by the Secretary of State is not available.

### Social Security Benefits: Employment

**Angela Browning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether earnings from permitted work done by claimants of employment and support allowance, whether income-based or contribution-based, will be disregarded as income for the purposes of assessing entitlement to other benefits. [220322]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 21 July 2008]:* The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

Claimants entitled to both income-related and contributory employment and support allowance will be permitted to earn up to £88.50 a week and retain benefit. Where a person retains entitlement to income-related employment and support allowance they will continue to receive full housing benefit and council tax benefit. For people not entitled to income-related employment and support allowance, housing benefit and council tax benefit disregards the first £20 of any earnings. We are currently looking at how the permitted work rules of employment and support allowance will interact with housing benefit as part of the housing benefit review announced in the Budget.

### Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he made of the effect of possible higher unemployment levels on *(a)* the labour market and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus when drafting the Social Security (Lone Parents and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008. [234622]

**Kitty Ussher:** The labour market is dynamic with millions of moves between employment, unemployment and inactivity every year. Job opportunities will continue to become available. At present there are around 600,000 job vacancies in the economy.

We are committed to providing unemployed people with support to get back into work. Jobcentre Plus provides information, advice and access to skills development to help people return to employment as quickly as possible.

We have made a comprehensive assessment of Jobcentre Plus's capacity to implement the changes and are satisfied that the plans Jobcentre Plus has in place will enable the organisation to manage the change. Plans include: additional resources to manage the move of lone parents from income support on to other benefits; supporting lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance; communicating with staff; and learning and development for staff.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what safeguards have been put in place in *(a)* the Social Security (Lone Parents and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008 and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus operations to protect the most vulnerable lone parents. [234623]

**Kitty Ussher:** We propose introducing additional flexibilities and safeguards in regulations. These will meet the specific needs of parents, particularly lone parents, and further safeguard the welfare of children.

Jobseeker's allowance regulations will be amended to enable Jobcentre Plus staff to consider just cause and good cause so that a parent who is claiming or receiving jobseeker's allowance may not be penalised if they leave paid employment, or fail to take up paid employment, because appropriate or affordable child care is not available. The amendments will also give Jobcentre Plus staff additional flexibilities to treat parents as available for, or actively seeking, work in certain circumstances. For example, if a child is excluded from school or if there would be no reasonable prospects of a person with caring responsibilities obtaining suitable jobs in the area if they were to reduce their hours to a minimum of 16 hours a week. The existing jobseeker's allowance hardship regime will be extended to include lone parents as a vulnerable group, and Jobcentre Plus staff will be able to consider whether travel time to a job is reasonable, taking health or caring responsibilities into account.

We also propose to introduce operational safeguards which will ensure that lone parents affected by the introduction of these changes and making a new claim are aware of their obligations to attend quarterly work-focused interviews, and that voluntary interviews will be available to them six weeks before their entitlement to income support ends. Also, if they fail to attend a fortnightly job review, at least one attempt at contacting them will be made by telephone on the day the meeting was missed. If no contact is made, a letter will be sent to their home address telling them that if they do not make contact within five working days their entitlement to benefit will end.

### Social Security Benefits: Post Offices

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of each payable benefit was transacted through *(a)* a Post Office card account, *(b)* another account at a post office and *(c)* a bank account not accessed at a post office in (i) each local authority area and (ii) each parliamentary constituency in the last period for which figures are available. [235107]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information is not available in the format requested.

Overall, around 78 per cent. of benefit accounts are paid into a bank account and around 20 per cent. are paid into a Post Office card account. About 60 per cent. of bank accounts can be accessed at the Post Office.

### State Retirement Pension

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many individuals have deferred their state pension in each year since 1997; [229997]

(2) how many individuals deferred their state pensions in each of the last 10 years. [231825]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not available. Information available on the number of people who have received a deferral reward, and the type of reward received, is in the following table. Figures for 1997 to 1999 are not available.

| *12 months to March each year:* | *Total number of customers who received a deferral reward* | *Number receiving increments only* | *Number receiving increments and lump sum* | *Number receiving lump sum only* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 | 41,100 | 23,800 | 5,400 | 11,800 |
| 2007 | 35,800 | 28,500 | 3,500 | 3,800 |
| 2006 | 44,100 | 44,100 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 43,300 | 43,300 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 41,200 | 41,200 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003 | 38,400 | 38,400 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002 | 43,000 | 43,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001 | 44,000 | 44,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 2000[1] | 25,600 | 25,600 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Figures for 2000 are for six months to March only

*Notes:*

1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100 and may not sum due to rounding.
2. Numbers are based on a 5 per cent. sample rated in line with the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) total caseload, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. New rules for deferral came into effect in April 2005 and lump payments became available from April 2006. This data were not available on the datasets until September 2006. A person who deferred their state pension before April 2005 would qualify for increments for the period up to April 2005 and may have a choice of either a lump sum payment or an increment for the period of deferral from April 2005. This means some people may have both an increment and a lump sum payment.
4. The number receiving a 'deferral reward' is the number of people with a lump sum or increments for the latest data and the number of people with increments for the data prior to September 2006. (This does not include inherited increments from a late spouse.)
5. Data regarding increments prior to September 1999 are not sufficiently robust to be released.

*Source:*

Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals received deferred state pensions in each of the last 12 months. [231851]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not available. Information on the number of people who have received a deferral reward in the 12 months ending March 2008, and the type of reward received, is in the following table:

*12 months to March 2008*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Total number of customers who received a deferral reward | 41,100 |
| Number receiving increments only | 23,800 |
| Number receiving increments and lump sum | 5,400 |
| Number receiving lump sum only | 11,800 |

*Notes:*

1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100 and may not sum due to rounding.
2. Numbers are based on a 5 per cent. sample rated in line with the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) total caseload, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. New rules for deferral came into effect in April 2005 and lump payments became available. A person who deferred their state pension before April 2005 would qualify for increments for the period up to April 2005 and may have a choice of either a lump sum payment or an increment for the period of deferral from April 2005. This means some people may have both an increment and a lump sum payment.
4. The number receiving a 'deferral reward' is the number of people with a lump sum or increments for the latest data and the number of people with increments for the data prior to September 2006. (This does not include inherited increments from a late spouse.)

*Source:*

Information Directorate (IFD) 5 per cent. sample

### Steam Rollers: Accidents

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured by steam rollers in each of the last five years. [233176]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Based on reports submitted to the Health and Safety Executive as required by the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995, the number of deaths and injuries involving road rollers is as follows:

| | *Non-fatal* | *Fatal* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 7 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 10 | 1 |
| 2005-06 | 9 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 9 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 3 | 0 |

### Sunbeds: Health Hazards

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the outcomes of the Health and Safety Executive's consultation on revisions to guidance on the use of UV tanning equipment to be published; and if he will make a statement. [220410]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

The consultation closed on 17 July and when the comments have been considered, the Health and Safety Executive intends to publish revised guidance as soon as possible.

### Taxis

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its Executive agencies in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2003-04 and (v) 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [227047]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information requested on taxi travel expenditure is available only from 2005-06 and is recorded at departmental level (which includes the Department's Executive agencies) only. Details of the separate payments made by the Department's agencies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's expenditure on taxis in the years for which information is available is as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 1.89 |
| 2006-07 | 2.45 |
| 2007-08 | 2.02 |

This amount of expenditure should be viewed in the context of the size of the DWP work force of over 100,000 employees and the nature of its business operations that cover an office network of over 1,000 locations across Great Britain.

The Department has clear policies in place which not only limit the circumstances under which officials can justify the use of taxis but also challenges the need to travel and strongly advocates the use of video and teleconferences wherever these facilities are practical alternatives.

### Winter Fuel Payments: Chronically Sick

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate his Department has made of the likely cost of extending the winter fuel allowance to terminally ill people who would not otherwise qualify; and if he will make a statement. [236011]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Winter fuel payments are made to people aged 60 or over including those who are disabled or terminally ill.

The annual cost of extending winter fuel payments to people aged under 60 receiving disability living allowance under the special rules relating to a terminal illness is estimated to be approximately £6.6 million. This is an estimate for 2008-09 and is based on a £250 payment, which includes a one off additional payment of £50 for this year.

The extra heating needs of terminally ill people can arise at any time of year, not just in the winter months. Help is available for terminally ill people through disability living allowance, Attendance allowance and the disability premiums in the income-related benefits which have a substantially higher annual value and are spread over a 52 week period. In addition, where a disability premium is paid in an income-related benefit, a cold weather payment is payable in periods of very cold weather. Together, these payments are designed to meet the extra costs, including heating, of terminally ill people.

### Winter Fuel Payments: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners aged 60 and over have claimed the winter fuel payment in *(a)* Crosby constituency and *(b)* England in each year since its inception; and what proportion of such pensioners have not applied for the payment in each year. [236683]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Around 98 per cent. of winter fuel payments are made automatically without the need to claim.

*Winter fuel payments made to people aged 60 or over from inception*

| | *Crosby constituency* | *Great Britain* |
|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 14,965 | 10,084,130 |
| 2000-01 | 16,615 | 11,105,750 |
| 2001-02 | 16,835 | 11,201,900 |
| 2002-03 | 17,020 | 11,348,040 |
| 2003-04 | 16,955 | 11,468,240 |
| 2004-05 | 16,900 | 11,401,170 |
| 2005-06 | 17,090 | 11,514,760 |
| 2006-07 | 17,320 | 11,702,900 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies, local authorities and Government office regions are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*
Information directorate 100 per cent data.

Information relating to winter fuel payments for the winters of 1997-98 and 1998-99 is not available.

Information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Acceptable Behaviour Contracts

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when acceptable behaviour contracts will be extended to young people caught drinking and behaving anti-socially in public. [234288]

**Jacqui Smith:** Antisocial behaviour contracts (ABCs) are already available to tackle young people caught drinking and behaving antisocially in public.

### Agricultural Machinery: Theft

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to reduce the rate of theft of agricultural equipment. [235375]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The Government's crime strategy builds upon the achievements of the last 10 years in reducing crime and disorder but moves away from centrally imposed targets instead making local agencies accountable and responsive to the needs and priorities of the local community. This means that local areas can focus greatest effort on reducing those crimes that matter most to people locally, whatever the crime.

Where the theft of agricultural machinery emerges as a pressing local issue we would encourage local police forces and their partners in Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to devote resources to tackling this crime. To this end the National Policing Improvement Agency has produced a practical guide specifically for those facing the challenges of policing rural areas, titled Neighbourhood Policing in Rural Communities (2008). This aims to support the police in tailoring their approach to the needs of the rural communities they serve.

The Home Office supports schemes such as Farm Watch and Countryside Watch, which are now operating across England and Wales, allowing farmers and those living in rural communities to share practical advice on crime prevention in order to look after their vehicles, property, families and animals.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in each criminal justice system area since 31 December 2005. [232369]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The answer is given in the following table.

*The number of antisocial behaviour orders issued in 2006 and the number proven in court to have been breached[1] in 2006, by Criminal Justice System Area*

| *CJS area* | *Number of ASBOs issued* | *Number of ASBOs breached[1]* |
|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 34 | 18 |
| Bedfordshire | 31 | 9 |
| Cambridgeshire | 31 | 15 |
| Cheshire | 43 | 29 |
| Cleveland | 80 | 39 |
| Cumbria | 31 | 30 |
| Derbyshire | 41 | 26 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 46 | 28 |
| Dorset | 15 | 14 |
| Durham | 26 | 21 |
| Dyfed Powys | 8 | 10 |
| Essex | 32 | 35 |
| Gloucestershire | 21 | 12 |
| Greater London | 359 | 213 |
| Greater Manchester | 225 | 203 |
| Gwent | 49 | 17 |
| Hampshire | 66 | 67 |
| Hertfordshire | 35 | 30 |
| Humberside | 115 | 70 |
| Kent[2] | 29 | 9 |
| Lancashire | 115 | 78 |
| Leicestershire | 42 | 16 |
| Lincolnshire | 17 | 6 |
| Merseyside | 94 | 51 |
| Norfolk | 27 | 22 |
| North Wales | 87 | 51 |
| North Yorkshire | 27 | 28 |
| Northamptonshire[2] | 13 | 0 |
| Northumbria | 70 | 22 |
| Nottinghamshire | 70 | 66 |
| South Wales | 54 | 30 |
| South Yorkshire | 83 | 53 |
| Staffordshire | 35 | 22 |
| Suffolk | 35 | 23 |
| Surrey | 26 | 27 |
| Sussex | 73 | 52 |
| Thames Valley | 44 | 33 |
| Warwickshire | 27 | 16 |
| West Mercia | 40 | 34 |
| West Midlands | 189 | 109 |
| West Yorkshire | 217 | 157 |
| Wiltshire | 4 | 10 |
| England and Wales | 2,706 | 1,801 |

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table by area of issue. ASBOs may be issued in one year and breached in another. Some of the breaches counted in the table will be associated with ASBOs issued prior to 2006. It is therefore not possible to compute breach rates from the figures presented in this table.

[2] Breach data from the magistrates court administrative systems in Kent and Northamptonshire are known to have been under-reported.

[3] Covers ASBOs issued in years prior to 2006 as well as those issued in that year.

*Note:*

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Sources:*

(ASBOs breached): OCJR Court Proceedings Database.

(ASBOs issued): as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service.

### Antisocial Behaviour: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of anti-social behaviour orders in reducing anti-social behaviour in Crosby constituency. [236717]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Antisocial behaviour orders are one of many powerful tools we created to tackle antisocial behaviour. Three independent reports including the Home Affairs Select Committee report (2005), the Audit Commission report (May 2006) and the NAO report (December 2006) confirmed that they work.

Sefton antisocial behaviour unit uses the full range of interventions that deal with both prevention and enforcement in that they engage, educate and promote awareness among young people; engage with residents and tackle antisocial behaviour in families throughout the borough of Sefton, which includes Crosby. It operates the policy advocated by Home Office Guidance that the appropriate intervention should be used in the right way at the right time and incrementally. This means that a low-level intervention such as a warning letter or antisocial behaviour contract would be used before an ASBO unless the behaviour is sufficiently serious to warrant it.

### British Crime Survey

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the technical report relating to the 2007-08 British Crime Survey will be published. [233569]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* The 2007-08 British crime survey technical report can be found on the following webpage on the Home Office website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/bcs-methodological.html

### Community Policing

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have expressed an interest in taking part in the pilots of the community safety participatory budgets referred to in the Policing Green Paper. [232904]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office has been working with Communities and Local Government and the Participatory Budgeting Unit to establish a set of criteria for the community safety participatory budgeting pilots. A number of practitioners from police forces, police authorities and local authorities have been assisting this process. The criteria are currently being finalised and the Home Office will shortly invite formal expressions of interest in running pilots.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which local authority areas will receive funding from her Department under the community crime fighters scheme. [236412]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Funding for community crime fighters is not being allocated directly to local authorities. Training, funded by the Home Office, will be offered to around 3,600 people who are already involved with local services, such as tenants and residents groups, neighbourhood watch members and those working with neighbourhood policing teams.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding she has allocated to the community crime fighter scheme; and over what time-frame. [236413]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Total funding of £5 million has been allocated to the community crime fighters scheme to cover the period 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role she proposes for local authorities in the proposed community crime fighters scheme. [236414]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Training will be offered to around 3,600 people who are already involved with local services, such as tenants and residents groups, neighbourhood watch members and those working with neighbourhood policing teams. Local authorities will have an important role, working with the police and other partners, to help identify those who are suitable for the training and to work with them once they have received it.

### Crime

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* vehicle thefts, *(b)* domestic burglaries and *(c)* violent crimes there were in each of the last 17 years. [234497]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The British Crime Survey (BCS) is the best guide to long term trends in vehicle theft, domestic burglary and violent crime in England and Wales. Prior to 2001-02 the survey ran periodically and estimates are available for only selected years.

These figures are published annually in the Home Office statistical bulletin Crime in England and Wales, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library. These estimates are also shown in Table 1.

*Table 1: BCS incidents of crime from 1981 to 2007-08*

| | *1981* | *1991* | *1995* | *1997* | *2001-02 ints* | *2002-03 ints* | *2004-05 ints* | *2005-06 ints* | *2006-07 ints* | *2007-08 ints* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Property crime* | *Number of incidents (thousand)* | | | | | | | | | |
| Burglary1 | 749 | 1,380 | 1,770 | 1,621 | 969 | 973 | 756 | 733 | 726 | 729 |
| With entry | 474 | 869 | 998 | 852 | 552 | 561 | 469 | 440 | 425 | 435 |
| Attempts | 276 | 511 | 772 | 768 | 416 | 412 | 287 | 293 | 301 | 294 |
| With loss | 373 | 712 | 791 | 651 | 396 | 407 | 327 | 315 | 310 | 318 |

*Table 1: BCS incidents of crime from 1981 to 2007-08*

| *Property crime* | *1981* | *1991* | *1995* | *1997* | *2001-02 ints* | *2002-03 ints* | *2004-05 ints* | *2005-06 ints* | *2006-07 ints* | *2007-08 ints* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of incidents (thousand)* | | | | | | | | | |
| No loss (including attempts) | 376 | 668 | 979 | 970 | 573 | 566 | 429 | 418 | 417 | 411 |
| Vehicle-related theft | 1,751 | 3,845 | 4,350 | 3,511 | 2,494 | 2,365 | 1,886 | 1,731 | 1,689 | 1,497 |
| Theft from vehicle | 1,286 | 2,424 | 2,544 | 2,200 | 1,496 | 1,425 | 1,210 | 1,121 | 1,129 | 994 |
| Theft of vehicles | 285 | 522 | 510 | 378 | 316 | 278 | 214 | 185 | 176 | 161 |
| Attempts of and from | 179 | 899 | 1,297 | 933 | 683 | 662 | 462 | 425 | 384 | 342 |
| Unweighted base-household crime | 10,905 | 10,059 | 16,310 | 14,900 | 32,720 | 36,395 | 44,973 | 47,610 | 47,027 | 46,765 |
| *Violence* | | | | | | | | | | |
| All BCS violence[2] | 2,074 | 2,556 | 4,176 | 3,593 | 2,728 | 2,714 | 2,320 | 2,349 | 2,471 | 2,164 |
| Wounding | 508 | 624 | 914 | 804 | 648 | 709 | 577 | 547 | 578 | 467 |
| Assault with minor injury | 609 | 784 | 1,356 | 1,198 | 709 | 623 | 629 | 572 | 571 | 481 |
| Assault with no injury | 793 | 966 | 1,567 | 1,257 | 1,015 | 1,079 | 860 | 918 | 1,002 | 903 |
| Robbery | 164 | 182 | 339 | 334 | 356 | 303 | 255 | 311 | 320 | 313 |
| Violence with injury | 1,194 | 1,441 | 2,408 | 2,184 | 1,497 | 1,441 | 1,300 | 1,227 | 1,270 | 1,042 |
| Violence with no injury | 881 | 1,115 | 1,768 | 1,409 | 1,231 | 1,273 | 1,020 | 1,121 | 1,201 | 1,122 |
| Domestic violence | 292 | 534[3] | 989 | 814 | 626 | 506 | 401 | 357 | 407 | 342 |
| Acquaintance | 774 | 1,043[3] | 1,816 | 1,642 | 862 | 949 | 828 | 817 | 845 | 765 |
| Stranger | 844 | 797[3] | 1,004 | 784 | 883 | 956 | 836 | 863 | 894 | 744 |
| Mugging (robbery and snatch theft) | 250 | 259[3] | 419 | 417 | 430 | 391 | 347 | 382 | 392 | 391 |
| Unweighted base-personal crime | 10,905 | 10,059 | 16,337 | 14,937 | 32,787 | 36,450 | 45,069 | 47,729 | 47,138 | 46,903 |

[1] Burglary with entry plus attempted burglary add up to total burglary. Burglary with loss plus burglary with no loss (including attempts) also add up to total burglary.
[2] All BCS violence includes wounding, assault with minor injury, assault with no injury and robbery. Mugging includes robbery and snatch theft. For more information see the glossary.
[3] The 1991 estimates for domestic, acquaintance and stranger violence and mugging were calculated based on the estimate for all BCS violence. Estimates for these individual categories could not be calculated using their individual incidence rates because the data used for calculating these rates were not collected for that year.
*Note:*
For household crimes the 2007-08 numbers are derived by multiplying offence rates (incidence rates) by 23,607,316 households in England and Wales. For personal crimes the 2007-08 numbers are derived by multiplying incidence rates by 43,859,000 adults in England and Wales.

## Crime: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department has provided to *(a)* victim support and *(b)* neighbourhood watch schemes in Crosby constituency in the last 10 years. [236706]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Victim Support is an independent charity and is the main provider of services to victims and witnesses across England and Wales. In 2003, the Government increased the core grant for Victim Support to £30 million, and has maintained annual funding at that level. Victim Support has received a further £12.6 million from government (£5.6 million in 2007-08 and £7 million this financial year) to deliver enhanced services to victims.

Victim Support in Merseyside received £1,134,000 as part of the national grant to Victim Support in this financial year. This covers the Victim Support community service (including additional funds for Victim Support Plus) and grants to the Witness Service, which provides support to witnesses giving evidence in criminal trials at both Crown and magistrates courts.

The Home Office directly meets the costs of providing public liability insurance for all police-registered Neighbourhood Watch schemes. Funding for local partners and statutory agencies to work together to tackle crime, drugs, and anti-social behaviour in their areas is provided to local authorities through the area-based grant. The Home Office does not keep detailed records giving a breakdown of payments to local schemes.

## Criminal Records Bureau: Appeals

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people contested details held on record by the Criminal Records Bureau in each of the last five years; and how many of these disputes were upheld. [231777]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) do not hold criminal records but do release information held on police records and other data sources.

The total number of disclosures where the details released by the CRB were contested by the applicant in the last five years and the total number of these that were subsequently upheld is detailed in the following table. These are referred to within the disclosure process as disputes and the CRB has procedures in place to allow an applicant to dispute the information provided.

| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total number of disputes | 1,739 | 2,265 | 2,675 | 3,077 | 4,931 |
| Total number of upheld disputes | 1,739 | 2,265 | 2,669 | 2,797 | 2,785 |
| Total number of disclosures issued | 2,284,688 | 2,430,937 | 2,770,265 | 3,277,957 | 3,323,251 |

The CRB enhanced its recording of disputes during 2005-06. Prior to this, the CRB did not hold figures for disputes not upheld.

Information released on a disclosure can be disputed for a number of reasons including the inclusion of locally held non-conviction information which the applicant believes to be inaccurate or misleading; situations where an applicant has had their identity stolen; or the inclusion of data which an applicant was unaware would appear on the disclosure.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from her Department since 1997. [193447]

**Mr. Woolas:** Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security. However, following the publication of the Data Handling Procedures in Government: Interim Progress Report on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 90WS, all Departments will cover information assurance issues in their annual reports.

### Departmental Written Questions

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average time taken by her Department has been to answer ordinary Parliamentary written questions in the Parliamentary session to date; [230573]

(2) how many ordinary Parliamentary written questions were tabled to her Department in *(a)* March 2008 and *(b)* April 2008; and how many such questions remain unanswered; [230574]

(3) how many members of staff are employed by her Department to support Ministers in answering Parliamentary written questions. [230575]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* The information requested is in the following tables.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Normal written questions received[1] | 3,891 |
| Target sitting days to answer | 5 |
| Average sitting days to answer | 8 |

| | *March 2008* | *April 2008* |
|---|---|---|
| Normal written questions received (Number) | 487 | 442 |
| Questions outstanding[1] (Number) | 6 | 8 |
| Percentage of received questions outstanding | 1.2 | 1.8 |

[1] To 13 November 2008.

There are four full-time equivalent posts in the Home Office parliamentary unit dedicated solely to supporting Ministers in answering parliamentary written questions. Many other officials contribute to answering questions, but this number can be quantified only at disproportionate cost.

### Dispersal Orders: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how dispersal orders have been issued in the London Borough of Enfield in each year since 2003. [235438]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The number of dispersal orders issued in Enfield since 2003 is as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 4 |
| 2005 | 4 |
| 2006 | 1 |
| 2007 | 3 |
| 2008 | 6 |

### Driving Under Influence: Drugs

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to give type approval for a device for use in testing a driver for the presence of a drug in his body under Section 6 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, as amended. [237204]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* Before approving such a device, the Secretary of State must be wholly satisfied that it will be reliable in operational use and suitable for the purposes of criminal law enforcement. This will be ensured by requiring the device to be compliant with the necessarily rigorous, detailed and precise specification that is currently being developed. How soon a device might be approved will depend on how soon manufacturers present a device which they claim is compliant, how that device performs in tests and how quickly manufacturers then make any necessary adjustments.

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of driving while unfit through use of a drug in the last year for which figures are available. [237205]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* Information provided by the Ministry of Justice shows that in 2006 (latest available) there were 92,671 convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Data for 2007 are due to be published at the end of November 2008.

The data cover both drink and drugs offences combined, as volumes of convictions and custodial sentences for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs cannot be accurately established.

### Driving Under Influence: Hertfordshire

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* drug and *(b)* drink driving were recorded in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [233848]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Offences of driving while unfit through drugs or drink are summary offences and do not feature in the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

The Home Office does collect data on recorded offences of 'Causing death by dangerous or careless driving (including while under the influence of drink or drugs)'. However, it is not possible to determine from the information held centrally which, if any, of these offences were committed while the offender was under the influence.

The available information for the above offence is given in the following table. Hemel Hempstead comes within the Dacorum local authority area. Data for this offence have only been collected at local authority area level since 2000-01.

*Recorded offences of causing death by dangerous or careless driving (including while under the influence of drink or drugs)*

| | *Dacorum local authority area* | *Hertfordshire* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | n/a | 2 |
| 1998-99 | n/a | 6 |
| 1999-2000 | n/a | 5 |
| 2000-01 | 0 | 4 |
| 2001-02 | 0 | 12 |
| 2002-03 | 4 | 12 |
| 2003-04 | 0 | 6 |
| 2004-05 | 2 | 13 |
| 2005-06 | 0 | 4 |
| 2006-07 | 0 | 11 |
| 2007-08 | 0 | 13 |

n/a = Not applicable

### Driving Under Influence: Police

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in England and Wales were convicted of drink driving offences in each of the last three years. [236911]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not available.

Information is not collected centrally on the occupation of offenders unless specific to the offence legislation.

### Dungavel Detention Centre

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of detention period in Dungavel Detention Centre of *(a)* a family and *(b)* an individual, aged (i) under 18, (ii) under 16 and (iii) under 10 years old in each of the last three years. [232797]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The average length of detention for a family in Dungavel House has remained at three days for 2006, 2007 and up until September for 2008.

The average length of detention for single detainees was 17 days in 2006, 23 days in 2007 and 27 days up until September 2008.

We do not have the data available in relation to age groups and to provide them would be at disproportionate cost.

### Electronic Surveillance: Databases

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1251W, on electronic surveillance: databases, whether local authorities will have access to mobile telephone geodata. [236140]

**Mr. Coaker:** No. Directive 2006/24/EC will not change the kinds of data that local authorities are permitted to access under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1251W, on electronic surveillance: databases, whether local authorities will have access to communications data retained by internet service providers. [236141]

**Mr. Coaker:** Local authority access to communications data retained by internet service providers will be on the same basis as their access to communications data retained by any other communications service provider. That is they will continue under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to have access to service use and subscriber data, but not traffic data, the class of communications data that would indicate specific areas of internet interest or activity.

### Entry Clearances: Kyrgyzstan

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when the applications for visas for the Kyrgyzstan musicians and performers invited to perform in the UK in November 2008 were received at the UK Embassy in Astana; when the applications were processed; when the applications were refused; and if she will make a statement; [235552]

(2) for what reasons the musicians and performers invited to the UK by the Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan were denied visas to perform in the UK in November 2008; and if she will make a statement. [235553]

**Mr. Woolas:** The applications have not been refused and are in fact ready to be issued pending receipt of results checks. However, I regret that this is obviously too late for the event in which they were originally due to perform. I can only add my apologies to those which have already been extended to the Kyrgyz ambassador in London by colleagues in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the disruption this caused to the event he planned in November.

The office in Almaty is working hard with engineers to rectify the problems as quickly as possible. UKBA hoped to resume a fully effective service in Almaty by 14 November.

## Extradition: EU Countries

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many European arrest warrants for *(a)* British citizens and *(b)* non-British citizens her Department has issued to other EU member states; and how many people have been extradited to the UK under such warrants in each year since they came into force, broken down by (i) offence and (ii) member state to which the warrant was issued; [227620]

(2) how many European arrest warrants for *(a)* British citizens and *(b)* non-British citizens have been received from other EU member states; and how many people have been extradited under such warrants in each year since they came into force, broken down by (i) offence and (ii) member state of destination. [227621]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Serious Organised Crime Agency is the designated central authority for the receipt and transmission of European Arrest Warrants in the UK. There is no Government involvement in the operation of the EAW. The following tables, provided by SOCA, give figures for the following:

(a) Number of persons extradited to EU member states under the EAW regime (Part 1 warrants) by the UK broken down by year and by country.

(b) Number of subjects surrendered to the UK by EU member states (Part 3 warrants) broken down by year and by country.

(c) EAWs received by the UK from other EU member states broken down by year and EAWs issued to other EU member states by the UK, broken down by year.

All figures for this year are January to September 2008.

It is not possible from current systems to provide data broken down into British and non-British nationals, nor into type of offence. SOCA is putting in place a new database to hold this information

Warrants issued by the UK for one individual may be sent to more than one member state. The UK receives a large number of warrants from other member states. To break down the figures in the third table by originating state would incur disproportionate cost.

*Extradited from the UK*

*Surrendered*

| *Part one EAW* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austria | — | — | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| Belgium | 3 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 21 |
| Bulgaria | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Cyprus | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Czech Republic | — | — | — | 17 | 30 | 47 |
| Denmark | — | 3 | — | 3 | — | 6 |
| Finland | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | 5 |
| France | 1 | 4 | 15 | 9 | 11 | 39 |
| Germany | — | 8 | 16 | 19 | 13 | 56 |
| Greece | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | 3 |

*Extradited from the UK*

*Surrendered*

| *Part one EAW* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hungary | — | — | 3 | 1 | 7 | 11 |
| Ireland | 4 | 11 | 20 | 23 | 17 | 75 |
| Italy | — | — | 5 | 9 | 2 | 16 |
| Latvia | — | — | 2 | 7 | 9 | 18 |
| Lithuania | 3 | 25 | 48 | 62 | 36 | 174 |
| Malta | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Netherlands | 3 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 4 | 23 |
| Poland | — | 4 | 20 | 136 | 186 | 346 |
| Portugal | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 15 |
| Romania | — | — | — | 2 | 11 | 13 |
| Slovak Republic | — | — | 4 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| Slovenia | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Spain | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 13 | 27 |
| Sweden | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 10 |
| Total | 23 | 75 | 151 | 320 | 351 | — |

*Extradited to the UK*

*Surrendered*

| *Part three EAW* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austria | — | — | — | — | — | 0 |
| Belgium | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 14 |
| Bulgaria | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Cyprus | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 |
| Czech Republic | — | — | 1 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| Denmark | — | — | 2 | — | 1 | 3 |
| Estonia | — | — | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| Finland | — | — | — | — | — | 0 |
| France | 2 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 27 |
| Germany | — | 6 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 17 |
| Gibraltar | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Greece | 4 | — | 2 | 1 | — | 7 |
| Hungary | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Ireland | — | 4 | 22 | 24 | 24 | 74 |
| Italy | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 3 |
| Latvia | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Lithuania | — | — | 2 | 2 | — | 4 |
| Luxembourg | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Malta | — | — | — | — | — | 0 |
| Netherlands | 2 | 10 | 4 | 11 | 9 | 36 |
| Poland | — | — | 2 | 4 | 6 | 12 |
| Portugal | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 10 |
| Romania | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Slovak Republic | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Slovenia | — | — | — | — | — | 0 |
| Spain | 12 | 29 | 18 | 28 | 17 | 104 |
| Sweden | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Total | 24 | 62 | 75 | 96 | 78 | — |

*Number of EAW's issued to and by the UK since 1 January 2004*

| *Totals by year* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Part one EAW | 1,865 | 5,986 | 3,329 | 2,534 | 2,428 |
| Part three EAW | 96 | 131 | 75 | 185 | 172 |

## Fingerprints

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost has been of police forces using handheld fingerprinting devices to date. [234664]

**Mr. Coaker:** The total cost so far met by police forces using hand held fingerprinting devices is £31,400.

The project costs, including the provision centrally of the held-held fingerprint hardware, software, research and development, service and support to the end of 2007, the latest date for which figures are available, has been £3,350,000.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which budget the cost of paying for the use of handheld fingerprinting devices by police forces will be met. [234665]

**Mr. Coaker:** The anticipated benefits derived from the provision of the handheld fingerprinting devices beyond the current field trials mean that their costs, supporting infrastructure and back-office services should be self-financing. As such, these costs will be met from within existing police force budgets. Other associated costs, for example, procurement, training, and the promulgation of good practice, will be met by the National Policing Improvement Agency.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers on the issuing of new guidelines to take into account the use of handheld fingerprinting devices. [234666]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Association of Chief Police Officers is represented at board level on the current field trials and procurement activity for future handheld fingerprinting capabilities. These projects will develop the procurement, training, and the promulgation of good practice for the use of mobile fingerprint capabilities. Amendments to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), and the associated code D of its codes of practice, will govern the use of the fingerprint capability.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the use of handheld fingerprinting devices will be monitored; and how the data so gathered will be recorded. [234667]

**Mr. Coaker:** The use of the handheld fingerprint capability will form part of the stop and search/stop and account processes. As such, data on its use will be captured and reported on as part of the overall data submitted by police forces to the Home Office on these activities.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the implications of the use of handheld fingerprinting devices for the recording of criminal records. [234668]

**Mr. Coaker:** No such assessment has been made as it is not intended that the devices should be used to capture fingerprints for use in the validation or recording of criminal records.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of whether handheld fingerprint devices are used in a consistent manner by rural and urban police forces. [234671]

**Mr. Coaker:** The use of handheld fingerprint devices is a matter for the chief constable of each police force and for the present time requires consent from the individual being sampled. Available data suggest that there is no difference in the use of the devices between police forces, given the nature of the deployment that it is supporting.

The use of the handheld fingerprint capability will form part of the stop and search/stop and account processes. As such, data on its use will be captured and reported on as part of the overall data submitted by police forces to the Home Office on these activities.

## Fingerprints: Airports

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons she would mandate airport operators to carry out compulsory biometric fingerprinting of UK domestic passengers. [234442]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Government are considering using powers in paragraph 26(3) of schedule 2 of the Immigration Act 1971 to require operators of certain airports to verify the identity of travellers through biometrics such as fingerprints before boarding, where there is a mixing of domestic and international passengers in a common departure lounge and where this would be a proportionate measure to manage border security.

The Government continue to work closely with airport operators on the measures required to maintain the security of the UK border and of air travel.

## Fraud

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has prepared a Code of Practice for disclosure of information to prevent fraud under section 71 of the Serious Crimes Act 2007. [234603]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** As required by section 71 of the Serious Crime Act 2007, the Home Office prepared a code of practice for public authorities disclosing information to a specified anti-fraud organisation for the purposes of preventing fraud. The code was laid before Parliament on 6 October.

A copy of the code can be found on the Home Office Crime Reduction website:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/organisedcrime/organisedcrime07c.pdf

## Human Trafficking

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions there were for human trafficking offences in each of the last five years. [232793]

**Jacqui Smith:** A total of 860 people were arrested under the Operations Pentameter 1 and 2.

Since the commencement of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (which came into force on 1 May 2004) to date, there have been 90 convictions for trafficking for sexual exploitation. Details of convictions by year are as follows:

| | *Number of convictions* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 3 |
| 2005 | 21 |
| 2006 | 32 |
| 2007 | 23 |
| 2008 | 11 |

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how long victims of human trafficking may remain in the UK. [232952]

**Jacqui Smith:** There is no cap on how long a victim of human trafficking can remain in the UK. The length of stay is determined by the individual circumstances of the victim and is decided on a case by case basis.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there were for human trafficking for the purpose of *(a)* forced labour and *(b)* sexual exploitation in each of the last five years. [232957]

**Jacqui Smith:** Since the commencement of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (which came into force on 1 May 2004) to date, there have been 90 convictions for trafficking for sexual exploitation. Details of convictions by year are as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 3 |
| 2005 | 21 |
| 2006 | 32 |
| 2007 | 23 |
| 2008 | 11 |

In respect of trafficking for forced labour there have been a total of four convictions to date all of which were secured in 2008.

### Human Trafficking: Prostitution

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to raise awareness of sex trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [235657]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** We have run a number of awareness campaigns with partners. Our approach focuses on the use of the UK Human Trafficking Centre 'Blue Blindfold' awareness campaign, which was launched in January 2008. This campaign has the key message that trafficking is in local communities in the UK and encourages the public to call Crimestoppers with any information. We have also run a targeted campaign aimed at the purchasers of sex about the level and nature of exploitation and trafficking involved in off street prostitution.

All prevention material produced provides details of the bespoke Blue Blindfold website—www.blueblindfold.co.uk, which contains information on indicators of trafficking and dispelling myths about trafficking for sexual exploitation as well as providing contact details for local groups who wish to access the prevention material.

### Human Trafficking: Sentencing

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals for a tariff of mandatory minimum sentences for human trafficking offences. [233200]

**Jacqui Smith:** No.

Sentencing guidelines issued by the Sentencing Guidelines Council provide adequate advice on sentencing for human trafficking cases, including aggravating and mitigating factors that can inform the judicial decision.

Courts are also guided by case law arising from Court of Appeal decisions on sentencing and the Attorney-General has the power to refer cases to the Court of Appeal where it is believed the sentence passed is unduly lenient.

### Human Trafficking: Victim Support Schemes

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made towards introducing a 45-day minimum recovery period for all victims of trafficking, as set out in the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking 2007. [232951]

**Jacqui Smith:** The 'Update to the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking', published on 2 July, committed the Government to implement a 45-day reflection and recovery period before 1 April 2009. We are working with partners to finalise formal victim identification arrangements and the training associated with it and are on track to meet this deadline.

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what proportion of respondents to each of the waves of the National Identity Scheme Tracking Research carried out to date said that they did not support the scheme because they were concerned that *(a)* it would be an infringement of personal freedom, *(b)* it would not work, *(c)* it is a waste of money, *(d)* personal data will be used without their permission and *(e)* it could be open to abuse; [227224]

(2) what proportion of respondents to each of the waves of the National Identity Scheme Tracking Research carried out to date said they *(a)* agreed strongly or slightly and *(b)* disagreed strongly or slightly with the Government's plan to introduce the National Identity Scheme; [227225]

(3) when the next wave of National Identity Scheme Tracking Research will be carried out; and when she expects the results of this research to be published. [227226]

**Jacqui Smith:** The findings of the National Identity Scheme Tracking Research can be found on the Identity and Passport Service website at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/publications-research.asp

I would refer the hon. and learned Member to that website.

The next wave of tracking research was being carried out at the end of October, the results of which will be published in December 2008.

### Identity Cards: Contracts

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts have yet to be awarded in relation to the identity card scheme; who has tendered for them; and what the value of each contract is expected to be. [224717]

**Jacqui Smith:** Currently there are three National Identity Scheme procurements being undertaken with the five 'Strategic Supplier Group' framework suppliers who were appointed following open procurement in June 2008. For each of these procurements, an initial shortlist process has either happened or is planned and was announced in September. Further to this, a separate procurement is being conducted for replacement of a current passport production contract on expiry. This was advertised in the *Official Journal* of the EU in June 2008 and a shortlist of bidders from those expressing an interest was announced in September.

For all contracts yet to be awarded, no values have been agreed as they are subject to competitive procurement. However, as part of the procurement process, Identity and Passport Service has shared a current view on costs with bidders. This is to inform discussions while balancing the need to retain competition. Figures are derived from those published in the cost report to Parliament required under the Identity Cards Act 2006 and have recently been amended to reflect updates to bidders as part of the procurement process. They are subject to further refinement and discussion throughout the procurement process, so should be treated as indicative only.

| *Contract* | *Capability* | *Bidders* | *Value, estimate (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Application and Enrolment | Replacement of existing contracts as they expire from 2010, for processing of passport applications and supporting IPS infrastructure | CSC | 350-450 |
| | Development of new capabilities to improve and support future passport applications process | IBM | |
| | Development of capabilities to introduce biometric passports and for supporting identity card application processes | Fujitsu | |
| National Biometric Identity Service | Replacement of existing UK Borders Agency biometric database storage and matching capability when contracts expire | IBM | 200-250 |
| | Development of new biometric matching and storage capabilities for UK Borders Agency | Thales | |
| | Development of new biometric capabilities for biometric passports and for identity cards | | |
| Card Design and Production | Capabilities to design and securely produce identity cards | CSC | 250-350 |
| | | EDS | |
| | | Fujitsu | |
| | | IBM | |
| | | Thales | |
| Passport Design and Production | Capabilities to design and securely produce passport documents, replacing existing arrangements when they expire in 2010 | 3M | [illegible] |
| | | SP and SL | |
| | | De La | |
| | | Rue | |
| | | Gemalto | |
| | | Thales | |

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* value is of any penalty and cancellation clauses in the contracts awarded in relation to the identity card scheme and *(b)* the expected value is in contracts relating to the identity cards scheme that have yet to be awarded. [224720]

**Jacqui Smith:** Contracts for the NIS using the 'Strategic Supplier Group' framework and for passports contain provisions for termination based on Office of Government Commerce guidance. These include terms for ending the contract for poor performance or where a decision is made to terminate early (for 'convenience'). For termination for convenience where between 12 and 18 months notice is given, a supplier may recover costs incurred to the point of termination and those associated with terminating the contract. Where less notice is given, in addition to costs incurred, some anticipated profit lost as a result of the decision to terminate early may be claimed. As these provisions are based on formulae dependent on when any decision is taken, work incurred to date and what elements of services are being terminated, no 'value' can be calculated.

### Identity Cards: Finance

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what costs have been incurred to date in the planning and implementation of the identity card scheme. [224606]

**Jacqui Smith:** Between the financial years 2003-04 and 2005-06, £41.1 million was spent by the Home Office Identity Cards Programme in total.

Since the merger of the Home Office Identity Cards Programme and the UK Passport Service to create the Identity and Passport Service on 1 April 2006, projects

to deliver passports including facial images and fingerprints, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the technology and operational processes needed to implement identity cards is also required for the implementation of these new passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives.

Much of the work conducted by Identity and Passport Service cannot be categorised, both financially and operationally, as contributing towards either the introduction of passports with facial images and fingerprints or identity cards alone. The work is accounted for as future development projects which in the 2006-07 financial year amounted to £30.9 million. The costs accounted for as future development projects in the 2007-08 financial year were £61.7 million.

The latest six monthly Identity Cards Scheme Cost Report, published on 6 May 2008, sets out those elements of the cost estimates that relate specifically to passports, those specific to identity cards and those that are common to both. The cost of registering individuals for passports and ID cards is included in common costs because the same technology infrastructure and business processes will be used. In many cases, the same application will result in the issue of both a passport and an identity card.

The latest cost report may be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/publications-legislative.asp

I would refer the hon. Member to that report.

### Identity Cards: Foreigners

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the *(a)* effectiveness of the technology to be used from 25 November to obtain biometric fingerprints from juvenile foreign nationals over the age of six for the Identity Cards Scheme for Foreign Nationals and *(b)* merits of obtaining biometric fingerprints from juvenile foreign nationals over the age of six; what advice she has received on the psychological effect of collecting biometric identifiers from juveniles over the age of six; and if she will make a statement. [227984]

**Mr. Woolas:** The UKBA has many years of experience of taking fingerprints from children aged five and upwards without difficulty. For example, we issued 39,401 application registration cards (ARC) to children aged from five to 16 from 2002 to 2006, and we collected biometric data as part of the visa application process between September 2006 and the end of April 2007 from 5,679 children aged from five to 16.

The benefits of taking children's fingerprints are wide-ranging from providing a more secure and reliable documentary evidence of a child's immigration status and identity to helping abate child trafficking, and fraudulent claims for public funds. In addition, it will allow the UK to comply with EU regulation 380/2008 (section 4b) which lays down a uniform format for residence permits for third country nationals.

When evaluating the pilot scheme for the identity cards for foreign nationals, children followed the same quick, easy and clean process that they saw their parent follow and there was no evidence to suggest that children were adversely affected by the process. To date, we have successfully enrolled the biometrics of over 13,000 people.

### Immigrants: Vetting

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what access her Department has to the results of Criminal Records Bureau checks carried out in other EU member states; what arrangements are in place to ensure that all EU migrants are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check before commencing employment in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [234670]

**Meg Hillier:** There is no direct equivalent to the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) in other countries or EU member states. Each country operates its own arrangements for providing access to criminal record information and the CRB does not currently access overseas criminal records as part of its Disclosure Service.

The Disclosure Service is only available for those positions and types of work included in the Exceptions Order (1975) to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. The standard and enhanced disclosure process includes checks against the Police National Computer (PNC) and, if applicable, a search against Section 142 of the Education Act 2002, the Protection of Children Act and Protection of Vulnerable Adults (PoCA and PoVA) lists. Enhanced disclosures also contain a further check conducted by police forces for any relevant non-conviction information. All individuals who have received a successful offer of employment for a role which brings them into contact with children or vulnerable adults are subject to these checks irrespective of an applicant's nationality or length of residence in the United Kingdom.

The CRB introduced an overseas service in February 2003 to provide details and guidance to employers and individuals on how to obtain a certificate of good conduct or a copy of a person's own criminal record from those countries included in the overseas service.

This information can be used in conjunction with the full range of pre-appointment checks to ensure that the prospective employee is suitable for the post. These pre-appointment checks are the responsibility of the employer and a CRB disclosure is only one part of that process. Full details of this service are available on the CRB website at:

www.crb.gov.uk//overseas.

Some countries also have arrangements enabling their citizens to obtain certificates of good conduct or extracts from any existing criminal record to show to prospective employers. These may be obtained once the prospective employees have arrived in the UK but it may be advisable for them to obtain the document before leaving their home country.

### Immigration: Deportation

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 5-6WS, on the UK Border Agency detention estate that an immigration offender is removed from the United Kingdom every eight minutes, how many new arrivals refused entry to the UK at port are counted as removed immigration offenders. [208720]

**Mr. Woolas:** Of the 63,140 removals from the UK in 2007 (which equates to one removal, on average, every eight minutes), 33,680 were persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed from the UK. The

latter figure includes cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls, persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them and removals which have been performed by Immigration Officers at ports using enforcement powers. Figures are rounded to the nearest five and are provisional.

National Statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

### Immobilisation of Vehicles: Licensing

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department's review of the regulation of companies involved in vehicle immobilisation on private land will include consideration of the proposal that the Security Industry Authority take responsibility for the level of fees charged in relation to vehicle immobilisation. [236603]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Security Industry Authority (SIA) is undertaking a feasibility study of various options for the regulation of vehicle immobilisation companies who work on private land, which is expected to be completed by the end of December. This study is considering options relating to the fees charged in relation to vehicle immobilisation on private land.

### Interception Modernisation Programme

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the *(a)* set-up and *(b)* annual running costs of the Interception Modernisation Programme database. [236501]

**Mr. Coaker:** The objective of the Interception Modernisation Programme (IMP) is to maintain the UK's Lawful Intercept and Communications Data capabilities in the changing communications environment. It is a cross-government programme, led by the Home Office, to ensure that our capability to lawfully intercept and exploit data when fighting crime and terrorism is not lost. It was established in response to the Prime Minister's National Security remit in 2006.

As part of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR 07) a central bid was made to HM Treasury on behalf of the security and intelligence agencies. Funding for IMP was included in this bid.

The IMP will require a substantial level of investment which will need to tie in with the Government's three-year CSR periods. The scale of overall economic investment is very difficult to calculate because of the complexity of the project and wide ranging implementation solutions currently being considered.

Given the commercial and national security sensitivities, the precise costs of the programme cannot be disclosed. Further detail on budgetary estimates for the IMP will however become available once the public consultation process (announced by the Home Secretary on 15 October) commences in the new year.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of replies to hon. Members on immigration cases were signed by a Minister in her Department in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the procedures are for deciding whether the reply is signed by a Minister or the Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency. [213959]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 26 June 2008]:* In May 2008, 40.5 per cent. of the replies sent to hon. Members, that were originally sent to a Minister, were signed by a Minister.

Letters written directly to the Home Secretary by Cabinet colleagues, Members of the shadow Cabinets and leaders of other political parties will receive a reply direct from the Home Secretary.

Letters written to a Minister that ask for a meeting, are political or explicitly drawing the Minister's attention to an issue, will also receive a reply from a Minister. Members of the Privy Council will also receive a ministerial reply if they write to a Minister.

The letters that do not fall into these categories are divided between the CEO (and deputy) of the Border Agency and Ministers for replying; with 80 per cent. going to the CEO (and deputy) and 20 per cent. to Ministers.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will respond to the letter of 29 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Z Mohiny. [235589]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* I replied to my right hon. Friend's letter on 13 November 2008.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will respond to the letter of 30 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. Zara Gulshav. [235590]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* I replied to my right hon. Friend's letter on 12 November 2008.

### National Policing Improvement Agency: Finance

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget for the National Policing Improvement Agency will be in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [234744]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) budget for resource and capital, as set out in the business plan 2008-11, is given in the following table.

| | | £ million |
|---|---|---|
| | *Resource* | *Capital* |
| 2008-09 | 396.3 | 179.0 |
| 2009-10 | 393.8 | 125.0 |
| 2010-11 | 390.8 | 119.0 |

The 2008-09 budget has been delegated by the Home Office. The 2009-10 and 2010-11 budgets have not yet been formally delegated by the Home Office.

Further information can be found in section 8 of the NPIA business plan 2008-11, which is available on the NPIA website at:

http://www.npia.police.uk/en/7403.htm

### Neighbourhood Policing Fund

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the size of the Neighbourhood Policing Fund will be in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [235475]

(2) what the total funding by her Department for police community support officers in England and Wales will be in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [235476]

**Jacqui Smith:** From 1 April 2008, the Neighbourhood Policing Fund has included the grant for police community support officers. The police funding settlement announced on 6 December 2007 set out allocations for 2008-09 and provisionally for 2009-10 and 2010-11. The total figures for England and Wales are *(a)* £324 million in 2008-09, *(b)* £332 million in 2009-10 and *(c)* £341 million in 2010-11.

### Parenting Contracts

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parenting contracts have been issued to parents of young people repeatedly found drinking in public. [234289]

**Jacqui Smith:** Data on parenting contracts are not collected by the Home Office as they are voluntary agreements and therefore are not suitable for central data collection.

### Police Cautions

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* cautions, *(b)* on-the-spot fines and *(c)* formal warnings were issued by each police force in each of the last 10 years. [235715]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information provided by the Ministry of Justice showing the number of offenders cautioned is given in table 1. The number of penalty notices for disorder (on-the-spot fines) issued from 2004 (commencement of the scheme) to 2006 is given in table 2. Data for 2007 in relation to both cautions and penalty notices for disorder are due to be published at the end of November 2008.

Police forces can also issue 'on the spot fines' or fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for various motoring offences. Information on the number of FPNs issued, broken down by police force area for the years 1997 to 2007 are published in table 20(a) of the Home Office publication 'Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles'. Copies are available in the House Library.

The only formal warning statistics that are collected centrally are cannabis warnings. Police forces have been able to issue a formal warning for possession of cannabis, known as a cannabis warning, since 1 April 2004. The available data are given in table 3. Figures for 2004-05 cannot be shown at the police force area level. For this period, there were an estimated 39,256 cannabis warnings in England and Wales.

*Table 1: Number of offenders cautioned[1], by police force area, England and Wales 1997 to 2006[2,3]*

| *Police force area* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 3,773 | 4,534 | 5,197 | 4,764 | 4,351 | 4,286 | 4,615 | 5,075 | 6,107 | 8,332 |
| Bedfordshire | 2,940 | 2,789 | 2,833 | 2,265 | 3,112 | 2,628 | 2,827 | 3,080 | 3,455 | 3,539 |
| Cambridgeshire | 2,477 | 2,621 | 2,569 | 2,308 | 2,207 | 2,114 | 2,063 | 2,618 | 3,985 | 4,233 |
| Cheshire | 4,048 | 4,587 | 3,592 | 3,111 | 2,780 | 2,085 | 3,051 | 3,268 | 4,572 | 5,318 |
| City of London | 1,146 | 751 | 709 | 559 | 902 | 1,083 | 974 | 605 | 807 | 850 |
| Cleveland | 7,242 | 5,583 | 4,321 | 3,267 | 3,087 | 3,020 | 3,256 | 3,490 | 3,617 | 5,672 |
| Cumbria | 2,902 | 3,015 | 3,032 | 2,337 | 2,505 | 2,392 | 2,615 | 2,753 | 2,652 | 2,956 |
| Derbyshire | 3,832 | 3,532 | 3,301 | 2,917 | 3,161 | 2,732 | 2,794 | 3,371 | 4,644 | 4,874 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 8,042 | 7,047 | 7,226 | 7,283 | 7,177 | 7,224 | 7,870 | 6,951 | 7,175 | 8,905 |
| Dorset | 964 | 1,741 | 1,787 | 1,926 | 1,787 | 1,709 | 1,789 | 3,114 | 3,115 | 4,024 |
| Durham | 2,014 | 2,089 | 2,393 | 2,349 | 2,424 | 2,681 | 2,628 | 2,160 | 3,137 | 4,330 |
| Essex | 6,717 | 6,064 | 5,296 | 4,690 | 4,640 | 4,330 | 4,277 | 4,799 | 7,530 | 11,763 |
| Gloucestershire | 2,331 | 2,897 | 2,754 | 2,848 | 2,828 | 2,815 | 2,590 | 2,696 | 3,822 | 3,553 |
| Greater Manchester | 16,297 | 19,716 | 16,142 | 12,389 | 11,181 | 9,774 | 11,063 | 12,778 | 13,184 | 13,820 |
| Hampshire | 7,592 | 6,424 | 7,478 | 7,014 | 7,436 | 6,765 | 7,587 | 8,747 | 9,180 | 8,962 |
| Hertfordshire | 3,057 | 2,867 | 2,779 | 3,182 | 3,237 | 3,096 | 3,378 | 3,826 | 4,006 | 6,379 |
| Humberside | 3,968 | 4,509 | 3,756 | 3,533 | 3,250 | 2,632 | 2,874 | 4,118 | 5,386 | 5,863 |
| Kent | 7,129 | 8,570 | 8,533 | 7,655 | 7,339 | 6,479 | 8,252 | 10,013 | 10,166 | 11,541 |
| Lancashire | 9,333 | 8,909 | 7,355 | 6,777 | 7,189 | 6,515 | 8,205 | 10,229 | 10,345 | 13,212 |
| Leicestershire | 3,155 | 3,409 | 3,202 | 2,512 | 2,149 | 804 | 2,564 | 3,898 | 5,029 | 6,045 |
| Lincolnshire | 2,566 | 2,425 | 1,957 | 1,440 | 1,799 | 2,101 | 2,063 | 2,177 | 3,672 | 4,264 |
| Merseyside | 13,763 | 14,205 | 12,159 | 8,216 | 6,142 | 6,331 | 6,165 | 6,388 | 3,785 | 4,030 |
| Metropolitan Police | 53,632 | 57,969 | 46,239 | 36,758 | 31,337 | 32,088 | 31,324 | 31,833 | 35,152 | 43,844 |
| Norfolk | 4,460 | 3,345 | 2,809 | 2,773 | 2,302 | 2,345 | 2,314 | 2,774 | 3,013 | 4,471 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,852 | 2,238 | 2,531 | 2,461 | 2,590 | 2,646 | 2,722 | 2,740 | 2,405 | 2,337 |
| Northamptonshire | 2,352 | 3,176 | 3,021 | 3,431 | 3,679 | 3,560 | 2,716 | 2,591 | 3,237 | 4,714 |
| Northumbria | 17,586 | 14,620 | 14,505 | 14,165 | 14,065 | 15,694 | 16,779 | 16,246 | 16,628 | 16,389 |
| Nottinghamshire | 5,966 | 5,808 | 5,323 | 5,142 | 5,118 | 3,862 | 4,814 | 4,868 | 7,640 | 9,872 |
| South Yorkshire | 4,965 | 5,306 | 6,217 | 3,950 | 4,304 | 4,102 | 4,839 | 4,891 | 9,506 | 12,344 |

*Table 1: Number of offenders cautioned[1], by police force area, England and Wales 1997 to 2006[2,3]*

| *Police force area* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staffordshire | 5,905 | 4,958 | 4,105 | 5,628 | 5,455 | 6,124 | 5,585 | 4,616 | 6,496 | 8,098 |
| Suffolk | 3,188 | 3,345 | 2,695 | 3,201 | 3,459 | 3,336 | 3,636 | 3,484 | 3,670 | 4,093 |
| Surrey | 2,861 | 3,514 | 3,914 | 3,213 | 4,097 | 3,675 | 4,793 | 5,435 | 5,654 | 5,265 |
| Sussex | 6,640 | 5,762 | 6,393 | 6,670 | 7,666 | 8,151 | 8,162 | 8,709 | 9,146 | 9,327 |
| Thames Valley | 3,705 | 3,209 | 4,626 | 6,790 | 5,157 | 6,149 | 6,534 | 8,243 | 13,337 | 13,410 |
| Warwickshire | 2,160 | 2,143 | 2,061 | 1,785 | 2,161 | 2,024 | 2,277 | 1,936 | 2,920 | 3,610 |
| West Mercia | 5,866 | 5,836 | 5,297 | 5,380 | 6,385 | 6,357 | 6,251 | 6,658 | 7,747 | 8,110 |
| West Midlands | 15,836 | 17,093 | 17,138 | 15,575 | 14,517 | 15,078 | 15,143 | 13,751 | 17,706 | 20,774 |
| West Yorkshire | 8,875 | 9,676 | 9,923 | 9,633 | 9,071 | 10,073 | 11,277 | 14,959 | 17,904 | 20,314 |
| Wiltshire | 2,575 | 2,497 | 2,678 | 2,853 | 2,115 | 1,695 | 2,347 | 1,985 | 2,046 | 2,081 |
| *England* | 263,712 | 268,779 | 247,846 | 222,750 | 214,161 | 210,555 | 225,013 | 241,873 | 283,578 | 331,518 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 3,109 | 3,452 | 3,313 | 3,185 | 3,495 | 3,761 | 4,491 | 3,170 | 3,973 | 5,179 |
| Gwent | 5,329 | 5,780 | 5,502 | 4,529 | 4,258 | 3,803 | 3,666 | 1,456 | 2,553 | 5,649 |
| North Wales | 3,074 | 3,544 | 3,619 | 3,124 | 3,120 | 3,559 | 3,299 | 3,237 | 2,706 | 2,842 |
| South Wales | 6,869 | 6,339 | 5,852 | 5,399 | 4,826 | 3,680 | 5,337 | 6,032 | 6,135 | 4,789 |
| *Wales* | 18,381 | 19,115 | 18,286 | 16,237 | 15,699 | 14,803 | 16,793 | 13,895 | 15,367 | 18,459 |
| *Total England and Wales* | 282,093 | 287,894 | 266,132 | 238,987 | 229,860 | 225,358 | 241,806 | 255,768 | 298,945 | 349,977 |

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

*Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to recipients of all ages, by police force area, all offences, England and Wales 2004 to 2006[1]*

| *Police force area* | *2004[2]* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 508 | 3,244 | 3,951 |
| Bedfordshire | 503 | 1,239 | 1,645 |
| British Transport police | n/a | n/a | 3,058 |
| Cambridgeshire | 359 | 1,046 | 1,518 |
| Cheshire | 972 | 2,387 | 2,283 |
| City of London | 60 | 219 | 316 |
| Cleveland | 559 | 2,806 | 3,570 |
| Cumbria | 578 | 1,220 | 1,693 |
| Derbyshire | 656 | 1,593 | 2,583 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 1,889 | 5,134 | 7,022 |
| Dorset | 516 | 1,381 | 2,309 |
| Durham | 597 | 1,149 | 1,591 |
| Essex | 2,802 | 4,454 | 4,461 |
| Gloucestershire | 473 | 1,721 | 3,164 |
| Greater Manchester | 2,253 | 7,256 | 10,881 |
| Hampshire | 2,116 | 3,658 | 4,909 |
| Hertfordshire | 412 | 1,296 | 5,615 |
| Humberside | 1,596 | 3,265 | 5,490 |
| Kent | 767 | 5,032 | 7,080 |
| Lancashire | 5,077 | 10,222 | 12,479 |
| Leicestershire | 756 | 1,909 | 2,426 |
| Lincolnshire | 544 | 2,373 | 2,049 |
| Merseyside | 3,929 | 11,937 | 11,709 |
| Metropolitan | 12,758 | 18,047 | 20,856 |
| Norfolk | 475 | 676 | 1,332 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,078 | 1,596 | 2,395 |
| Northamptonshire | 570 | 1,403 | 2,541 |
| Northumbria | 211 | 2,147 | 6,418 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,060 | 2,119 | 2,304 |
| South Yorkshire | 2,098 | 3,710 | 6,185 |
| Staffordshire | 1,450 | 2,169 | 3,261 |
| Suffolk | 472 | 901 | 1,472 |
| Surrey | 203 | 641 | 2,844 |
| Sussex | 1,509 | 4,193 | 5,268 |
| Thames Valley | 1,038 | 5,795 | 6,789 |
| Warwickshire | 481 | 933 | 1,049 |
| West Mercia | 275 | 1,774 | 3,533 |
| West Midlands | 4,773 | 7,320 | 8,015 |
| West Yorkshire | 4,277 | 9,217 | 8,930 |
| Wiltshire | 610 | 1,080 | 1,246 |
| *England* | 61,260 | 138,262 | 186,240 |
| Dyfed Powys | 459 | 1,214 | 1,393 |
| Gwent | 424 | 1,511 | 2,050 |
| North Wales | 1,255 | 3,792 | 6,167 |
| South Wales | 241 | 1,702 | 5,347 |
| *Wales* | 2,379 | 8,219 | 14,957 |
| *England and Wales* | 63,639 | 146,481 | 201,197 |

n/a = Not applicable. The British Transport police started issuing PNDs on 1 March 2006.
[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] First year of PND scheme. Fully rolled out to all forces on 1 April 2004.

*Table 3: Number of cannabis warnings issued by police force area and year 2005-06 to 2007-08*[1,2]

| *Police force area* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 2,578 | 3,600 | 2,554 |
| Bedfordshire | 643 | 324 | 289 |
| British Transport police | 203 | 430 | 1,707 |
| Cambridgeshire | 492 | 956 | 1,594 |
| Cheshire | 393 | 532 | 757 |
| City of London | 682 | 373 | 436 |
| Cleveland | 392 | 331 | 686 |
| Cumbria | 219 | 231 | 218 |
| Derbyshire | 513 | 497 | 520 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 1,532 | 1,473 | 1,380 |
| Dorset | 340 | 348 | 393 |
| Durham | 207 | 257 | 256 |
| Essex | 697 | 722 | 1,348 |
| Gloucestershire | 395 | 419 | 459 |
| Greater Manchester | 3,235 | 4,943 | 5,311 |
| Hampshire | 1,113 | 1,477 | 2,260 |
| Hertfordshire | 488 | 1,394 | 1,485 |
| Humberside | 149 | 533 | 895 |
| Kent | 497 | 652 | 846 |
| Lancashire | 237 | 210 | 528 |
| Leicestershire | 978 | 1,555 | 1,967 |
| Lincolnshire | 471 | 543 | 508 |
| Merseyside | 8,561 | 7,204 | 7,229 |
| Metropolitan | 21,040 | 30,554 | 46,986 |
| Norfolk | 638 | 731 | 786 |
| North Yorkshire | 654 | 554 | 702 |
| Northamptonshire | 111 | 206 | 311 |
| Northumbria | 155 | 1,419 | 1,311 |
| Nottinghamshire | 855 | 1,077 | 1,210 |
| South Yorkshire | 1,023 | 1,027 | 1,296 |
| Staffordshire | 1,323 | 1,282 | 1,150 |
| Suffolk | 64 | 573 | 599 |
| Surrey | 482 | 754 | 993 |
| Sussex | 1,350 | 1,971 | 2,447 |
| Thames Valley | 1,883 | 2,431 | 2,753 |
| Warwickshire | 419 | 650 | 399 |
| West Mercia | 582 | 686 | 756 |
| West Midlands | 3,451 | 2,852 | 2,286 |
| West Yorkshire | 1,839 | 1,539 | 1,340 |
| Wiltshire | 394 | 231 | 218 |
| *England* | 61,278 | 77,581 | 99,169 |
| Dyfed Powys | 799 | 887 | 882 |
| Gwent | 396 | 646 | 757 |
| North Wales | 793 | 971 | 985 |
| South Wales | 536 | 1,266 | 2,414 |
| *Wales* | 2,524 | 3,770 | 5,038 |
| *England and Wales* | 63,802 | 81,311 | 104,207 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] Cannabis warnings cannot be shown at the police force area level for 2004-05. In this period, there were an estimated 39,256 cannabis warnings issued in England and Wales.

## Police: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police disciplinary proceedings following internal investigations took place in each year since 2001. [234736]

**Jacqui Smith:** This information is no longer collected by the Home Office. The collation and publication of the statistics requested has been the responsibility of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) since 1 April 2004, in accordance with the Police Reform Act 2002.

The Home Office data are set out in the following table.

*Most severe misconduct sanction imposed on each officer by category*

| *Misconduct Sanction* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dismissal | 41 | 24 | 44 | 33 |
| Requested to resign | 84 | 73 | 71 | 62 |
| Reduction in rank | 15 | 19 | 18 | 14 |
| Reduction in pay (disciplinary punishment) | 7 | 3 | – | – |
| Fine | 154 | 191 | 169 | 138 |
| Reprimand | 86 | 88 | 58 | 42 |
| Caution | 51 | 50 | 42 | 21 |
| Substantiated - no further action | 4 | 8 | 7 | 14 |
| Total | 442 | 456 | 409 | 324 |

## Police: Manpower

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many serving police officers there were in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* York, *(c)* Hambledon district and *(d)* Ryedale district in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [236307]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available data for North Yorkshire police and all of its Basic Command Units (BCUs) are given in the following table. Police personnel statistics are not collected by district.

*Police officer strength by Basic Command Unit as at 31 March in each of the given years*[1]

| *North Yorkshire BCUs* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North Yorkshire Central | 422 | 410 | 438 | 426 | 402 |
| North Yorkshire Eastern | 430 | 399 | 430 | 424 | 398 |
| North Yorkshire Western | 412 | 404 | 430 | 433 | 421 |
| Central Services | 269 | 347 | 356 | 387 | 361 |
| North Yorkshire Police Force Total | 1,534 | 1,560 | 1,653 | 1,670 | 1,581 |

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police officers per 100,000 population there were in North Yorkshire in each year since 1997; [237111]

(2) how many police officers there were in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* Yorkshire in each year since 1997. [237112]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available data are given in the following tables.

*Table 1: Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2008*

| | As at 31 March: | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force* | *1997[3]* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001[3]* | *2002* | *2003[3]* | *2004[3]* | *2005[3]* | *2006[3]* | *2007[3]* | *2008[4]* |
| North Yorkshire | 1,338 | 1,367 | 1,337 | 1,283 | 1,305 | 1,417 | 1,444 | 1,529 | 1,543 | 1,636 | 1,654 | 1,560 |
| South Yorkshire | 3,159 | 3,182 | 3,168 | 3,163 | 3,197 | 3,199 | 3,183 | 3,279 | 3,265 | 3,255 | 3,254 | 3,172 |
| West Yorkshire | 5,209 | 5,155 | 4,982 | 4,822 | 4,815 | 4,889 | 5,029 | 5,275 | 5,631 | 5,644 | 5,655 | 5,744 |
| Yorkshire (combined) | 9,705 | 9,704 | 9,487 | 9,268 | 9,317 | 9,505 | 9,656 | 10,083 | 10,439 | 10,535 | 10,563 | 10,475 |

*Table 2: Police officers[1] (FTE)[2] per 100,000 of the population for by police force, as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2008*

| | As at 31 March: | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004[3]* | *2005[3]* | *2006[3]* | *2007[3]* | *2008[4]* |
| North Yorkshire | 183 | 186 | 181 | 173 | 175 | 188 | 193 | 203 | 206 | 216 | 217 | 202 |

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

## Police: Training

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training police officers are required to undertake on the issues of *(a)* domestic violence, *(b)* female genital mutilation, *(c)* forced marriage, *(d)* rape, *(e)* stalking, *(f)* human trafficking and *(g)* honour-based violence. [236458]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) has developed modules for training domestic abuse which are used by the police service. All new recruits and civilian staff receive this which equates to two days training and incorporates child protection training.

The modules are being currently being refreshed by the NPIA to incorporate female genital mutilation (FGM), stalking and harassment and "honour"-based violence (HBV).

Some police forces have produced stand-alone training, for example, the Metropolitan Police Service Project Azore, which relates to specialist staff receiving training on FGM and Thames Valley police, South Wales and the North Eastern regional police forces who have produced training around HBV, FGM and trafficking for frontline staff, senior investigating officers (SIO), call handlers, and specialists. This training has been forwarded to the NPIA product design for assessment with a view to informing the national training.

The specially trained officer development programme (STODP) was developed by the NPIA to develop the skills and competence of officers dealing with rape victims.

The role profile and the programme itself was developed through wide consultation with practitioners in the police service and representatives from the following:

Home Office
Crown Prosecution Service
Health Service
Voluntary Sector
Skills for Justice

The programme consists of three stages:

1. A knowledge acquisition stage—consisting of distance learning workbooks

2. A skills development stage—consisting of a two week course.

3. A workplace learning and assessment stage—through a professional development portfolio.

This programme was delivered to the police service through a number of regional roadshows conducted in November 2007.

## Privacy

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to carry out a privacy impact assessment on the provisions of the Communications Data Bill; and if she will make a statement. [231779]

**Jacqui Smith:** On 15 October, I announced that we would be launching a consultation on how to maintain the ability of police and intelligence agencies to protect the public using communications data, in the face of the challenge of changing technology. This consultation will begin in the new year.

I am clear that we need to consult widely with the public and all interested parties to set out the emerging problem, the important capability gaps that we need to address and to look at the possible solutions.

## Protection: Religious Freedom

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who have converted from Islam to other faiths have been placed on an at risk register by police forces in England and Wales following threats made to them as a result of their conversion. [173947]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Security Guards: Licensing

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Security Industry Authority licence holders have had their licences revoked incorrectly following inaccurate information being provided by her Department on their right to work. [232343]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Security Industry Authority's revocation process, which applied following right to work checks with the United Kingdom Border Agency on non-EEA SIA licence holders, incorporates a number of safeguards to ensure that licences are not revoked incorrectly. This includes written notification to the holder informing them that the SIA is minded to revoke their licence and allowing 21 days to respond with evidence of their right to work, during which the licence remains in force. Revocation follows if no such evidence is provided, but the holder retains the right of appeal through the courts for a further 21 days and a licence remains in force until the appeal process is completed.

There have been instances where licence holders have not responded to requests for information from the SIA, had their licences revoked and subsequently demonstrated a valid right to work at appeal. The latest information available shows that there have been just over 250 such cases since 1 January 2008, or 3 per cent. of the approximately 8,100 cases where revocation ensued after a warning letter had been sent following the right to work checks on almost 40,000 non-EEA licence holders at the end of 2007.

### Sex Establishments

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to reclassify lap-dancing clubs as sex encounter establishments. [235650]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* We will be publishing proposals shortly.

### Terrorism

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what use has been made of the powers to search domestic hereditaments for weapons of mass destruction under section 52 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. [222694]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office does not collate or hold information on the use made of this power.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question 195404 on routes to citizenship, tabled on 18 March. [206477]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the hon. Member on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1533W.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question 195037, on security passes, tabled on 13 March 2008. [206493]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the hon. Member on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1073W.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### BBC: Standards

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent report on the inspection of the British Broadcasting Corporation by the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner. [236617]

**Andy Burnham:** The report is a matter for the BBC.

It is the view of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner that for public authorities to disclose the contents of his reports would prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs and the BBC does not therefore propose to place a copy of this report in the Library of the House.

### Bed and Breakfast Accommodation

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received from representatives of people running bed and breakfast establishments. [233565]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* My predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge) met my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on 21 July 2008 to discuss concerns raised by VisitBritain, on behalf of small accommodation providers about the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and its impact on their establishments.

DCLG is working with stakeholders on providing guidance to accommodation providers which will help them understand what is required of them and give them practical advice. The industry, VisitBritain and my Department continue to work with DCLG on addressing this issue.

### Churches: Theft

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support English Heritage has given to churches on tackling increases in thefts of lead from church roofs. [236514]

**Barbara Follett:** English Heritage is extremely concerned about the theft of metals from churches. A substantial proportion of its grant aid over many years has been given to re-roof parish churches, usually in lead which is the most robust and appropriate material. English Heritage has recently published a guidance note on its website

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/Advice_Note_on_Theft_of_Metal_Roof_Coverings_5_JS_.pdf

which provides information and advice on ways to minimise the threat of theft and suggests sensible precautions that congregations can take.

English Heritage scrutinises new methods of preventing theft when it is asked to do so. This work is undertaken by its national security adviser who tests for example, new devices and systems. English Heritage then disseminates findings on effective systems to all interested parties.

### Community Development: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the effectiveness of community sport and cultural activities funded by his Department in engaging young people most at risk of committing antisocial behaviour and *(b)* the effectiveness of community sport and cultural activities funded in Crosby constituency in meeting their objectives. [236716]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Through our agencies we have a wide range of programmes that offer young people most at risk of committing antisocial behaviour the opportunity to participate more in sport and culture. These include the Kickz Programme, and the Department's Youth Mentoring Programme for media, music and sport which includes 'Your Hired!' and the 'Respect Athlete Mentoring Programme'.

We have not undertaken a specific assessment of the effectiveness of such programmes in respect of engaging young people most at risk of committing antisocial behaviour, or the effectiveness of community sport and cultural activities in Crosby in particular.

### Cultural Heritage

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department were employed to work on heritage issues in each year since 1997. [227202]

**Barbara Follett:** Such headcount information as is available is shown in the following table.

| | *Headcount* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 37 |
| 2004-05 | 38 |
| 2005-06 | 37 |
| 2006-07 | 36 |
| 2007-08 | 30 |

These figures represent the position at the end of each financial year.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many external consultants work for his Department. [232843]

**Barbara Follett:** From 1 April 2008 to date 10 external consultants have worked for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what procedures are in place in his Department to ensure that data are not lost; and what steps his Department takes to ensure that companies contracted to provide services for his Department take steps to prevent such losses. [237034]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My Department protects its information by complying with government security standards which are a mix of physical and logical controls.

Staff have been reminded of their responsibility to protect and secure information and to not copy sensitive data to removable media unless it is absolutely necessary. If they do they have been reminded that it should be safeguarded as if it was a large amount of cash.

Laptop hard drives are encrypted and only encrypted data sticks may carry departmental information.

My Department uses the standard terms and conditions provided by the OGC in its contracts. It also includes the specific mandatory requirements set out in the Cabinet Office review of data handling in its invitation to tender documentation. Compliance with all security requirements is a compulsory element of tender evaluation.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the data shared between his Department and companies contracted to provide services for it is routinely encrypted. [237169]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My Department does not hold large amounts of sensitive data that need to be shared with suppliers. Payroll information is shared with a supplier and passes across a secure Government Secure Intranet and is not encrypted.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much surplus land *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies own; and what the (i) area and (ii) estimated monetary value of each site is. [236431]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Neither the Department for Culture, Media and Sport nor its agency The Royal Parks, own any surplus land.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Questions for written answer were tabled to his Department in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235397]

**Andy Burnham:** The number of written questions tabled (and transferred) to DCMS is as follows

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 1,492 |
| 2003-04 | 1,389 |
| 2004-05 | 6,73 |
| 2005-06 | 3,080 |
| 2006-07 | [1]2,147 |
| 2007-08 | [1]2,375 |

[1] Excludes figures for written questions answered by the Minister for the Olympics. Information obtained from the DCMS parliamentary questions database.

Information on how many written questions were answered substantively and not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost is not readily available and could

be provided only at disproportionate cost. However all DCMS answers are a matter of public record and can be found in the *Official Report*.

### Gambling Commission: Standards

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on the inspection of the Gambling Commission by the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner. [236614]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The report is a matter for the Gambling Commission and the Commission considers that it is not in the public interest to make the document available in the public domain at this time.

In the Commission's view, disclosing the scale and nature of the Commission's processes would, or would be likely to, compromise the Commission's ability to perform its statutory functions, which include investigating the commission of offences.

### Government Art Collection

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 817W, on the Government Art Collection, what the eight missing works of art are; when each was recorded as missing; what the monetary value of each is estimated to be; and how much has been spent to date on their recovery. [235993]

**Barbara Follett:** The information is as follows:

*Horse Guards from the Old Entrance, Scotland Yard*
Print after Michael Angelo Rooker
(GAC15039)
Recorded as missing on 1 November 2007
Estimated value: £400

*Monument to Balance 4/30*
Print by Ernest DUNN
(GACL90)
Recorded as missing on 28 July 2008
Estimated value: £120

*The Wording of Police Charges 37/150 1970*
*Plague 37/150 1970*
(GAC12775)
(GAC12754)
Prints by R.B. KITAJ
Recorded as missing on 30 July 2008
Estimated value: £500 each

*Yellow Square plus Quarter Blue 30/72 1972*
Print by William SCOTT
(GAC11397)
Recorded as missing on 2 September 2008
Estimated value: £4,000

*Mudbanks A/P 1978*
Print by Julian Trevelyan
(GAC15018)
Recorded as missing on 2 September 2008
Estimated value: £500

*Calypso 36/50*
Print by Julian TREVELYAN
(GACL608)
Recorded as missing on 2 September 2008
Estimated value: £500

*Breeze I 40/50 1967*
Print by John Brunsdon
(GACL908)
Recorded as missing on 2 September 2008
Estimated value: £100

The only money spent on the recovery of these items has been in terms of staff time. There are more than 13,500 works of art in the Government Art Collection's holdings. At any one time approximately 70 per cent. of these are on display in over 400 different buildings in the UK and around the world and their location recorded on the GAC database. In addition to this central record the GAC undertakes audits of its holdings remotely and in person and these occasionally show that works are not in their previously recorded locations. However, after extensive searches many of these subsequently turn up. The answer provided on 10 November 2008, that eight works of art are currently registered as missing for the period 1 November 2007 to 31 October 2008, therefore represents the situation as it is at this particular moment.

These eight works of art are not original works but multiples.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 817W, on the Government Art Collection, for what reason his Department's website lists only two works of art as missing; and when the relevant page of the website was last updated. [235994]

**Barbara Follett:** The two works of art listed on the DCMS's website were original works of art and were known to have been stolen from a particular building in February 2008. The circumstances were advertised on the DCMS website and the police were informed. They have since been recovered by the police and the relevant page was updated 13 November.

### Historic Buildings: Consultants

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on consultancy fees in respect of *(a)* Old Sarum Castle and *(b)* Wardour Castle by (i) his Department and (ii) English Heritage in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [235966]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not spent anything on consultancy fees in respect of Old Sarum Castle and Wardour Castle in each of the last five years.

English Heritage state that they have spent the following amounts on consultancy fees in respect of each of the properties in the same period:

£

| | Old Sarum Castle | Wardour Castle |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 921 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 20,143 | 0 |

## Historic Buildings: Finance

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* income has been received and *(b)* expenditure has been incurred by English Heritage in respect of (i) Old Sarum Castle and (ii) Wardour Castle since 1996. [235967]

**Barbara Follett:** English Heritage state that they have received the following income and incurred the following costs from Old Sarum Castle and Wardour Castle since 1996-97.

£

| | Earned income | Expenditure |
|---|---|---|
| Old Sarum Castle | 2,719,216 | 2,828,108 |
| Wardour Castle | 798,341 | 1,096,938 |

## Licensing Laws

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to extend the grounds on which the police can object to the issue of a temporary events notice (TEN) to include *(a)* the prevention of public nuisance and *(b)* the protection of children from harm; and if he will establish a mechanism for public objections in the application process for TENs. [236044]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Government have no plans to extend police powers of objection to temporary event notices (TENs), nor do they plan to extend the right of objection to local residents. The system for temporary permitted activities (TENs) is a light touch system involving minimum bureaucracy. Such a light touch system is possible because of the limitations directly imposed on the use of the system by the Licensing Act 2003.

Only the police can object to the giving of a TEN, on the grounds of crime and disorder. However, there are also powers for the police or environmental health officers to close events where there is excessive noise nuisance. The giving of a TEN does not overrule existing environmental health, planning and health and safety law, all of which must be complied with for a temporary event to occur legally.

Of course, if there were evidence that problems were frequently occurring at events authorised by a TEN then we could look at the legislation again. However, despite there being an estimated 119,000 TENs given in 2007-08, I am not aware of such evidence.

## Lotteries: Housing

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what advice the Gambling Commission has *(a)* given and *(b)* retracted on the legality of house sale competitions. [236616]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Gambling Commission has advised that it does not have regulatory responsibilities in respect of prize competitions and free draws but that they do monitor the boundary between them and Lotteries. The Gambling Commission has published a range of guidance documents on the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005, including Guidance on Prize Competitions and Free Draws, published in November 2007. A press release urging homeowners to be aware of the rules on 'house competitions' was published in October 2008. The press release advised that individuals considering or operating a scheme to sell their house using prize competitions should consider the guidance on the Gambling Commission website and take independent legal advice before proceeding.

The Commission advised that in September 2008 they corrected advice given in response to an e-mail inquiry from a member of the public relating to house competitions, but that no other advice or guidance which has been published on the website or given in any other form has been subsequently corrected or retracted.

## Public Houses

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what net change in the number has been made of the net change in the number of public houses over the last year. [236615]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** We have made no assessment of the net change in the number of public houses over the last year. The DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment does not identify the number of pubs in England and Wales; but rather the number of premises authorising the sale or supply of alcohol by means of a premises licence or a club premises certificate. These figures apply not only to public houses, but also to other licensed premises such as hotels, off licences and convenience stores.

## Regeneration: Coastal Areas

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funds have been made available for regeneration of seaside towns in the last three years; and how much has been given to each area. [236097]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* My Department's contribution to the Government's work in support of the regeneration of seaside towns is through the £45 million (£15 million pa over the next three years) Sea Change Programme. This has only been in place since 1 April 2008, but £14.6 million has been made available for regeneration of seaside towns through this initiative since then. The funding allocated to each area is set out in the following table:

| Seaside townstreet | Grant awarded (£) |
|---|---|
| Blackpool | 4,000,000 |
| Dover | 3,850,000 |
| Torbay | 2,247,532 |
| Berwick | 1,000,000 |
| Bexhill-on-Sea | 1,000,000 |
| Littlehampton | 480,800 |
| Teignmouth | 376,676 |
| Bexcombe | 455,000 |
| Weston-Super-Mare | 951,447 |
| Westward Ho! | [1]100,000 |
| North Tyneside | [2]29,525 |
| Fleetwood | [2]30,000 |
| Margate | [2]30,000 |
| Ilfracombe | [2]30,000 |
| Withernsea | [2]30,000 |

[1] Development grant.
[2] Feasibility grant.

### Swimming: Elderly

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many representations his Department has received from local authorities on the financial effects of proposals for free swimming for over-60s. [236180]

**Andy Burnham:** We are collating final responses but have received to date approximately 30 representations from local authorities on the financial effects of proposals for free swimming for over-60s.

### Tourism: Departmental Coordination

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he last chaired a meeting with the Ministers from the Department for Communities and Local Government, Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Home Office to discuss UK tourism-related issues. [236234]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The Secretary of State and I regularly raise tourism-related issues in the course of discussions with colleagues across Government.

My predecessor, the right hon. Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge) met with the right hon. Member for Birmingham Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) the former Minister of State at the Home Office in April to discuss visas. She also met with the hon. Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department for Communities and Local Government on 21 July 2008 to discuss concerns raised by VisitBritain, on behalf of small accommodation providers about The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and its impact on their establishments.

I will shortly be meeting with the right hon. Member for Oldham East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas), Minister of State at the Home Office and HM Treasury to continue the discussions on visas and also with the right hon. Member for Wolverhampton, South-East (Mr. McFadden), Minister for State at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to discuss Daylight Saving.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Leader of the House how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which her Office is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236001]

**Chris Bryant:** The Leader's Office has a policy of zero tolerance to all forms of abuse. There have been no complaints of racial abuse within the last 12 months.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 19 November 2008*

## OLYMPICS

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by her Office; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236930]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is responsible for the delivery of infrastructure and venues to be acquired, constructed or adapted in preparation for the London Olympic and Paralympic games in 2012. The ODA's budget is set annually and for 2008-09 is £1,361.1 million. ODA's budget has not yet been set for the following two years, but its estimated spend for those two years is £1,744.2 million for 2009-10 and £1,615.2 million for 2010-11. The figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are subject to revision in the light of actual outturn in 2008-09.

The Olympic Lottery Distributor (OLD) will be responsible for the distribution of up to £1,835 million of national lottery funds over its lifetime. Its remit is to make grants or loans which it considers necessary or expedient for the purpose of, or in connection with, the provision of facilities, services or functions for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. The OLD draws down funds from the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund as they are needed to meet grant payments and running costs. The OLD currently expects to distribute £125 million in grant payments during 2008-09 and estimates that it will distribute £374 million in 2009-10 and £378 million in 2010-11. The OLD prepares its running costs budget annually, in advance of each financial year and has budgeted £0.9 million in 2008-09 for its running costs.

### Olympic Games 2012: East Midlands

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what locations in the East Midlands are being considered as training sites for athletes for the 2012 Olympics. [237906]

**Tessa Jowell:** A list of these facilities in the East Midlands that feature in the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) Pre-Games Training Camp Guide is provided in the following table. LOCOG will provide each National Olympic Committee (NOC) and National Paralympic Committee (NPC) with a financial award of up to £25,000 for them to spend at facilities they choose from the guide. In addition, NOCs and NPCs are free to base themselves elsewhere in the East Midlands at facilities not included in this list.

*Pre-games training camps, East Midlands*

| | *Facility name* | *Olympic sport* | *Paralympic sport* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Arena Sports Kettering | Fencing | Boccia |
| | | Taekwondo | Wheelchair Table Tennis |
| | | Volleyball—Indoor | Paralympic Volleyball (sitting) |
| | | — | Wheelchair Tennis |
| 2. | Ashfield School Campus | Athletics | — |
| 3. | Braunstone Leisure Centre | Badminton | Paralympic Judo |
| | | Taekwondo | Wheelchair Table Tennis |
| | | — | Wheelchair Basketball |
| | | — | Wheelchair Rugby |
| 4. | City of Nottingham Tennis Centre | Tennis | Wheelchair Tennis |
| 5. | Corby East Midlands International Swimming Pool | Aquatics—Swimming | Paralympic Swimming |
| 6. | Derbyshire County Cricket Club Gateway Centre | Archery | — |
| 7. | East Midlands Gymnastics Centre | Gymnastics—Artistic | — |
| 8. | Highfields Sports Club | Hockey | — |
| 9. | Laughton Manor Equestrian Centre | Equestrian—Jumping | — |
| | | Equestrian—Dressage | — |
| | | Equestrian—Eventing | — |
| 10. | Leicester Grammar School | Basketball | — |
| | | Fencing | — |
| | | Hockey | — |
| | | Table Tennis | — |
| 11. | Loughborough University | Archery | Paralympic Archery |
| | | Athletics | Paralympic Athletics |
| | | Aquatics—Swimming | Boccia |
| | | Aquatics—Synchro | Paralympic Cycling—Road |
| | | Aquatics—Water Polo | Paralympic 5-a-side Football |
| | | Badminton | Paralympic 7-a-side Football |

*Pre-games training camps, East Midlands*

| | *Facility name* | *Olympic sport* | *Paralympic sport* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Basketball | Goalball |
| | | Boxing | Paralympic Judo |
| | | Cycling—Road | Paralympic Powerlifting |
| | | Fencing | Paralympic Swimming |
| | | Football | Wheelchair Table Tennis |
| | | Gymnastics—Rhythmic | Paralympic Volleyball (sitting) |
| | | Gymnastics—Artistic | Wheelchair Basketball |
| | | Gymnastics—Trampoline | Wheelchair Fencing |
| | | Handball | Wheelchair Rugby |
| | | Hockey | Wheelchair Tennis |
| | | Judo | — |
| | | Table Tennis | — |
| | | Taekwondo | — |
| | | Tennis | — |
| | | Triathlon | — |
| | | Volleyball—Indoor | — |
| | | Volleyball—Beach | — |
| | | Weightlifting | — |
| | | Wrestling | — |
| 12. | Moulton College | Equestrian—Jumping | Boccia |
| | | Equestrian—Dressage | Paralympic Equestrian |
| | | Equestrian—Eventing | Goalball |
| | | Fencing | — |
| 13. | National Water Sports Centre | Canoe—Slalom | Paralympic Rowing |
| | | Canoe—Flatwater | — |
| | | Fencing | — |
| | | Rowing | — |
| | | Table Tennis | — |
| | | Triathlon | — |
| 14. | Nottingham Forest Football Club | Football | — |
| 15. | Nottingham Trent University | Badminton | Boccia |
| | | Basketball | Paralympic Equestrian |
| | | Equestrian—Jumping | Goalball |
| | | Equestrian—Dressage | Wheelchair Table Tennis |
| | | Equestrian—Eventing | Paralympic Volleyball (sitting) |
| | | Fencing | Wheelchair Basketball |
| | | — | Wheelchair Fencing |
| | | — | Wheelchair Rugby |
| 16. | Nottingham Wild Cats Arena | Basketball | Wheelchair Basketball |
| 17. | Oakham School | Cycling—Road | — |
| 18. | Princess Royal Sports Arena | Athletics | Paralympic Athletics |
| | | Fencing | Wheelchair Fencing |
| | | — | Wheelchair Rugby |
| 19. | Repton School | Archery | — |
| | | Badminton | — |
| | | Fencing | — |
| | | Hockey | — |
| | | Table Tennis | — |
| 20. | Riseholme College, the University of Lincoln | Equestrian—Jumping | — |
| | | Equestrian—Dressage | — |
| | | Equestrian—Eventing | — |
| 21. | Rockingham Triangle Stadium | Athletics | — |
| 22. | Rushden and Diamonds Sports Complex | Archery | — |
| | | Fencing | — |
| | | Football | — |
| | | Judo | — |
| | | Table Tennis | — |
| | | Wrestling | — |
| 23. | Saffron Lane Sports Centre | Athletics | — |
| 24. | The Defence Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray | Cycling—Road | Paralympic Cycling—Road, |
| | | Equestrian—Jumping | Paralympic Equestrian |
| | | Equestrian—Dressage | — |
| | | Equestrian—Eventing | — |
| 25. | The Northants Basketball Centre | Basketball | — |

*Pre-games training camps, East Midlands*

| | Facility name | Olympic sport | Paralympic sport |
|---|---|---|---|
| 26. | Trent Bridge | Archery | Paralympic Archery |

### Olympic Games 2012: Transport

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what estimate she has made of the length of time it will take to travel to the 2012 Olympic Games main stadium from *(a)* Manchester, *(b)* Leeds, *(c)* Birmingham, *(d)* Edinburgh, *(e)* each London borough and *(f)* each European capital city when the Games are taking place. [236938]

**Tessa Jowell:** This far in advance of the games, the timetables operated by private sector train operators and airlines are indeterminate, therefore it would be misleading to give precise journey times this far ahead.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) continues to work with a wide range of stakeholders to plan transport arrangements for the 2012 games. This work includes extensive transport demand forecasting and modelling, which draws on estimates of journey times from a range of sources. People will travel to the Olympic Park using a wide range of transport modes including National Rail, London Underground, Docklands Light Railway (DLR), bus, coach, park and ride as well as walking and cycling. Journey times will vary by mode, or a combination of modes.

The ODA uses a range of data sources to predict journey times including the Department for Transport's (Transport Direct Portal) database, plus the most up-to-date data from train operating companies and Transport for London. The ODA also uses a range of computer modelling techniques to estimate total journey times and 'costs', which are widely used by transport practitioners, agencies and local authorities across the country.

Journey times from European cities will vary considerably depending on whether people are travelling by Eurostar, short-haul flights, or road-based transport. If travelling by Eurostar, people will be able to interchange at either Ebbsfleet or St. Pancras where they will have a train journey of either 10 minutes or seven minutes via the games-time 'Javelin' service to Stratford International for the Olympic Park.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Aimhigher Programme: North West

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the Higher Education Funding Council for England's arrangements for liaison in the North West region with sixth form and other further education colleges involved with the Aimhigher initiative. [235949]

**Mr. Lammy:** Arrangements for ensuring the effectiveness of liaison with sixth form and other further education colleges in the North West are made through area partnership committees for each of the Aimhigher areas. Each area partnership committee has a lead higher education institution that acts as the treasurer to the committee ensuring accountability for funding. Sixth form and further education colleges are part of each area committee. In addition, Action on Access provides support for partnerships. The area partnership committee structure was introduced for Aimhigher for the 2008-11 phase of the programme. The first monitoring reports will be available in July 2009 and will be evaluated by an external assessment.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England is about to conduct a small scale 'value for money' study into the effectiveness of partnership arrangements in the North West.

### Apprentices: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people were on *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships in (i) City of York constituency and (ii) the City of York local authority area (A) on the latest date for which figures are available and (B) the same date in each of the last 10 years. [236878]

**Mr. Simon:** Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts for learners living in the parliamentary constituency of City of York, and separately for learners living in York local authority. Figures are presented from 2002/03 to 2006/07, the latest year for which fully audited data is available. Comparable information is not available prior to the formation of the Learning and Skills Council in 2001.

*Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in City of York parliamentary constituency and York local authority*

| | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *City of York parliamentary constituency* | | | | | |
| Apprenticeships | 370 | 310 | 360 | 100 | 150 |
| Advanced Apprenticeships | 130 | 110 | 110 | 250 | 270 |
| Total | 500 | 420 | 470 | 360 | 420 |
| *York local authority* | | | | | |
| Apprenticeships | 560 | 580 | 580 | 190 | 250 |
| Advanced Apprenticeships | 220 | 120 | 190 | 400 | 440 |
| Total | 780 | 690 | 770 | 590 | 690 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures may not sum due to rounding
2. Local authority and parliamentary constituency is based on learner's home postcode

*Source:*
Work Based Learning ILR data

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236928]

**Mr. Simon:** The key functions of DUIS NDPBs can be found in Annex 9 of the 2007-08 DIUS Departmental Report 2008:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/docs/about/21076_DIUS%20AR&A_Annexes.pdf

or alternatively, more information is contained on the website of each of DIUS NDPB as shown in the following list:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/

http://www.slc.co.uk/

http://www.offa.org.uk/

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/

http://www.ukces.org.uk/

http://www.innovateuk.org/

http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/

http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/Pages/default.aspx

http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/

http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/default.htm

http://www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/index.aspx

http://www.mrc.ac.uk/index.htm

http://www.nerc.ac.uk/

http://www.scitech.ac.uk/

http://www.investorsinpeople.co.uk/Pages/Home.aspx

http://www.publictechnology.net/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=16089

(for info on QIA, CEL and LSIS)

http://www.nesta.org.uk

The budgets for the Department's executive non-departmental public bodies are set out in the following table:

| *Non-departmental public body* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *£ million 2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Higher Education Funding Council for England | 7,466.7 | 7,706.3 | 8,061.0 |
| Student Loans Company | 82.3 | 74.7 | 77.1 |
| Office for Fair Access | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Learning and Skills Council | 11,589.0 | 12,017.0 | 12,599.0 |
| UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES)[1] | 69.7 | 68.1 | 67.9 |
| Technology Strategy Board | 180.0 | 243.0 | 253.0 |
| Design Council | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 |
| Arts and Humanities Research Council | 103.5 | 104.4 | 108.8 |
| Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council | 427.0 | 432.6 | 471.1 |
| Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council | 795.1 | 814.5 | 843.5 |
| Economic and Social Research Council | 164.9 | 170.6 | 177.6 |
| Medical Research Council | 695.5 | 658.5 | 707.0 |
| Natural Environment Research Council | 392.2 | 408.2 | 436.0 |
| Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) | 623.6 | 630.3 | 651.6 |
| Investors in People UK (IIP UK)[2] | 6.7 | — | — |
| Quality Improvement Agency (QIA)[3] | 1.1 | — | — |
| National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts(NESTA)[4] | 38 | 38 | 38 |

[1] Includes residual funding for Sector Skills Development Agency ) in 2007-08.

[2] Funding for IIP UK for 2009-10 and 2010-11 is yet to be announced.

[3] On 1 October 2008, the Quality Improvement Agency (QIA) and the Centre for Excellence in Leadership (CEL) transferred their operations to the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS). In March 2008, the Secretary of State sent LSIS a letter announcing a grant of £129 million for 2008-09. This figure has since been raised to £145 million.

[4] National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) is funded by an endowment from the National lottery rather than grant-in-aid.

*Note:*
The advisory NDPBs sponsored by the Department incur little or no information on budgets for 2008-11 is not available.

*Source:*
Departmental Annual Report 2007-08 Annex 9 except Research Councils and STFC: The Allocations of the Science Budget 2008-09 to 2010-11 and HP UK and QIA : Main Estimate 2008-09.

## Higher Education: North West

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what meetings he has had with the Higher Education Funding Council for England to discuss the new University Challenge learning hubs in the North West region. [236360]

**Mr. Lammy:** Ministers and officials speak to many institutions and organisations about issues that affect Individuals' progression to higher education. The Higher Education Funding Council for England Is now looking at the responses to consultation on our new University Challenge policy but it is already clear that this is going to be a very successful policy, which has generated interest in all parts of the country.

Decisions on which proposals should be supported will be exclusively for the Council.

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has had with *(a)* employees and *(b)* employer organisations in the North West on their input to funding HEFCE's decision-making process in the last 12 months. [236565]

**Mr. Lammy:** HEFCE uses formulae to determine how most of the money is allocated between HE institutions, helping to reduce the number of separate funding streams and minimise the accountability burden. These formulae take account of certain factors for each institution, including the number and type of students, the subjects taught, and the amount and quality of research undertaken.

In the North West region, close contact with the North West Development Agency, the Learning and Skills Council and other agencies, together with employer representative involvement in its Employer Engagement Panel, routinely help to inform HEFCE's decisions over that funding which is not allocated by formula.

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what groups his officials have met in the North West to discuss widening access to higher education in the region in the last 12 months. [236566]

**Mr. Lammy:** Widening access to higher education is a Government priority and my officials have engaged in discussions with a wide range of partners in the North West on numerous topics related to widening access to higher education. As our policy initiatives are primarily taken forward by stakeholders, we find contact with such groups invaluable as they can advise on issues at a local level and we can update them on national developments. Specific groups involved include lifelong learning networks, educational establishments, those involved in the Train to Gain initiative and Aimhigher Partnerships, among others.

The North West enjoys an excellent reputation for its co-ordinated approach involving a wide range of regional partners and we expect that close involvement of all partners to continue.

### Literacy

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the levels of adult literacy in England; and if he will make a statement. [237902]

**Mr. Simon:** The 2003 Skills for Life Needs Survey estimated that 5.2 million adults have literacy skills below Level 1 (broadly equivalent to an English GCSE at grades D to G.) A further survey will be conducted during this spending review period.

Good literacy skills are crucial to life and work, and the Government are committed to enabling adults to improve these skills. Free literacy courses are available to adults in England through the Government's Skills for Life strategy, which was launched in 2001. So far 2,276,000 adults have improved their literacy, language and numeracy skills and gained a first qualification, meaning the Government have met the 2010 Skills for Life target over two years early. Well over 1 million of these qualifications were achieved in literacy.

Our long-term ambition, as set out in World Class Skills, is for 95 per cent. of adults to have functional literacy skills by 2020, up from 85 per cent. in 2005. To achieve this trajectory the Learning and Skills Council's 2007 Statement of Priorities set out plans to deliver 597,000 literacy achievements at Level 1 or above during the period 2008 to 2011.

### North West Lifelong Learning Network

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Higher Education Funding Council for England on the North West Lifelong Learning network. [235948]

**Mr. Lammy:** Ministers and officials speak to many institutions and organisations about issues that affect individuals' progression to higher education. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is responsible for managing the lifelong learning network (LLN) programme and they lead in discussions about the progress that the individual networks are making.

There are five lifelong learning networks in the North West: Cheshire and Warrington, Cumbria Higher Learning, Lancashire, Greater Merseyside and West Lancashire. These LLNs have received over £15 million of HEFCE funding.

The overall objective for LLNs is to improve the coherence, clarity and certainty of progression opportunities for vocational learners into and through higher education. HEFCE officials have discussed with individual LLNs matters relating to additional student numbers, the interim evaluation of LLNs and the use of e-systems to support learners.

The HEFCE institutional team also attend the HEFCE funded HEEL (Higher Education in East Lancashire) group which is in its second year of operation. HEEL has four working groups: curriculum development, community engagement, employer engagement and marketing.

### Research: Agriculture

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on *(a)* direct grants and *(b)* joint projects with universities for research on agriculture in each of the last 10 years. [237231]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department does not provide direct funding for agricultural research, but allocates the science and research budget to research councils who then fund different areas of research. The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) is responsible for agricultural research. BBSRC estimated spend on research in agriculture in the last 10 years is set out in the following tables.

*Estimated spend (£ million)*

| | *1998/99* | *1999/2000* | *2000/01* | *2001/02* | *2002/03* | *2003/04* | *2004/05* | *2005/06* | *2006/07* | *2007/08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Joint projects with universities | 16.4 | 17.9 | 20.0 | 22.6 | 23.2 | 22.5 | 21.6 | 20.4 | 22.9 | 23.6 |
| Direct grants | 33.1 | 33.6 | 34.9 | 35.8 | 37.1 | 35.9 | 37.1 | 39.0 | 40.1 | 46.0 |
| Total | 49.5 | 51.6 | 54.9 | 58.4 | 60.3 | 58.4 | 58.7 | 59.4 | 63.0 | 69.7 |

*Notes:*
1. 'Direct grants' includes core strategic grant (CSG) and research grant spend at BBSRC-sponsored institutes.
2. 'Joint projects with universities' includes research grants* at other institutions.

| | 1998/99 | 1999/2000 | 2000/01 | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Estimated spend (£ million) | | | | | | | | | |
| Institutes: CSG | 27.4 | 28.5 | 28.8 | 28.6 | 29.1 | 27.8 | 29.8 | 31.8 | 32.0 | 34.3 |
| Institutes: grants | 5.8 | 5.2 | 6.1 | 7.1 | 8.0 | 8.2 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 8.0 | 11.7 |
| Direct grants (institutes): total | 33.1 | 33.6 | 34.9 | 35.8 | 37.1 | 35.9 | 37.1 | 39.0 | 40.1 | 46.0 |

*Note:*
This table shows the breakdown of institute funding by CSG and research grant spend.

## Research: Finance

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much co-funding from the private sector the research councils attracted in each of the last 15 years, expressed in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms. [235377]

**Mr. Simon** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* The total value of co-funding from the private sector for the 10 complete years since 1998/99, the earliest year from which figures for the councils are available without incurring disproportionate cost, is as follows:

*Table 1. Cash terms or nearest approximation[1]*

| | Total (£000) |
|---|---|
| 1998/99 | 72,890 |
| 1999/2000 | 69,365 |
| 2000/01 | 79,396 |
| 2001/02 | 117,508 |
| 2002/03 | 139,519 |
| 2003/04 | 96,027 |
| 2004/05 | 89,496 |
| 2005/06 | 81,399 |
| 2006/07 | 89,767 |
| 2007/08 | 108,733 |

*Table 2. Real terms or nearest approximation[1]*

| | GDP deflator | Total (£000) |
|---|---|---|
| 1998/99 | 80.396 | 90,644 |
| 1999/2000 | 81.976 | 84,616 |
| 2000/01 | 83.051 | 95,599 |
| 2001/02 | 84.903 | 138,403 |
| 2002/03 | 87.64 | 159,196 |
| 2003/04 | 90.138 | 106,533 |
| 2004/05 | 92.589 | 96,659 |
| 2005/06 | 94.485 | 86,150 |
| 2006/07 | 97.03 | 92,525 |
| 2007/08 | 100 | 108,733 |

[1] Some of the figures included in table 1 are on resource/accrual terms and represent the nearest approximation available for cash terms without incurring disproportionate cost. Real terms value in table 2 were calculated from these figures by applying GDP deflators, which were last updated 30 September 2008.

*Notes:*
1. The private sector has been defined as organisations not controlled by Government.
2. AHRC was not formed until 1 April 2005.
3. ESRC data are not available for 1998/99, 1999/2000 or 2000/01.

## Students: Finance

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students funded by the Learning and Skills Council were resident in each English region in each year since 2003-04. [235326]

**Mr. Simon:** Table 1 shows the number of learners funded by the Learning and Skills Council resident in each region. Figures are presented from 2003/04 to 2006/07, the latest year for which fully audited data are available.

*Table 1: Number of Learners funded by the Learning and Skills Council by region and funding stream, 2003/04 to 2006/07*

| Region | Adult and community learning | Further education colleges | University for industry | Work based learning | Train to gain | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2003/04* | | | | | | |
| East of England | 91,600 | 341,100 | 18,800 | 24,700 | — | 476,200 |
| East Midlands | 74,100 | 367,700 | 3,000 | 26,100 | — | 471,000 |
| Greater London | 139,100 | 501,700 | 71,800 | 19,900 | — | 732,500 |
| North East | 37,800 | 248,800 | 14,900 | 20,100 | — | 321,600 |
| North West | 116,600 | 531,300 | 72,000 | 48,400 | — | 768,300 |
| South East | 176,500 | 516,800 | 29,800 | 36,100 | — | 759,100 |
| South West | 85,500 | 417,100 | 5,800 | 28,600 | — | 536,900 |
| West Midlands | 65,800 | 467,900 | 23,000 | 34,600 | — | 591,200 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 66,700 | 420,500 | 26,700 | 35,900 | — | 549,800 |
| Other | 33,400 | 86,800 | 3,800 | 7,100 | — | 131,000 |
| Total | 887,000 | 3,899,700 | 269,400 | 281,500 | — | 5,337,500 |
| *2004/05* | | | | | | |
| East of England | 93,600 | 331,700 | 36,700 | 21,300 | — | 483,300 |
| East Midlands | 67,900 | 352,400 | 50,500 | 22,700 | — | 493,500 |

*Table 1: Number of Learners funded by the Learning and Skills Council by region and funding stream, 2003/04 to 2006/07*

| *Region* | *Adult and community learning* | *Further education colleges* | *University for industry* | *Work based learning* | *Train to gain* | *Grand total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Greater London | 140,700 | 499,800 | 70,300 | 18,700 | — | 729,500 |
| North East | 38,900 | 252,400 | 30,000 | 19,300 | — | 340,600 |
| North West | 100,700 | 507,900 | 65,900 | 44,400 | — | 718,900 |
| South East | 150,400 | 479,500 | 53,200 | 31,700 | — | 714,900 |
| South West | 86,500 | 406,000 | 30,500 | 23,400 | — | 546,400 |
| West Midlands | 53,700 | 452,800 | 41,500 | 30,400 | — | 578,400 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 60,600 | 414,100 | 45,600 | 31,500 | — | 551,800 |
| Other | 51,500 | 90,000 | 7,400 | 5,900 | — | 154,900 |
| Total | 844,500 | 3,786,700 | 431,700 | 249,400 | — | 5,312,200 |
| *2005/06* | | | | | | |
| East of England | 83,600 | 279,100 | 31,200 | 10,100 | — | 404,000 |
| East Midlands | 50,200 | 297,000 | 34,500 | 3,100 | — | 384,700 |
| Greater London | 132,200 | 463,800 | 52,100 | 17,000 | — | 665,200 |
| North East | 38,200 | 200,000 | 23,200 | 18,000 | — | 279,400 |
| North West | 113,000 | 448,500 | 43,900 | 39,300 | — | 644,700 |
| South East | 129,400 | 403,900 | 43,300 | 28,500 | — | 605,100 |
| South West | 59,100 | 342,300 | 24,000 | 23,200 | — | 448,500 |
| West Midlands | 53,300 | 411,600 | 32,200 | 27,000 | — | 524,100 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 63,600 | 350,000 | 33,400 | 28,800 | — | 475,900 |
| Other | 38,100 | 95,000 | 6,700 | 33,100 | — | 172,900 |
| Total | 760,600 | 3,291,300 | 324,400 | 228,200 | — | 4,604,500 |
| *2006-07* | | | | | | |
| East of England | 80,200 | 226,100 | 18,800 | 21,200 | 20,700 | 367,100 |
| East Midlands | 48,600 | 224,100 | 15,000 | 21,800 | 17,800 | 327,300 |
| Greater London | 132,300 | 407,700 | 32,800 | 16,800 | 21,700 | 611,300 |
| North East | 39,900 | 158,100 | 9,300 | 16,800 | 17,700 | 241,700 |
| North West | 105,900 | 354,800 | 22,900 | 41,700 | 35,400 | 560,800 |
| South East | 127,100 | 331,900 | 25,800 | 30,800 | 20,300 | 536,000 |
| South West | 63,900 | 265,500 | 16,300 | 24,300 | 16,400 | 386,400 |
| West Midlands | 57,600 | 325,900 | 20,800 | 26,500 | 29,700 | 460,600 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 52,100 | 287,200 | 16,300 | 30,800 | 22,900 | 409,200 |
| Other | 34,500 | 51,600 | 2,500 | 5,100 | 36,100 | 129,800 |
| Total | 742,100 | 2,633,000 | 180,500 | 235,800 | 238,700 | 4,030,000 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are taken from the Individualised Learner Record final F05 data freezes. An earlier freeze of University for Industry data has been used due to data issues with the final freeze.
2. Region is based on home postcode of the learner.
3. The 'other' category includes incomplete records and learners not resident in England, but who are learning in England (for example, learners resident in Scotland or Wales).
4. For Train to Gain and Work Based Learning, participation is counted as the number of starters.
5. There will be an element of double counting in the figures as some learners will participate in more than one funding area.
6. Totals may not equal the sum of their components due to rounding.
7. Train to Gain was created in April 2006. Standard reporting practice is to include the months of April to July 2006 in the 2006/07 academic year.

*Source:*
Individualised Learner records

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Carbon Emissions: Housing

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme is in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the next five financial years. [234571]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Low Carbon Buildings Programme is the Government's £86 million capital grant programme funding the installation of on-site energy technologies for householders, communities, public sector and business.

The budget is not allocated by year. To date, the spend is as follows:

£

| *FY* | *Phase one* | *Phase two* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 3,060,739 | n/a |
| 2007-08 | 4,551,071 | 491,025 |
| 2008-09 | [1]1,803,366 | [2]4,128,692 |

[1] Up to September
[2] Up to August

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding the Government have provided for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in each financial year since its creation. [234572]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The budget for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme is not allocated by year. The total budget for the programme is £86 million.

We have spent the following in each financial year since 2006.

| FY | Phase one | £ Phase two |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 3,060,739 | n/a |
| 2007-08 | 4,551,071 | 491,025 |
| 2008-09 | [1]1,803,366 | [2]4,128,692 |

[1] Up to September
[2] Up to August

**Departmental Finance**

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the total departmental spending limit for his Department is in 2008-09. [236401]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The final budget for DECC will be agreed once negotiations on the machinery of Government changes with BERR and DEFRA are complete.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of its creation. [236734]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** £18,000 to date on branding. The final budget for DECC will be agreed once negotiations on the machinery of government changes with BERR and DEFRA are complete.

**Departmental Manpower**

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many permanent staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are classed as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [233411]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The staffing for DECC will be agreed once negotiations on the machinery of Government changes with BERR and DEFRA are complete. The new Department (DECC) will consist of posts taken from the existing Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and from Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA). The detail is still being worked on and once the negotiations are complete we will be in a position to answer this question.

**Departmental NDPBs**

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236921]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Cabinet Office paper in the House Library titled 'Machinery of Government: economy, business, climate change, energy and environment' sets out much of this information. There are ongoing negotiations to determine the overall functions of the Department and which additional regulators, inspectorate, Executive agencies and NDPB might become the responsibility of the Department. Once these are completed they will be a matter of public record.

**Departmental Offices**

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what offices his Department *(a)* owns and *(b)* rents in Greater London. [236492]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** DECC owns no offices of its own. It is using 3 Whitehall Place, Ergon House and 1 Victoria street as offices for its staff in Greater London at the moment. We intend to locate all our London staff in 3 Whitehall Place.

**Departmental Personnel**

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who the members are of his Department's management board and its sub-committees. [236411]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The precise make-up of the management board and other supporting governance structures has yet to be finalised.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many civil service fast streamers are in post in his Department. [236601]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The staffing for DECC will be agreed once negotiations on the Machinery of Government changes with BERR and DEFRA are complete. The new Department (DECC) will consist of posts taken from the existing Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and from Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA). The detail is still being worked on and once the negotiations are complete we will be in a position to answer this question.

**Departmental Recruitment**

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years his Department has recruited since its inception. [235235]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department for Energy and Climate Change was created on 3 October 2008 and as yet information on final staff numbers are not available and have not been agreed. This information will be released as soon as possible.

**Departmental Reorganisation**

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library copies of the letters of appointment from the Prime Minister to *(a)* him and *(b)* Ministers in his Department. [230902]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** No letters of appointment have been issued to the Secretary of State or other Ministers.

### Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's strategic objectives are. [236600]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The machinery of Government document of 3 October 2008 details the targets that DECC has inherited as follows:

Lead the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change (PSA);

Climate change tackled internationally and through domestic action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (DSO);

Ensure the reliable supply and efficient use of clean, safe and competitively priced energy (DSO);

Manage energy liabilities effectively and responsibly (DSO);

DECC will contribute to BERR's DSO to deliver free and fair markets, with greater competition, for businesses, consumers and employees.

Progress against these will have been reported on in BERR and DEFRA publications to date and DECC will be reporting on these targets as part of its annual report. DECC will be considering if the DSOs adequately reflect its targets and if further DSOs are required.

### Energy Technologies Institute: Finance

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how much the Government plan to give to the Energy Technologies Institute in each of the next five financial years; [234569]

(2) what funding the Government have provided for the Energy Technologies Institute in each financial year since its creation. [234647]

**Mr. Simon:** I have been asked to reply.

The Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) was legally established as a limited liability partnership in December 2007 between BP, Caterpillar, EDF Energy, EON, Rolls Royce, Shell and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). The DIUS contribution to ETI is provided through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Technology Strategy Board. The total DIUS contribution in 2008 is estimated to be £3.77 million. ETI expenditure is expected to rise over the next few years as technology projects come on stream. DIUS is committed to provide up to £50 million pa for the next decade to match contributions from industry partners.

### Marine Renewables Deployment Fund: Finance

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget is for the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund in *(a)* this financial year and *(b)* each of the next five financial years. [234605]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The machinery of Government changes of 3 October 2008 announced the creation of the Department of Energy and Climate Change, formed from the energy group located in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the climate change group located in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The annual budgets for the Department of Energy and Climate Change are currently being decided. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will transfer their budgets for Energy and Climate Change respectively, based on the settlements agreed in the comprehensive spending review 2007 (CSR07), for the financial years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. The annual budgets for the Department for Energy and Climate Change will be agreed in due course.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding the Government have provided for the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund in each financial year since its creation. [234606]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Marine Renewables Deployment Fund was set up in 2005 with a £50 million budget.

### Nuclear Power

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many departmental officials responsible for civil nuclear policy on *(a)* new build nuclear sites and *(b)* nuclear decommissioning and nuclear materials management have transferred to his Department from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; and whether the associated nuclear documents library collection has also been transferred. [228373]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** 30 staff working on new build policy and 20 staff working on nuclear decommissioning and nuclear materials management policy have transferred from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

There is an electronic library of associated nuclear documents which staff will continue to have access to in DECC.

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and DECC are concluding discussions on how many of the 19.1 former full time equivalent DEFRA staff responsible for radioactive waste policy will transfer to DECC following the changes. This policy area includes responsibility for all radioactive waste i.e. not just that relating to civil nuclear processes.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

**Dr. Alasdair McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate the Government has made of the average cost of decommissioning a nuclear power station, including associated clean-up costs. [234665]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, which is responsible for the decommissioning of the historic civil public nuclear legacy, estimates that the cost of decommissioning the 10 Magnox nuclear power stations in discounted 2008 money values is £5.4 billion. Whilst each site is unique, this provides a simple average estimate cost of around £0.5 billion per nuclear power station.

### Renewable Energy: Electricity

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of electricity was generated from renewable sources in each year from 1990 to 2006. [234490]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The following table sets out the proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources in the UK in each year from 1990 to 2006.

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 1990 | 1.82 |
| 1991 | 1.64 |
| 1992 | 1.99 |
| 1993 | 1.77 |
| 1994 | 2.14 |
| 1995 | 2.06 |
| 1996 | 1.62 |
| 1997 | 1.98 |
| 1998 | 2.38 |
| 1999 | 2.61 |
| 2000 | 2.62 |
| 2001 | 2.48 |
| 2002 | 2.87 |
| 2003 | 2.66 |
| 2004 | 3.59 |
| 2005 | 4.25 |
| 2006 | 4.54 |

*Source:*
Calculated from data in tables 5.6 and 7.4 of the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES), 2008

### Renewable Energy: Finance

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding has been identified to give effect in the UK to the European Council's decision to promote a number of carbon capture and storage demonstration projects in member states. [234429]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Government are committed to supporting a demonstration of the full chain of CCS technologies (capture, transport and storage) on a commercial scale coal fired power plant in the UK. The Government are keen to see progress made towards the construction and operation by 2015 of up to 12 demonstration plants of commercial power generation with carbon capture and storage, as agreed by the European Council in spring 2007. The Government hope that the UK's CCS demonstration will participate in the EU's knowledge-sharing demonstration programme, once it is established. The UK has been working hard to tackle the main barrier to progress on demonstrations, lack of funding, by seeking an EU funding mechanism for CCS projects. June European Council Conclusions called on the Commission "to bring forward as soon as possible" such a mechanism, but to date, no source of EU funding has been identified for CCS demonstrations. However, as part of the ongoing negotiations on the 2020 climate change and energy package, the European Parliament has proposed an amendment to the EU ETS Directive to allocate 500 million allowances from the new entrants reserve to support CCS demonstration projects. The UK Government support this amendment as the best opportunity of agreeing a funding mechanism this year. From DECC and European Commission analysis there are sufficient allowances (the Commission has proposed 5 per cent. of the total) in the new entrants reserve to support both new entrants and CCS demonstrations. The UK is working with other member states, the French presidency and the European Commission to try to reach agreement on this proposal.

### River Severn: Tidal Power

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1104W, on River Severn: tidal power, whether the shortlist of options for a Severn tidal power scheme will contain both tidal-stream and tidal-range solutions. [234658]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Subject to internal review the shortlist of options to generate energy from the tidal range of the Severn Estuary will be published in January 2009. It is not possible at this stage to say what options on the shortlist will be. In developing the shortlist we will consider the long list of options published in July 2008, which includes a tidal fence proposal based on the use of tidal stream turbines.

### Sellafield

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter of 27 October 2008 from the Minister for Energy to the hon. Member for Newport West on nuclear indemnity for the new Sellafield Parent Body Organisation. [234100]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I will place a copy of my letter of 29 October in to the Libraries of the House. It should be noted, however, that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's letter of 3 November to the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee provides a more recent account of events. The letter stated that BERR's intention was clearly to place a copy of the letter from my right hon. Friend the Member for Croydon, North (Malcolm Wicks) to my hon. Friend and the Departmental Minute in the Libraries of the House. The purpose was to make Parliament aware that it was seeking the approval to the Sellafield indemnity of the chairs of the relevant Parliament Committees, in the interest of openness and transparency. I regret that, due to an administrative error, this was not done and that it was only noticed when the Departmental Parliamentary Unit was asked on 15 October to check that the letter had been laid. It was deposited in the Libraries of the House on that same day.

### Severn Barrage: Nature Conservation

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what work the Severn Tidal Feasibility Study has undertaken to quantify and identify compensatory habitats in the Severn Estuary as required under the EU Habitats Directive. [235339]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** A high level review of the feasibility of a number of possible compensation and mitigation measures has been undertaken in this first phase of the feasibility study. This review will be published as part of

a public consultation early in the new year, subject to an internal review of the feasibility study.

Should the decision be taken to go ahead with the second phase, then more work is anticipated within the study next year on the scope to mitigate environmental impacts through the construction and operation of tidal power scheme options, and on compensatory measures for impacts that cannot be mitigated.

### Solar Power

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his estimate is of the percentage of output from the UK's solar photovoltaic manufacturing facilities which was exported in the most recent period for which information is available. [228490]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department does not hold this information.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Children: Databases

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answers of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 482W, and 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1068W, on children: databases, whether he plans to issue guidance to local authorities to the effect that information on the children of hon. Members should be *(a)* excluded from and *(b)* shielded on the Contact Point database. [236478]

**Beverley Hughes** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* There are no plans to issue such guidance relating to hon. Members' children. ContactPoint will hold basic identifying information on every child and each participating young person ordinarily resident in England—there will be no exclusions.

Guidance has been issued to all local authorities to help them work with their local partners to identify which of their child records require shielding according to the provisions set out in the Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007. In making such decisions, all local authorities are under a duty to consider the views of the person to whom the record relates, the views of their parent or carer and of any schedule 4 or schedule 5 body (as specified by the regulations) working with that child or young person.

The guidance sets out that records of children whose circumstances mean that they, or others, are at increased risk of harm (for example, those fleeing domestic violence), may be subject to 'shielding'. The effect of this will be that any details which could give an indication of their whereabouts will be hidden from users' view.

### Children: Day Care

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received regarding changes in the number of childminders; and if he will make a statement. [236732]

**Beverley Hughes** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The introduction of the Early Year Foundation Stage has generated some correspondence from child minders but the National Childminding Association (NCMA) has made clear that it sees it as a positive development, and as representing what good child minders already do. I recently met Liz Bayram, chief executive of the NCMA, to discuss the issues and challenges faced by child minders in their role as part of the wider child care work force. Child minding has, by its nature, always been a profession whose numbers have varied over time. The Government believe, however, that child minders have a vital role to play, and that they are used and valued by many parents for the unique type of child care they provide.

It is true that child minding numbers have fallen overall, but it's important to remember that by its nature child minding has always been a profession whose numbers vary over time, for a number of reasons. For instance, Ofsted has recently carried out an exercise to remove child minders who are no longer actively looking after children from its register, which will have reduced the numbers.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department on the education maintenance allowance in each year since its introduction, broken down by income decile of recipient's parents. [234911]

**Jim Knight:** Education maintenance allowance (EMA) applications are income assessed, based on the learner's total household income, with the maximum income to be eligible in 2007-08 of £30,810.

The following table shows EMA expenditure for the weekly payments split by income band for each academic year since national rollout (not including bonuses and admin costs):

*£ million*

| *Band* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| £30 | 195.8 | 282.2 | 345.2 | 363.0 |
| £20 | 17.3 | 24.3 | 27.7 | 27.7 |
| £10 | 9.4 | 11.3 | 12.2 | 12.2 |
| Total | 222.5 | 317.9 | 385.1 | 402.9 |

The following table shows EMA expenditure on the bonus payments paid out for each academic year since national rollout:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 44.7 |
| 2005-06 | 80.7 |
| 2006-07 | 97 |
| 2007-08 | 100.5 |

Information on the income decile of recipients' parents is not available. Information on the household income bands that recipients have been assessed in for EMA purposes is given in the following table. If the learner fully meets the criteria of the scheme they are entitled to receive weekly payments as follows:

| Weekly EMA payment | Household income per annum 2004-05 | 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|
| £30 | Up to £19,630 | Up to £20,817 |
| £20 | £19,631 to £24,030 | £20,818 to £25,521 |
| £10 | £24,031 to £30,000 | £25,522 to £30,810 |
| Nil | Over £30,000 | Over £30,810 |

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 16 to 18 year olds were entitled to *(a)* the full, *(b)* a partial and *(c)* no education maintenance allowance in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [234915]

**Jim Knight:** Education maintenance allowance (EMA) is available to learners aged 16 to 19. There are three EMA weekly payment bands of £10, £20 and £30 paid directly to the young person depending on household income.

Figures for the proportion for 16 to 18-year-olds who are entitled to EMA are not available. The Department does not hold information on the household income of all participants in education and training.

However, (provisional) figures are given in the following table for the percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds in full time education in England who are receiving EMA, broken down by payment band.

*Table 1: Percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds in full time education receiving EMA by band in 2007/08 (provisional figures)*

| Weekly payment band | Household income per annum | Percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds in full time education receiving EMA (provisional) |
|---|---|---|
| £30 | Income up to £20,817 | 38 |
| £20 | Income of £20,818 to £25,521 | 4 |
| £10 | Income of £25,522 to £30,819 | 4 |
| Total | — | 46 |

Approximately 54 per cent. of 16 to 18-year-olds in full-time education did not receive EMA in 2007/08. This figure includes those who were not entitled to EMA and those who were entitled but decided not to apply for EMA.

## General Certificate of Secondary Education

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in the maintained, mainstream sector achieved five GCSEs including a modern language at A* to C in each year since 2004. [234802]

**Jim Knight:** The information required is given in the following table:

| | Number of pupils achieving achieving 5 A*-C GCSE grades (including equivalents) including a modern foreign language | Percentage of pupils achieving 5 A*-C GCSE grades (including equivalents) including a modern foreign language |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 180,929 | 31.1 |
| 2005 | 175,095 | 30.4 |
| 2006 | 162,309 | 27.7 |
| 2007 | 154,676 | 26.1 |
| 2008 | 153,394 | 26.0 |

*Note:*
Figures relate to 15-year-olds (age at start of academic year (i.e. 31 August) in maintained, mainstream schools.

## Nurseries: Standards

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* maintained and *(b)* private, voluntary and independent full day childcare settings (1) were deemed (i) outstanding, (ii) good, (iii) satisfactory and (iv) inadequate by Ofsted in each of the last five years; [234129]

(2) have had to close following Ofsted inspections resulting in a rating of inadequate in each of the last five years. [234130]

**Beverley Hughes** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* These are matters for Ofsted. The chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the Library.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 13 November 2008:*

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 234129: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many and what proportion of (a) maintained and (b) private, voluntary and independent full day childcare settings were deemed (i) outstanding, (ii) good, (iii) satisfactory and (iv) inadequate by Ofsted in each of the last five years.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

The numbers and proportions of full day-care settings, broken down by sector and divided by financial year between 2003 and 2008, are shown in the tables below. These figures are derived from the data available at the end of each financial year and include only providers that were active at those points. For each financial year our figures use the most recent inspection visits, where the reports have been quality assured or have not been withdrawn from publication.

Please note that the change of inspection framework between the periods 2003-05 and 2005-08 means that inspection outcomes between these two periods are not comparable.

You should be aware that the selection of provision for inspection each year is not random. We select providers for inspection each year based on a number of factors, including the period since their last inspection and the grade awarded them at that inspection. Towards the end of each cycle we inspect a disproportionate number of providers who have not actively cared for children within that cycle. Therefore, these figures should not be used to make judgements about the standards of national provision.

Where you have asked for private, voluntary and independent full day care, we have provided private and voluntary, as these are the only categories we hold on our database. You will also note that a proportion of full day-care providers are recorded as 'not specified'. This is because this information was not collected as part of our regulatory and inspection activities. We do not, as a

matter of course, collect our data in line with the sector types specified in the question. In line with the National Standards, we used the categories of full day care, sessional day care, out of school care and creches, rather than sector type. Consequently, I would advise caution when using these data since they do not represent the full picture within each sector.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Inspection gradings for Children Act inspections of full day care providers, broken down by sector

*2003-04 financial year*

| | Sector | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Local authority maintained* | | *Private/voluntary* | | *Other* | | *Not specified* | | *Total* | |
| | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* |
| Good | 125 | 65 | 1,870 | 55 | 32 | 56 | 237 | 54 | 2,264 | 56 |
| Satisfactory | 67 | 35 | 1,475 | 44 | 24 | 42 | 190 | 44 | 1,756 | 43 |
| Unsatisfactory | 0 | 0 | 36 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 42 | 1 |
| Total | 192 | 100 | 3,383 | 100 | 57 | 100 | 436 | 100 | 4,070 | 100 |

*2004-05 financial year*

| | Sector | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Local authority maintained* | | *Private/voluntary* | | *Other* | | *Not specified* | | *Total* | |
| | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* |
| Good | 193 | 78 | 2,714 | 68 | 67 | 71 | 548 | 65 | 3,522 | 68 |
| Satisfactory | 55 | 22 | 1,245 | 31 | 25 | 27 | 284 | 34 | 1,609 | 31 |
| Unsatisfactory | 0 | 0 | 43 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 52 | 1 |
| Total | 248 | 100 | 4,002 | 100 | 94 | 100 | 839 | 100 | 5,183 | 100 |

Overall care inspection gradings for full day care providers broken down by sector

*2005-06 financial year*

| | Sector | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Local authority maintained* | | *Private/voluntary* | | *Other* | | *Not specified* | | *Total* | |
| | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* |
| Outstanding | 3 | 3 | 19 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 23 | 3 | 47 | 2 |
| Good | 61 | 64 | 952 | 55 | 35 | 65 | 376 | 56 | 1,424 | 56 |
| Satisfactory | 25 | 27 | 633 | 36 | 17 | 31 | 240 | 36 | 916 | 36 |
| Inadequate | 5 | 5 | 137 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 5 | 175 | 7 |
| Total | 95 | 100 | 1,741 | 100 | 54 | 100 | 672 | 100 | 2,562 | 100 |

*2006-07 financial year*

| | Sector | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Local authority maintained* | | *Private/voluntary* | | *Other* | | *Not specified* | | *Total* | |
| | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* |
| Outstanding | 0 | 0 | 63 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 33 | 3 | 98 | 3 |
| Good | 100 | 71 | 1,287 | 58 | 33 | 59 | 726 | 60 | 2,146 | 59 |
| Satisfactory | 34 | 24 | 777 | 35 | 20 | 36 | 410 | 34 | 1,241 | 34 |
| Inadequate | 6 | 4 | 107 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 48 | 4 | 162 | 4 |
| Total | 140 | 100 | 2,234 | 100 | 56 | 100 | 1,217 | 100 | 3,647 | 100 |

*2007-08 financial year*

| | Sector | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Local authority maintained* | | *Private/voluntary* | | *Other* | | *Not specified* | | *Total* | |
| | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* |
| Outstanding | 10 | 5 | 144 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 39 | 4 | 196 | 4 |
| Good | 132 | 71 | 2,090 | 66 | 47 | 68 | 629 | 61 | 2,898 | 65 |
| Satisfactory | 39 | 21 | 796 | 25 | 17 | 25 | 313 | 30 | 1,165 | 26 |
| Inadequate | 5 | 3 | 146 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 51 | 5 | 204 | 5 |
| Total | 186 | 100 | 3,176 | 100 | 69 | 100 | 1,032 | 100 | 4,463 | 100 |

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 10 November 2008:*

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 234130: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many and what proportion of (a) maintained and (b) private, voluntary and independent full day childcare settings have had to close following inadequate Ofsted inspections in each of the last five years.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted does not possess data that allow us to identify whether inspection judgements are directly attributable to closure of childcare settings. Most of the providers that close choose to do so voluntarily and for a variety of reasons. We do not collect these reasons. I am therefore unable to provide data identifying the reasons for providers closing in each of the last five years.

Ofsted can only cancel registration where a person ceases to be qualified for registration. We would not normally take such action as a result of inspection, unless we believed that children were suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. The usual practice following an inspection judgement of inadequate is to require the setting to take action to improve. We have a number of enforcement options open to us to bring about such improvement, such as imposing conditions of registration or issuing a compliance notice requiring a setting to take certain actions by a particular date. It is an offence not to comply with such a notice. We only move towards cancelling registration when providers cannot or will not improve. As this is often much later than an inspection, we cannot attribute cancellation directly to the inspection judgement. We must always give reasons for cancellation but these relate to the requirements a provider is failing to meet rattier than the immediate inspection outcomes.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

## Ofsted: Industrial Disputes

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on productivity within the Children's Directorate of Ofsted of industrial action by Unison and Public and Commercial Services Union members; and if he will make a statement; [232997]

(2) how many and what type of employment tribunal claims against Ofsted have been lodged with an employment tribunal whose tribunal proceedings have not yet concluded. [233000]

**Jim Knight:** These are matters for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and copies of her replies have been placed in the Library.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 6 November 2008:*

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 232997: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect on productivity within the Children's Directorate of Ofsted of industrial action by UNISON and Public and Commercial Services Union members; and if he will make a statement.

Unison and the Public and Commercial Services Union have been jointly involved in the industrial action with Ofsted over a dispute with the current pay model, implemented on 31 March 2008. This industrial action has consisted of:

a one day strike on Friday 16 May 2008;

action short of a strike from Monday 19 May 2008 to Friday 30 May 2008; and

action short of a strike from Monday 16 June to Wednesday 17 December 2008.

The action short of a strike primarily consisted of:

working to contractual hours

not working overtime

not using personal vehicles for inspections and other official visits.

There has been very little impact on the productivity within the Children's Directorate of Ofsted. The industrial action mainly affected those inspectors of childcare and early education who were members of the above unions. 236 inspectors and managers from the Children's Directorate were recorded as striking on 16 May.

With regard to the regulation of childcare and early education, the period of the industrial action started after the end of the prescribed inspection period, completed by 31 March 2008. The new inspection programme did not commence until 1 September 2008. Our planned programme of work for the summer included registration visits, re-inspection of inadequate provision; short inspections of those providers who had no children on roll during the prescribed period; and first inspections of those who registered with us from December 2007. We completed all our planned inspection work during this period. We also met our targets for investigating complaints and for registering new day-care providers. Although we did not meet our registration target for new childminders, our evidence suggests the main reason for this was the delays caused by some police authorities in obtaining the CRB checks. As a consequence, I wrote to a number of police authorities about this issue.

We also undertook a four-day training of all inspectors and an assessment of their learning during June and July 2008 in preparation for the Early Years Foundation Stage. All scheduled training took place with no reported absences of inspectors due to industrial action.

The industrial action did not have any impact on productivity relating to inspections of children's social care.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 4 November 2008:*

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 233000: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many and what type of employment tribunal claims against Ofsted have been lodged with an employment tribunal whose tribunal proceedings have not yet concluded.

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

At present, there are five employment claims in the tribunal, of which four are for unfair dismissal and one is for equal pay.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight, Minister for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

## Schools: Manpower

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent *(a)* teachers, *(b)* teaching assistants and *(c)* support staff there were in local education authority schools in (i) Yorkshire and the Humber and (ii) City of York constituency in (A) 1997 and (B) the latest period for which figures are available. [237266]

**Jim Knight:** The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers, teaching assistants and support staff employed in local authority maintained schools in Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region, the City of York constituency and England, January 1997 and 2008.

*Full-time equivalent teachers[1], teaching assistants[2] and support staff in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary, special and pupil referral units, years 1997 to 2008—coverage: Yorkshire and The Humber government office region, City of York constituency and England*

| | Yorkshire and The Humber | | | City of York | | | England | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Teachers[4] | Teaching assistants[3] | Support staff[3,4] | Teachers[4] | Teaching assistants[3] | Support staff[3,4] | Teachers[5] | Teaching assistants[3] | Support staff[3,4] |
| *January:* | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 41,900 | 7,700 | 14,900 | 700 | 100 | 200 | 399,200 | 60,600 | 133,500 |
| 2008 | 44,300 | 19,300 | 35,100 | 700 | 400 | 600 | 434,900 | 175,700 | 322,400 |

[1] Includes qualified and unqualified teachers.
[2] "Teaching assistants" include teaching assistants, special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil.
[3] Source: School Census
[4] Includes 'teaching assistants'.
[5] Source: Annual Survey of Teacher in Service and Teacher Vacancies; 618g
*Notes:*
1. Excludes academies and city technology colleges.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

## Schools: Standards

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department plans to spend on the National Challenge in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [234910]

**Jim Knight:** As set out in the National Challenge documents published on 10 June 2000, the Department for Children, Schools and Families will deploy £400 million of support to the National Challenge for the three financial years starting 1 April 2008 and ending 31 March 2011. The precise phasing between these three financial years is flexible, depending on the needs of schools.

The National Challenge is designed to facilitate sustained improvements in schools and—with the exception of some previously committed spending on establishing structural interventions—we are not expecting to provide funding beyond 2010-11.

## Special Educational Needs: Transport

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department provides on the procurement of home to school transport services for children with special educational needs in London. [237406]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department does not publish guidance on the procurement of transport for special educational needs (SEN) children. It is for local authorities, including London boroughs to follow their own procedures and make appropriate arrangements.

## Specialised Diplomas

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have registered for 14 to 19 diplomas this year, broken down by *(a)* subject and *(b)* level of diploma. [233623]

**Jim Knight:** The latest information we have from local consortia indicates that around 12,000 young people are currently working towards a diploma qualification, based upon returns from all but one of the local authorities involved. By subject and level, this breaks down as:

| Line | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Construction and the Built Environment | 503 | 1,019 | 179 | 1,701 |
| Creative and Media | 556 | 2,463 | 637 | 3,658 |
| Engineering | 605 | 1,806 | 420 | 2,831 |
| Information Technology | 360 | 1,286 | 359 | 2,005 |
| Society, Heath, and Development | 282 | 1,156 | 393 | 1,831 |
| Total | 2,308 | 7,730 | 1,988 | 12,026 |

## Teachers: Pay

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on *(a)* teacher training, *(b)* teacher professional development, *(c)* teacher wages and *(d)* other teacher payments in each of the last 10 years. [235111]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The amounts spent on *(a)* initial teacher training by the Training and Development Agency for Schools, *(c)* teacher salaries and *(d)* allowances for teachers in England in each of the last 10 years are set out in the following table.

*(b)* Information on spending on teachers' continuing professional development (CPD) is not collected centrally. Funding for CPD generally is included within schools' delegated budgets and it is for schools to determine how to spend this, based on individual needs and the school's own improvement priorities.

*Spending on initial teacher training, teacher salaries and allowances in England in financial years 1998-99 to 2007-08*

£ million

| | Spending on initial teacher training[1] | Estimated spending on salaries and allowances[2,3,4] |
|---|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 162 | 9,935 |
| 1999-00 | 182 | 10,480 |
| 2000-01 | 259 | 11,295 |
| 2001-02 | 341 | 12,165 |
| 2002-03 | 378 | 12,775 |
| 2003-04 | 427 | 13,430 |
| 2004-05 | 468 | 14,060 |
| 2005-06 | 490 | 14,915[5] |

*Spending on initial teacher training, teacher salaries and allowances in England in financial years 1998-99 to 2007-08*

£ million

| | Spending on initial teacher training[1] | Estimated spending on salaries and allowances[2, 3, 4] |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 522 | 15,340 |
| 2007-08 | 528 | 15,640 |

[1] Source is the Training and Development Agency for Schools. Spending on initial teacher training includes employment-based routes funding, training bursaries, flexible postgraduate course fees, initial teacher training provider quality and funding, initial teacher training capital bids, funding for under-represented groups, new providers/start-up, primary modern foreign languages, qualified teacher status skills tests, the Secondary Shortage Subject Scheme and Access to Learning funds. Figures are rounded the nearest £1 million.

[2] These figures do not include on-costs (employer pension contributions and National Insurance). In 2007-08, on-costs amounted to 22.05 per cent. of salaries. These figures are rounded to the nearest £5 million.

[3] These figures include certain discontinued allowances and current allowances for special educational needs, teaching and learning responsibilities, recruitment and retention.

[4] The paybill figures include the pay awards given for each year and were adjusted to reflect actual teacher numbers.

[5] There is a break in the time-series in year 2005-06.

*Note:*

1. For modelling purposes the paybill figures employed up to 2006-07 financial year were taken from the previous year paybill estimations.
2. Due to the timescale surrounding the paybill exercises up until 2002-03, the models were developed a year prior to the financial year they referred to.

### Teachers: Standards

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* gained excellent teacher status (i) since the programme started and (ii) in the academic year 2007-08. [235109]

**Jim Knight:** Management information from the 'Excellent Teacher Scheme' show that 73 candidates have applied for Excellent Teacher Status since the scheme started in 2006, 60 of these candidates have qualified. 20 candidates applied for Teacher Status in the academic year 2007/08 and of these 18 have since qualified.

We are currently evaluating the scheme and expect to report the outcome in early 2009.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Departmental Pay

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what bonuses are paid to staff in his Department for working in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [235421]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The bonus scheme operated by the Department for International Development (DFID) for 2007-08 only applied to the senior civil service (SCS) and does not comprise separate bonus arrangements for SCS working in Iraq or Afghanistan.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many Questions for written answer were tabled to his Department in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235590]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) holds records of written questions asked of the Department since November 2004. Since this date DFID has received a total of 7,198 questions for written answer.

We do not hold records of parliamentary questions asked before 2004 centrally. To retrieve these would incur disproportionate costs.

We do not hold records on the number of questions not answered on grounds of disproportionate costs.

### Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to visit Ethiopia to discuss the disbursement of development aid. [237028]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I visited Ethiopia on 16 and 17 October 2008. I have no plans to visit in the immediate future.

### Occupied Territories: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what development assistance the Government have provided to the Palestinian Territories in each of the last two financial years; and if he will make a statement. [236392]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** In 2006-07 the Department for International Development (DFID) provided a total of £54 million to help the Palestinian people. Of this, £15 million was bilateral aid to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, £15 million was through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to help Palestinian refugees in the region, and £24 million was through our core funding for other multilateral organisations that provide overseas development assistance to the Palestinians.

In 2007-08 DFID provided £63.6 million in bilateral aid, including £15.6 million to UNRWA. Figures for our support to the Occupied Palestinian Territories through core funding for other multilateral organisations will be available in December.

### Reconstruction

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent on each project funded by the Stabilisation Aid Fund in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each of the last five years. [237304]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Stabilisation Aid Fund (SAF) began in April 2008. Expenditure figures for this first year will be available at the end of the financial year.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on each individual project which it has funded in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each of the last five years. [237305]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I have placed tables in the Library detailing the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral projects in Afghanistan and Iraq over the last five years.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of development projects of each type undertaken in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq have been constructed to Sphere standards in each month of the last five years. [237307]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The complex environments present in Afghanistan and Iraq render difficult the application of Sphere standards. It is not possible to provide detailed information about the percentage of projects in Afghanistan and Iraq constructed to Sphere standards.

However, the principles enshrined within Sphere are used as guidelines by many international agencies in Iraq and Afghanistan, including the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

### Turks and Caicos Islands: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has provided to the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands following Hurricane Ike. [235527]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) provided £200,000 in post-hurricane humanitarian relief, comprising £110,000 through the International Red Cross for the Turks and Caicos Red Cross Society to supply emergency shelter, sanitation and cooking equipment and general relief; and £90,000 to the Pan-American Health Organisation for emergency health and water systems.

The Royal Navy vessels Iron Duke and Wave Ruler, pre-positioned in the Caribbean, also provided swift logistical and manpower support and distributed DFID relief supplies carried on board for that purpose.

DFID also deployed two humanitarian specialists, one from London and one based in the region, to work with the Turks and Caicos authorities and the relief agencies.

We have provided, and continue to offer, technical assistance to develop a longer-term recovery plan. The UK Government will provide financial assistance for recovery subject to discussions with the Turks and Caicos Government which are nearing conclusion.

We are pleased to note that the Turks and Caicos obtained a $6.3 million payment from the Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility. DFID helped to launch this initiative in 2007.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what methodology his Department used to determine whether to provide financial aid to the Turks and Caicos Islands following Hurricane Ike; what role other Government departments had in the decision-making process; and if he will make a statement. [235530]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has responsibility for providing humanitarian relief to the Turks and Caicos Islands as a UK overseas territory and because they needed post-hurricane humanitarian aid. We immediately deployed two humanitarian specialists, one from London and one based for that purpose in the Caribbean region, to make a first hand humanitarian assessment and to draw up a relief strategy in consultation with DFID headquarters in London and Barbados. The hurricane struck on 6 September and they deployed on 7 and 8 September. They worked with the Governor's office, the Turks and Caicos Ministry for Home Affairs, the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination Team and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency. We also co-ordinated closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Navy. The humanitarian funding elements of our response were agreed on 10, 18 and 19 September.

Assistance for longer-term recovery has been considered jointly with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Governor's Office and the Turks and Caicos Government. These discussions are nearing conclusion.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what account he has taken of the independent socio-economic impact assessment prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the damage on the Turks and Caicos Islands by Hurricane Ike in formulating his policy on the matter. [235579]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development, jointly with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has considered the draft assessment prepared by the Commission. We have provided our comments to the TCI Financial Secretary for inclusion in its final report.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether reconstruction experts funded from the public purse have visited the Turks and Caicos Island since Hurricane Ike. [235594]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development financed the visit of a technical adviser from the Cayman Islands to assist the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the preliminary recovery planning.

### Zimbabwe: Economic Situation

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect on the delivery of humanitarian aid in Zimbabwe of the decision by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe to suspend electronic banking facilities. [235455]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Although there are few official restrictions on humanitarian access, the recent suspension by the reserve bank of electronic banking transfers, cash shortages, and a lack of clarity around the legality of operating in foreign currency has been hindering humanitarian delivery. For some NGOs, logistical constraints have meant that it has become difficult to deliver services outside urban areas.

The UN has recently succeeded in securing commitments by the Reserve Bank to allow electronic banking access for some NGOs again, as well as arrangements whereby humanitarian NGOs can operate in foreign currency. This should remove some of the obstacles to humanitarian delivery, but we will continue to monitor the situation very closely.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to *(a)* the Government of Zimbabwe, *(b)* donor countries and *(c)* the United Nations on allegations that money deposited by the Global Fund in the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe has been misappropriated. [235456]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb) on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 945-6W.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with *(a)* the World Bank, *(b)* the African Development Bank and *(c)* the IMF on the establishment of a currency board in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [235457]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Economic stabilisation, including currency reform, will be essential to recovery in Zimbabwe. If positive political change occurs and a new government embarks on a serious economic reform programme, it is expected that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will provide advice and support for stabilisation, with the backing of other financial institutions and donors. Establishing a currency board is one of the options likely to be under consideration for currency reform and halting inflation. The Department for International Development (DFID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT) are working closely together to prepare for economic stabilisation and reform in Zimbabwe should the political situation allow and are in regular contact with (among others) the IMF, World Bank and Africa Development Bank on these matters.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Charter of Fundamental Rights (EU)

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department has on the number of occasions on which a decision of the European Court of Justice has referred to provisions of the Charter of Fundamental Rights. [216641]

**Caroline Flint:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not maintain a database of all cases containing references to the Charter of Fundamental Rights. There are, however, relatively few cases in which the European Court of Justice (ECJ) has made substantive comments on the Charter of Fundamental Rights. In case C-540/03 European Parliament v Council of the EU, the ECJ reaffirmed that the Charter is a non-legally binding instrument. The ECJ has also made reference to the Charter in the following cases of note: C-402/05P and C-415/05P Kadi, C-432/05 Unibet, C-303/05 Advocaten voor de Wereld, C-438/05 Viking Line, C-341/05 Laval, C-244/06 Dynamic Medien and C-450/06 Varec. All of these judgments confirm that the charter is not a source of rights but rather reflects existing rights, freedoms and principles that are already recognised in EU law or as they result from the international obligations and constitutional traditions common to the member states. The list of cases above is not comprehensive and does not, for example, include cases where a question on the charter may have been referred by a national court on which the ECJ did not need to adjudicate.

### Conflict Resolution

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* office space and *(b)* civil service support will be provided to the special representative for conflict resolution mechanisms; and what expenses the representative will be able to claim. [229193]

**Bill Rammell:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has asked Jack McConnell MSP to become his Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms. Mr. McConnell will be based in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), working with the FCO, the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

Mr. McConnell has been allocated an office in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which will provide a base. Staff in the FCO, MOD and DFID working on conflict issues will provide support. His travel and any other out of pocket expenses related to this role will be covered by the Departments concerned.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are for a Security Council resolution in response to the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and if he will make a statement. [233075]

**David Miliband:** The UN Security Council has followed developments in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) closely since the upsurge in violence in October, and will continue to work with the UN Secretary General and others to reach a political solution to the region's problems. While there are no current plans for a Security Council Resolution, the Council has discussed the situation in the eastern DRC on a number of occasions, most recently on 11 November. It also issued a presidential statement on the situation in the DRC on 29 October. The UN Secretary General appointed former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo as his Special Envoy to the DRC on 3 November.

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what sanctions are available in cases of departmental staff found to

have committed disciplinary offences; and how many times each has been used in each of the last three years. [230204]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Misconduct Procedures contain the following sanctions for disciplinary offences:

(a) a formal reprimand with a final warning

(b) a ban on consideration for promotion or progression, including temporary promotion or progression, for up to three years

(c) downgrading and/or a transfer to other duties

(d) suspension without pay for a specified period

(e) stoppage of pay increases for up to three years

(f) ban on overseas posting, including temporary assignments unless/until the officer is no longer considered a risk

(g) a written warning or a final written warning

(h) dismissal

The severity of the sanction applied depends on the type of the offence. In each of the last three years the penalties have been applied as follows:

*2006*

At level one (less serious misconduct) there were six written warnings issued

At level two (more serious offences or repeated misconduct) there were seven final written warnings issued

At level three (gross misconduct) there were five dismissals and three final written warnings

*2007*

At level one there were four written warnings issued

At level two there were seven final written warnings issued

At level three there were three dismissals and one formal reprimand with a final written warning

*2008 (up to and including October)*

At level one there were four written warnings issued

At level two there were two final written warnings issued

At level three there was one dismissal and one final written warning

## Departmental Marketing

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of *(a)* internet and website design and hosting, *(b)* print media design and *(c)* broadcast media for each of his Department's public information campaigns since 1997. [214707]

**Caroline Flint:** Internet and website design and hosting, print media design and broadcast media for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) public information campaigns since 1997 have been undertaken in-house or contracted out individually by FCO posts overseas and the FCO in London. Information on the total cost incurred is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil servants in his Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229182]

**Gillian Merron:** To collect the information on numbers and average salary of all Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff recruited through the fast stream would incur disproportionate cost. However, statistics on intake into the civil service fast stream as a whole are available, published annually at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/faststream

## Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries *(a)* he has visited in his official capacity since June 2007 and *(b)* his Department's Ministers have visited in their official capacities in the same period; on what dates each such visit took place; and if he will make a statement. [235946]

**Gillian Merron:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has visited the following countries/cities in an official capacity since his appointment in June 2007.

| *Date* | *Country/city* |
|---|---|
| *2007* | |
| 18 July | Paris and Berlin |
| 22 to 23 July | Brussels |
| 24 to 27 July | Afghanistan and Pakistan |
| 28 to 30 July | Washington |
| 4 to 7 September | Romania, Turkey, Italy and Spain |
| 7 to 8 September | Portugal |
| 26 to 29 September | New York, USA |
| 14 to 15 October | Luxembourg |
| 18 to 19 October | Lisbon, Portugal |
| 22 to 23 October | New York and Washington, USA |
| 15 November | Bruges |
| 17 to 20 November | Israel, OPTs and Egypt |
| 21 to 23 November | Uganda |
| 26 to 27 November | Annapolis, USA |
| 6 to 7 December | Brussels |
| 10 December | Brussels |
| 13 to 14 December | Brussels |
| 15 to 18 December | Iraq |
| *2008* | |
| 19 January | Ljubljana |
| 22 January | Berlin |
| 24 to 26 January | Davos, Switzerland |
| 27 to 28 January | Brussels |
| 6 to 11 February | Afghanistan and Bangladesh |
| 18 February | Brussels |
| 23 to 29 February | China |
| 6 March | Brussels |
| 10 March | Brussels |
| 13 to 14 March | Brussels |
| 17 to 19 March | Stockholm, Helsinki and Copenhagen |
| 28 to 29 March | Ljubljana |
| 31 March | Paris |
| 3 to 4 April | Bucharest |
| 17 April | Berlin |
| 19 to 24 April | Pakistan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq |

| Date | Country/city |
|---|---|
| 13 to 16 May | Turkey |
| 18 to 23 May | New York, Washington and California |
| 28 to 30 May | Stockholm and Oslo |
| 8 to 10 June | Lebanon, Israel and OPTs |
| 12 June | Paris |
| 16 June | Luxembourg |
| 19 to 20 June | Brussels |
| 25 to 28 June | Japan |
| 5 to 10 July | South Africa and Sudan |
| 13 to 14 July | France |
| 22 July | Brussels |
| 13 August | Brussels |
| 19 to 20 August | Brussels and Georgia |
| 27 August | Ukraine |
| 1 September | Brussels |
| 4 to 6 September | Paris and Avignon |
| 11 September | Dublin |
| 15 September | Brussels |
| 24 to 26 September | New York, USA |
| 8 October | Brussels |
| 13 October | Luxembourg |
| 15 to 16 October | Brussels |
| 21 to 23 October | Slovenia and Slovakia |
| 24 to 26 October | China |
| 3 to 4 November | Marseille, France |
| 4 to 5 November | Serbia and Kosovo |
| 10 November | Brussels and Bosnia and Herzegovina |

Other FCO Ministers have visited the following countries in an official capacity since their appointments in June 2007.

*The Minister of State for Europe*

Jim Murphy MP

| Date | Country/city |
|---|---|
| *2007* | |
| 3 to 4 September | Belgium, the Netherlands and France |
| 15 October | Luxembourg |
| 5 to 6 November | Slovenia |
| 14 to 15 November | Germany and France |
| 29 November | Spain |
| *2008* | |
| 10 March | Belgium |
| 18 to 20 March | Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| 31 March to 1 April | Turkey |
| 23 to 24 April | Spain and Gibraltar |
| 29 April | Luxembourg |
| 6 to 8 May | Azerbaijan and Georgia |
| 13 to 14 May | Czech Republic |
| 20 to 21 May | Italy |
| 26 May | Belgium |
| 16 June | Luxembourg |
| 30 June to 1 July | Germany |
| 4 to 11 July | USA |
| 16 to 18 September | Hungary, Poland and France |

Right hon. Caroline Flint MP

| Date | Country/city |
|---|---|
| *2008* | |
| 8 to 10 October | Cyprus and Greece |
| 27 to 29 October | France and Czech Republic |
| 5 to 7 November | Bulgaria and Croatia |
| 10 November | Belgium |
| 12 to 13 November | Belgium |

*The Minister of State for Africa, Asia and the UN*

The right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown

| Date | Country/city |
|---|---|
| *2007* | |
| 26 to 30 August | China |
| 6 to 7 September | France |
| 9 to 14 September | Sudan |
| 21 September to 2 October | New York, USA |
| 14 to 19 October | Afghanistan |
| 20 to 27 November | Egypt and Uganda |
| 3 December | Germany |
| *2008* | |
| 16 to 19 January | Japan |
| 27 January to 2 February | Kenya and Ethiopia |
| 13 to 17 February | New York, USA |
| 20 February | France |
| 4 to 5 March | Switzerland |
| 11 to 14 March | Mongolia |
| 14 to 19 April | Beijing, China and New York, USA |
| 2 May | Geneva, Switzerland |
| 13 to 18 May | Thailand, Singapore and Burma |
| 4 to 5 June | Paris, France |
| 24 to 25 June | Geneva, Switzerland and Norway |
| 29 June to 1 July | Egypt |
| 13 to 19 July | Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal |
| 1 to 4 September | Zambia |
| 8 to 11 September | Nigeria |
| 19 to 26 September | New York, USA |
| 3 to 5 October | Austria |
| 13 to 18 October | Bangladesh and India |
| 6 to 7 November | Kenya |

*The Minister of State for the Middle East*

Dr. Kim Howells MP

| Date | Country |
|---|---|
| *2007* | |
| 22 to 26 July | Jordan, Libya and Egypt |
| 30 August to 7 September | USA |
| 11 to 19 September | Brazil, Peru and US |
| 22 to 25 October | Nigeria and Ghana |
| 2 to 3 November | Turkey |
| 5 to 6 November | Portugal |
| 29 November to 2 December | Colombia |
| 17 to 20 December | Lebanon |

| Date | Country |
|---|---|
| *2008* | |
| 8 to15 January | USA and Jamaica |
| 7 to 11 January | Iraq |
| 31 January | Canada |
| 22 to 25 February | Saudi Arabia and Oman |
| 6 to 14 March | Brazil and Chile |
| 28 to 31 March | Bahrain and Qatar |
| 6 to 9 April | South Africa |
| 21 to 23 April | Morocco |
| 2 to 6 May | Yemen |
| 10 to 17 May | Bolivia and Peru |
| 15 to 19 June | Ethiopia and Eritrea |
| 23 to 24 June | Germany |
| 26 to 28 June | USA |
| 3 to 9 July | Canada and USA |
| 13 to 25 September | USA |

Bill Rammell MP

| Date | Country/city |
|---|---|
| *2008* | |
| 13 to 17 October | Kuwait and Iraq |
| 27 to 29 October | Jordan |
| 12 to 14 November | USA |

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State*

Meg Munn MP

| Date | Country/city |
|---|---|
| *2007* | |
| 8 to 17 September | Mexico, Panama and Jamaica |
| 14 to 23 October | New Zealand and Tonga |
| 18 to 23 November | Singapore |
| 9 to15 December | Dominican Republic and Cayman Islands |
| *2008* | |
| 2 to 7 January | Falkland Islands |
| 27 February to 2 March | Thailand |
| 27 to 30 March | Bermuda |
| 13 to 20 April | Belize, Guatemala and Barbados |
| 30 April to 11 May | Philippines and Australia |
| 4 to 10 June | Cambodia and Malaysia |
| 29 June to 1 July | Greece |
| 17 to 22 August | Singapore, New Zealand and Niue |
| 17 to 20 September | Spain |
| 28 September to 5 October | Mexico and Costa Rica |

Gillian Merron MP

| Date | Country/city |
|---|---|
| *2008* | |
| 1 to 7 November | Jamaica and Trinidad |

## EU Enlargement

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has held with his EU counterparts on the possible accession of *(a)* Georgia and *(b)* Ukraine to the EU. [235159]

**Caroline Flint:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary maintains regular discussions with his EU counterparts on the EU's relations with Georgia and Ukraine, most recently at the General Affairs and External Relations Councils in June, September and October and at the informal Foreign Ministers' meeting in September.

The UK continues to believe that it is important to keep the door to further enlargement open to those Eastern European countries that aspire to membership. In particular we believe that Ukraine should be able to become a member of the EU when it meets the criteria. The June Council, and the Extraordinary European Council on 1 September, asked the Commission to develop proposals for stepping up the EU's engagement with our Eastern neighbours, among them Ukraine and Georgia, including through an initiative for an Eastern Partnership. We want this to be ambitious, in support of the aspirations of each of our neighbours, and provide increased practical support for closer integration with the EU. This initiative will be one of the items on the agenda for the December European Council.

## EU Institutions: Wales

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which civil servants for whom he has responsibility, other than those employed by the Welsh Assembly Government, represent the interests of Wales at the EU institutions; and what their responsibilities are. [236196]

**Gillian Merron:** Foreign policy, including our policy towards the EU, is a reserved matter for the UK Government. But we consult the Welsh Assembly Government closely on issues relating to its areas of responsibilities. The staff of the UK Representation to the European Union in Brussels (UKRep), as in all our diplomatic posts, advance the interests of the UK as a whole, including Wales.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what structures and protocols are in place to liaise with the Welsh Assembly Government's representatives to EU institutions. [236198]

**Gillian Merron:** As the information requested is lengthy, it has been placed in the Library of the House.

## Forced Marriage

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria he uses to evaluate projects proposed for funding by the Forced Marriage Unit. [230227]

**Gillian Merron:** The Forced Marriage Unit domestic programme fund strategy sets out what criteria are used to evaluate projects for funding. The strategy can be found at the following Foreign and Commonwealth Office website address:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/fco-in-action/nationals/forced-marriage-unit/domestic-prog-fund

### Gulf of Aden: Piracy

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the origin and base of operations of those responsible for piracy in the Gulf of Aden region; and if he will make a statement. [233161]

**David Miliband:** We understand from the British Officers at the Maritime Trade Office that most piracy in the Gulf of Aden originates from the Puntland region of Somalia.

The UK Government support United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1816 and 1838 calling on parties to address the growing problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia. We have been working with our EU and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) partners to implement these resolutions.

In September the EU set up a team to co-ordinate naval escorts protecting world food programme deliveries to Mogadishu. The EU is now planning a larger counter-piracy operation to which the UK will provide the operation commander and operation headquarters. EU partners agree that any operation must be co-ordinated with NATO and Combined Task Force 150, themselves active to deter piracy off the Horn of Africa. The UK contributes to both.

Through the Department for International Development, the UK has allocated £25 million to support efforts to tackle the instability in Somalia which creates the conditions allowing piratical activity to flourish.

### International Red Cross

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Minister in his Department is responsible for dealing with the International Committee of the Red Cross, with particular reference to its activity in Iraq and Afghanistan. [228799]

**David Miliband:** My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, is the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister responsible for Afghanistan while my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East and Africa is the Minister responsible for Iraq. Both cover the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross in their respective portfolios.

### Iraq: Asylum

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many dependants of former Iraqi employees admitted to the UK under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme have been flown to the UK under the provisions of the Scheme. [209917]

**Bill Rammell:** As at 14 November 2008, 98 dependants have so far been admitted to the UK under the Iraq Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme. We expect a further 118 dependants to be welcomed in the UK over the coming months.

### Lighting: EU Law

**Mr. Francois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the Government's proposals to lower the rate of VAT on energy-efficient light bulbs to receive approval at EU level. [209376]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the then Financial Secretary to the Treasury on 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1266W.

### Mentally Ill Staff

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public sector bodies for which he has responsibility; and what use has been made of that information. [228558]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) makes reasonable adjustments for recruitment, job selection and promotion. The FCO employs expert disability advisers who support officers with mental health illnesses. Support is provided through training, reasonable adjustments and advice both for the officer with the disability and for line managers. A review of policy and procedure for supporting disabled staff is under way and will report in December.

The public bodies that the FCO has responsibility for follow Commissioner for Public Appointments (CPA) policy on this issue. When making appointments to bodies within the Commissioner's remit, Departments are required to follow the CPA's 'Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies'.

A core principle of the code is that equal opportunities should form part of the appointments process. However, the overarching principle of appointment and promotion on merit remains. The FCO is planning workshops and training for the sponsor staff of these public bodies to ensure that they follow uniform good practice in the recruitment of their employees.

### Nigeria: Capital Punishment

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking in respect of the use of the death penalty in Nigeria; and what representations his Department has made to the Government of Nigeria on the number of people sentenced to death and awaiting execution in that country. [229963]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, through its Strategic Programme Fund, supports two Nigerian civil society projects which aim to move Nigeria towards abolition of the death penalty. One project supports a civil society coalition that works to change legal, public and official perceptions of the death penalty. The other project supports a Nigerian non-governmental organisation that supports legal challenges to the constitutionality of certain applications of the death penalty.

FCO officials have raised Nigeria's continued use of the death penalty with senior members of the Nigerian Government several times in the past year. The EU has also raised the issue with the Nigerian Government, and the FCO will continue to encourage member states to engage in this area.

### Overseas Residence: Death

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what records his Department holds of the number of UK nationals under the ages of *(a)* 18, *(b)* 25 and *(c)* 45 years who have died overseas in each of the last five years; [230067]

(2) what records his Department holds on the number of *(a)* female and *(b)* male UK nationals who have died overseas in each of the last 10 years; [230069]

(3) what records his Department holds on the number of UK nationals who have died abroad in suspicious circumstances in each of the last five years; [230070]

(4) what records his Department holds on the number of female UK nationals who have died abroad in each month of the last two years; and what official cause of death was recorded on each occasion. [230071]

**Gillian Merron:** This information is not held centrally, and to collate it would incur disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many deaths of UK nationals abroad were the subject of further investigation by UK consuls in the last five years; [230068]

(2) what powers *(a)* UK consuls and *(b)* his Department have to make inquiries deaths of UK citizens overseas. [230072]

**Gillian Merron:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office consular staff, whether working overseas or in London, have no powers to investigate deaths overseas. Therefore, no deaths of UK nationals abroad have been the subject of further investigation by UK consuls in the last five years. However, we do make appropriate representations to the local authorities if there are concerns that their investigation is not being carried out in line with local procedures, or if there are justified complaints about discrimination against the person who has died or their family. Each case receives individual consideration.

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* instruction and *(b)* guidance he issues to UK consuls on procedures to follow when a UK national is murdered overseas. [230074]

**Gillian Merron:** The instruction and guidance given to Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) consular staff on what to do in the event of the death of a British national overseas in suspicious circumstances is aimed to ensure that they provide the standards of support set out in our publications "Support for British Nationals Abroad: A Guide", which can be found at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621/english

and in more detail in our "Guide for Bereaved Families", which can be found at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/2855621/bereaved-families.

Further guidance on procedures to follow is available to all consular staff. This guidance covers:

Reporting cases to Consular Directorate at the FCO in London, and providing regular updates.

If a death was violent or otherwise unnatural, warning families that the coroner will probably wish to hold an inquest if the body is repatriated to England and Wales.

The potential for involving a family liaison officer who may be deployed by the local police.

The need to give next of kin realistic expectations of when the body will be available for burial or cremation.

Maintaining regular contact with the local investigative authorities and keeping the family informed of developments, usually via consular directorate in London.

In suspicious deaths, where possible arranging for some samples to be taken, by appropriate medical staff, from the body before embalming.

Explaining to the family that we cannot investigate deaths ourselves.

The importance of not giving speculative opinions about the cause of death.

Providing information to next of kin on how to register the death.

### Plain English

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent by his Department on Plain English Campaign training courses for its staff in each year since 2005. [230607]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has not commissioned any training from the Plain English Campaign since 2005. The principles of Plain English are embedded in all our written communication courses.

### Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms receives remuneration in respect of this role. [232467]

**Bill Rammell:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has asked Jack McConnell, Member of the Scottish Parliament to become his Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms. Mr. McConnell will be based in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), working with the FCO, Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence. His travel and other out of pocket expenses will be covered by the departments concerned.

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil servants in his Department were seconded to work for *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since 2003. [229100]

**Gillian Merron:** None.

### USA: Visits Abroad

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Ministers have visited the United States in the last 12 months on official business. [235815]

**Gillian Merron:** There has been a significant amount of travel to the United States by Ministers in their official capacity over the past 12 months, and I will therefore write separately with the details.

### Uzbekistan: Human Rights

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received of the Uzbekistan Government allegedly contravening *(a)* the International Labour Organisation Convention on Minimal Age of Employment and *(b)* the Convention on Prohibition and Immediate Action for Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour; what steps his Department is faking in response; and if he will make a statement. [230446]

**Gillian Merron:** We have been concerned by reports from our non-governmental organisations and informal monitoring by the United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) representative in Uzbekistan that child labour has been used during this year's cotton harvest. Our embassy in Tashkent is funding a project to establish stronger child labour monitoring systems to estimate the prevalence of child labour in remote rural cotton growing areas of Uzbekistan. The project aims to prevent and combat child labour through informal education and vocational training. Our Embassy in Tashkent will also remain in regular contact with UNICEF.

We will continue to monitor the general human rights situation in Uzbekistan and to make known our concerns through a critical, but constructive dialogue with the Uzbek authorities. We welcome Uzbekistan's recent ratification of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention on Minimal Age of Employment and the ILO Convention on Prohibition and Immediate Action for Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, and are ready to work with the Government of Uzbekistan in strengthening all aspects of human rights in Uzbekistan.

### Zimbabwe: Politi .s and Government

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response he has made to the appointment of 10 Zanu-PF provincial governors in Zimbabwe by means other than those agreed under the process sponsored by the South African Development Community. [229824]

**Gillian Merron:** Robert Mugabe's attempt to allocate ministerial portfolios and appoint provincial governors unilaterally runs counter to the spirit and letter of the political agreement signed with the two Movement for Democratic Change parties on 15 September. The UK with other EU member states has condemned these actions. We are supporting efforts to encourage a swift and equitable implementation of the agreement which reflects the will of the people of Zimbabwe as expressed in the 29 March election.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 20 November 2008*

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Prime Minister how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work and *(b)* provide assistance for his Office. [236649]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Prime Minister how many staff were employed by his Office in 2007-08; and how many staff were employed by his predecessor's office in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [236748]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W, and the answer I gave the hon. Members for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) and for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 819W. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my predecessor (right hon. Tony Blair) on 11 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 2036W and the answer given to the hon. Member the for Belfast, East (Mr. Robinson) on 10 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 163-4W.

### Departmental Television

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Prime Minister whether the television licence fee in his official ministerial residence is paid from public funds. [236658]

**The Prime Minister:** No. My television licence is paid for privately.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Prime Minister how many Questions for written answer were tabled to him and to his predecessor in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235385]

**The Prime Minister:** The information requested is a matter of public record and is available in the *Official Report*.

### Energy

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Prime Minister when the London meeting on energy referred to in his recent speech in Abu Dhabi is scheduled to take place; what the objective of the meeting will be; and whether representatives of all OPEC member states have been invited. [236379]

**The Prime Minister:** The London Energy Ministerial Meeting is due to take place on 19 December. The objective of the meeting will be to enhance the dialogue between the major oil producing and consuming countries, in order to improve the functioning of the oil market. A theme of the meeting will be 'Oil and the World Economy'. All countries who attended the Jeddah meeting in June, including all OPEC oil Ministers, together with the European Commission and the OPEC, IEA and IEF Secretariats have been invited.

### Political Office: Telephones

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) of 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 618W, on political office: furniture, how many Downing street Political Office staff have telephones provided at the public expense. [233996]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 618W.

### Shrewsbury

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to visit Shrewsbury. [237017]

**The Prime Minister:** I have no current plans to do so.

### World Economy

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Prime Minister what proposals he made at the summit convened by President Bush on reform of the global economy in Washington on 15 November 2008; if he will post on his departmental website all papers submitted to the summit by participating nations; and which Ministers and officials accompanied him to the meeting. [237101]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 21-24.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Internet

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for which Government websites his Department is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [235040]

**Paul Goggins:** The number of visitors and the maintenance costs of the Government websites for which my Department is responsible are detailed in the following tables.

| Website | 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 Number of visitors | Cost of maintaining (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Northern Ireland Office www.nio.gov.uk | 263,214 | £4,308 |
| Forensic Service Northern Ireland www.fsni.gov.uk | 45,939 | 0 |
| Youth Justice Agency www.youthjusticeagencyni.gov.uk | 21,923 | 2,185.50 |
| Compensation Agency www.compensationni.gov.uk | 12,275 | 0 |
| Northern Ireland Prison service www.niprisonservice.gov.uk | 78,713 | 2,696 |

| Website | 1 January 2008 to date Number of visitors | Cost of maintaining (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Organised Crime Task Force www.octf.gov.uk | 3,152 | 1,128 |

## Drugs: Convictions

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were convicted of drug-related offences in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [237454]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table outlines the number of convictions for drug-related offences for the calendar years 2004 to 2006 (the latest years available).

Conviction data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

*Convictions for drug-related offences 2004-06*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 590 |
| 2005 | 612 |
| 2006 | 734 |

## Drugs: Sentencing

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average sentence handed down by the courts in Northern Ireland for *(a)* possession of and *(b)* dealing in drugs was in each of the last five years. [237389]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table gives the number convicted, number sentenced to immediate custody and the average custodial sentence length (in months) for unlawful possession of and unlawful dealing in drugs.

Data cover the calendar years 2002 to 2006, the latest available years, and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

*Table: Number convicted, number sentenced to immediate custody and the average custodial sentence length (in months) given for unlawful possession and unlawful dealing in drugs 2002-2006*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Possession of drugs number convicted | 297 | 378 | 401 | 457 | 572 |
| Immediate custody | 21 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 19 |
| Average sentence (months) | 11 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| Dealing in drugs number convicted | 112 | 119 | 182 | 149 | 159 |
| Immediate custody | 44 | 56 | 61 | 60 | 60 |
| Average sentence (months) | 22 | 30 | 28 | 22 | 26 |

## Police Service of Northern Ireland: Disabled

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of new police officer recruits who joined the Police Service of Northern Ireland since November 2001 declared themselves as having a disability at the time of joining. [227417]

**Paul Goggins:** That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

# DEFENCE

## Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the *(a)* Government and *(b)* armed forces have held discussions with the Taliban in Afghanistan during 2008. [236212]

**Mr. Hutton** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The UK's position remains as my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out to Parliament on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 305; we will not negotiate with the Taliban.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons are for Harriers undertaking a night commitment in Afghanistan. [236788]

**Mr. Hutton:** Given the nature of the campaign in Afghanistan, there is a requirement for 24 hours per day air cover for NATO ground forces. This is a mission to which Harrier, as an all-weather day-night capable aircraft, is well suited.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the introduction of *(a)* 9,000 US combat troops and *(b)* a second US operated runway on command and control in Helmand province. [236995]

**Mr. Hutton** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* We welcomed President Bush's announcement on 9 September 2008 of the deployment of an additional Battalion and

a Brigade Combat Team to Afghanistan. Some elements of the additional Battalion are already operating in Helmand Province under the command and control of HQISAF. Plans for the additional Brigade Combat Team have yet to be finalised. We are not aware of any plans for the United States to operate a runway in Helmand Province.

### Armed Forces: Compensation

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* shortest and *(b)* longest length of time has been between a soldier being killed in action and the standard payment following a death in action being paid to the bereaved family in the last 12 months. [234978]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 11 November 2008]:* The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces: Families

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent Armed Forces Families' Attitude Survey. [237808]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 416W.

### Armed Forces: Young People

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how frequently he receives reports updating the progress-tracking grid on implementation of measures proposed by the Defence Select Committee, the Adult Learning Inspectorate and the Blake Review; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent update report. [236714]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Ministers are briefed orally at least twice yearly on progress relating to the issues raised in reports by the Defence Select Committee, the adult learning inspectorate and previously Nicholas Blake, QC by senior members of each service and officials. The recommendations from the reports have been grouped into 26 subject areas which are open to regular review through audit, inspection and evaluation and other prompts such as policy updates, legislative change and research. Consequently, while issues might be regarded as having been addressed through specific actions, the subject areas remain open and enduring as routine business.

To ensure that change is enduring, effort is now increasingly focused on developing a culture of continuous improvement. Following publication of the ALI "Better Training" report in 2007, Ofsted is now engaged in inspection of recruiting and training, judging progress on care and welfare issues and providing a view on how well self-assessment at unit level is contributing to continuous improvement. Ofsted is due to complete its first report in spring 2009; this will be published and copies placed in the Library of the House.

### Catterick Barracks

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in the investigation of allegations of physical abuse and harassment at Catterick Barracks. [237429]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** We were already aware of some of the allegations made by the BBC in its 'The Undercover Soldier' documentary in September. A Royal Military Police (Special Investigation Branch) (RMP(SIB)) investigation had been initiated in February. For those we were not aware of an RMP(SIB) investigation was launched as soon as the BBC made us aware of their concerns. These investigations are continuing.

The Army Prosecuting Authority has now directed that four individuals, who were the subject of allegations of which we were already aware and which we were investigating, should face trial by court martial.

### Central Africa: Air Force

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF *(a)* C-17 Globemaster, *(b)* C-130K Hercules, *(c)* C-130J Hercules, *(d)* Tristar, *(e)* VC-10 aircraft and *(f)* other RAF aircraft listed by type have flown to (i) Democratic Republic of Congo, (ii) Rwanda and (iii) Burundi in each of the last three months. [237843]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** No RAF C-17 Globemaster, C-130K and C130-J Hercules, Tristar, VC-10 or other RAF aircraft have flown to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda or Burundi in any of the last three months.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (a) cards, (b) parties and (c) decorations in the last 12 months. [237489]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** MOD expenditure on Christmas cards in 2007 was £700.

This figure includes printing, purchase and postage, but excludes a small amount spent by Defence attaches (for permitted representational purposes) which is not identifiable without disproportionate cost. The sending of Christmas cards at public expense is governed by the principles of Managing Public Money, regulated by departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, and must be in pursuit of specific Defence objectives. This year the MOD is increasing its use of E-cards however in some instances like, for veterans, Christmas cards remain the most appropriate means of communication.

Staff Christmas parties and building decorations are paid for from non-public funds or staff subscription. The exception is the contracted-out facilities management services for MOD Whitehall buildings, which did include an annual £5,000 provision for Christmas decorations, of which £4,000 was spent in 2007. This element of the contract has subsequently been removed.

Trading Fund expenditure is not included in this response as they are outside the MOD's departmental boundary for financial reporting purposes.

### Defence: Procurement

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* the procurement of the new carriers, *(b)* the procurement of the Joint Strike Fighter, *(c)* the Trident replacement programme, *(d)* procurement of the Type 45 destroyers, *(e)* the Future Rapid Effects System and *(f)* the costs of upgrading naval bases for the new carriers in each year to 2013. [234216]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** We do not as a rule release annual funding profiles as these are planning assumptions that are inevitably subject to a significant amount of variation, and their availability could also prejudice our commercial interests.

Total estimated costs for the projects are as follows:

*(a)* Procurement of new aircraft carriers: the estimated procurement cost, as approved at the Main Gate investment decision, is £3,900 million.

*(b)* Joint Strike Fighter: the estimated cost, as set out in the Ministry of Defence Major Projects Report 2007, is £1,858 million, of which £965 million was spent as of 31 March 2007. This estimate is for costs associated with the system development and demonstration phase of the Joint Combat Aircraft programme. The total procurement cost is likely to be up to £10 billion depending upon the number of aircraft required.

*(c)* Trident replacement: The estimated cost will be in the range of £11-14 billion (at 2006-07 prices) for the submarines and propulsion units, for a four boat solution, as set out in the Government's White Paper, 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (December 2006, Cm 6994).

*(d)* Type 45 destroyers: the estimated procurement cost, as set out in the Ministry of Defence Major Projects Report 2007, is £6,464 million, of which £3,477 million was spent as of 31 March 2007.

*(e)* Future Rapid Effects System: the estimated cost for the assessment phase as set out in the Ministry of Defence Major Projects Report 2007 is £618 million. The cost of this programme will not be fixed until the main investment decision is taken.

*(f)* Cost of upgrading naval bases: The estimated cost of upgrading the naval bases for the new carriers is £112 million.

### Floods: Thames Estuary

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice provided by the Meteorological Office to the Environment Agency on the effects of climate change in the South East in relation to flood risk management in the Thames Estuary. [236754]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Environment Agency is planning to publish the science reports it commissioned from the Met Office in April 2009, in conjunction with the release of the public consultation of the draft TE2100 plan. In the meantime the Environment Agency will make arrangements to place summary reports of the findings in the Library of the House.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made towards apprehending those allegedly responsible for the killing of six members of the Royal Military Police in a police station at Majar al-Kabir, near Basra, Iraq, in June 2003; and if he will make a statement. [237612]

**Mr. Hutton:** Following recent operations by Iraqi and Coalition Security Forces in Maysaan Province an individual has been detained in connection with the investigation into the murder of six members of the Royal Military Police at Al Majar Al Kabir on 24 June 2003.

The UK Government remain absolutely committed to bringing to justice all those responsible for these horrific murders and will continue to provide assistance to the Iraqi authorities as required.

### Military Aircraft

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the annual cost of *(a)* maintaining and *(b)* operating (i) the VC10 and (ii) the Tristar fleet. [236725]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** A number of areas within the Department incur maintenance and operating expenditure on the RAF's VC10 and Tristar fleets. The financial information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. The figures provided in the following table are the estimated logistic support costs of Defence Equipment and Support that can be directly attributed to the two aircraft fleets in the current financial year.

*Financial year 2008-09*

| *Aircraft* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| VC10 | 83 |
| TriStar | 29 |

*Notes:*
1. DE and S staff costs are not included.
2. Costs have been rounded to the nearest million.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Merlin HM MK1 helicopters and *(b)* Nimrod MR2 aircraft are stationed in the UK. [237072]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Currently, within the effective fleets, there are 33 Merlin HM Mk 1 aircraft and 15 Nimrod MR2 aircraft stationed in the UK.

### Military Aircraft: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* target and *(b)* actual number of (i) BAE and (ii) RAF maintenance staff is at RAF Marham. [237066]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The number of RAF service personnel and BAE Systems personnel employed on forward and depth maintenance at RAF Marham are set out in the following table.

| | *Target* | *Actual* |
|---|---|---|
| BAE Systems personnel | 541 | 513 |
| RAF service personnel[1] | 1,890 | 1,727 |

[1] Actual figures include 20 RAF personnel on temporary detachment from RAF Coningsby.

### Military Bases: Helicopters

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects to announce decisions arising from Project Belvedere; [237373]

(2) what the latest estimate is of the costs of Project Belvedere; [237374]

(3) how many officials are working on Project Belvedere; and who is in charge of their work; [237375]

(4) what progress has been made on Project Belvedere; [237376]

(5) what estimate he has made of likely helicopter noise levels in the area surrounding whichever base is decided on under Project Belvedere; [237378]

(6) how many helicopters would move to the centralised base under Project Belvedere. [237380]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Belvedere Programme is a complex study considering a number of airfields for the future Joint Helicopter Command (JHC) Battlefield Helicopter force and results are not expected to be announced until late summer 2009 following which further work to assess costs and environmental impact for the recommended option will be completed. The recommended option will be put to Ministers for announcement to Parliament in the usual way.

I am unable to comment on cost estimates at present as the final costs of the programme will depend on the basing option selected and there are currently a range of options being considered. As a final option has not yet been selected no decision has been made on the numbers of bases required and nor, therefore, on the numbers of helicopters that are to be based on each.

An assessment of the potential changes in noise levels at existing and potential helicopter bases is being initiated by the project team. Their assessment will, in turn, closely inform the evaluation of options.

The Belvedere Team consists of a dedicated team of 12 military and civilian officials, headed by a senior civil servant under the direction of a three Star military officer as the senior responsible owner (SRO). The SRO in turn, works under the strategic direction of the Defence Operating Board.

### Navy: Detainees

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures Royal Navy personnel are instructed to follow in circumstances where they detain people who then claim asylum; and how many people have claimed asylum after being taken into Royal Navy custody since 2001. [237600]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Naval personnel are issued with guidance on the applicable law and principles relating to the handling of persons claiming asylum including criminal suspects. Commanding officers of RN ships are not empowered to decide on whether an individual is entitled to refugee status; that is a matter for the Home Office. As a matter of practice the RN, after taking advice from other Government Departments, facilitates the asylum seeker's disembarkation at the next safe port of call in order that the individual can pursue their claim.

There is no record of any individual claiming asylum since 2001, having been first detained on a RN ship.

### Navy: Piracy

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many incidents involving pirates the Royal Navy has been involved with in each of the last three months. [237810]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The number of pirate related incidents in each of the last three months which have involved the Royal Navy are:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| August | 0 |
| September | 1 |
| October | 2 |
| November | [1]4 |

[1] Incidents so far

### Nuclear Weapons: Decommissioning

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to increase the skills available to his Department, its agencies and bodies for which he is responsible for the dismantling of redundant *(a)* nuclear warheads, *(b)* nuclear submarine reactors and *(c)* nuclear production sites. [237105]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** In common with the broader UK nuclear industry, the MOD recognises the long-term challenge of sustaining key nuclear skills. We are working closely with Cogent, the sector skills council that covers the nuclear industry, and with the industrial supply chain, including AWE plc. and Rolls-Royce Submarines as key suppliers on the Nuclear Weapon and Nuclear Propulsion programmes respectively. In addition, we liaise with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the Department of Energy to ensure a coherent and co-ordinated approach with the civil nuclear industry and the sharing of best practice.

Within the MOD, a firm baseline for current and future skills requirements has been established and actions are being taken to address shortages. For example, we have significantly increased graduate recruitment and post-graduate training in the nuclear area and we are implementing advanced modern apprenticeships at a number of UK locations.

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236892]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** One complaint of racial abuse has been raised by a civilian member of staff in the last 12 months, which is currently the subject of investigation.

### Somalia: Piracy

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pirates have been captured off the coast of Somalia by HMS Cumberland; where they are being held; under which legal framework; and if he will make a statement. [237194]

**Mr. Kevan Jones** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* On 11 November Royal Marines from HMS Cumberland interdicted a Yemeni flagged fishing vessel which had been seized by suspected pirates in the Gulf of Aden. Eight suspected Somali pirates were held on board the Yemeni vessel and a Somali skiff during the investigation. They were then transferred by Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel RFA Wave Knight to Kenyan authorities in Mombassa on 18 November. All Royal Navy counter-piracy operations are conducted in accordance with UK domestic and international law including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

### Tornado Aircraft: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Tornado GR4 aircraft are awaiting maintenance at RAF Marham. [237065]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The number of aircraft awaiting forward maintenance at RAF Marham can vary from hour to hour and this information could be obtained by manually checking the records of every individual aircraft, which would only incur disproportionate cost.

As at 14 November 2008, 14 Tornado GR4 aircraft are awaiting depth maintenance at RAF Marham.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* contractually determined monthly throughput rate is of Tornado GR4s undergoing maintenance at RAF Marham and *(b)* the actual throughput rate for each of the last 12 months. [237067]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** There is no contractually determined monthly throughput of Tornado GR4 aircraft undergoing depth maintenance at RAF Marham. Each Tornado GR4 aircraft undergoes depth maintenance after approximately 820 flying hours.

BAE Systems is responsible for providing aircraft into the Forward Available Fleet with an aggregate number of flying hours that is sufficient to meet the task agreed with the Front Line Command. The aggregate figure is known as the Bank of Flying Hours and its number reduces through RAF usage and is restored by aircraft completing depth maintenance. The flying hours available have been sufficient to meet deployed operational requirements.

### Trident

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions during the initial gate period for the Trident submarine replacement programme he plans to produce a progress report to Parliament. [237103]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** In accordance with the usual practice on major procurement projects, the first full progress report on the programme to maintain the UK's nuclear deterrent will be made after the Initial Gate for the new class of submarines. We expect to publish this report in autumn 2009. There are no plans as yet to provide an interim report.

### USA: Nuclear Power

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many persons are seconded from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Atomic Weapons Establishment to United States Nuclear Research and Development establishments under the provisions of the 1958 UK-US Agreement for co-operation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defence purposes. [236867]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Numbers of United Kingdom personnel stationed in the United States under the auspices of the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement vary in line with operational and other requirements. Currently there are no Ministry of Defence personnel and four personnel from the Atomic Weapons Establishment on secondment to the United States Nuclear Research and Development establishments under the provisions of the Mutual Defence Agreement.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Bees: Disease Control

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from the British Beekeepers' Association on levels of funding for protection of bee health. [234590]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Department has received a number of representations from the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA) and its members. The Secretary of State met with the president of the association on the 7 October to discuss a number of honey bee issues, including levels of funding. I have recently received a petition from the BBKA on the same subject.

I also met recently with representatives from the Honey Association and the Bee Farmers Association to discuss their concerns regarding bee health.

### Embassies: Waste Management

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 644W, on embassies: waste management, and of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 636W, on waste disposal: domestic waste, whether the new charges for the collection of household waste will apply to foreign embassies which are composite hereditaments and domestic properties which are solely occupied by diplomats or will they be exempt under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. [235051]

**Jane Kennedy:** Participation in a waste incentives scheme by diplomatic and consular agents would be on a voluntary basis.

### Gypsum

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to promote the recycling of waste gypsum. [236373]

**Jane Kennedy:** Since 2005, DEFRA has promoted and developed the recycling of waste gypsum—in the form of waste plasterboard—through the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP).

WRAP's initiatives have helped all related industry sectors to contribute to diverting plasterboard waste from landfill, through waste reduction, reuse and recycling. These initiatives include:

Producing guidance for the construction sector on how to reduce plasterboard wastage through careful design and installation, and how to collect waste plasterboard so it can be recycled effectively;

Direct financial support for capital investment, which has increased plasterboard recycling capacity in the UK by more than 50,000 tonnes;

Increasing quality in the plasterboard recycling sector. This is being enabled through the publication (through the British Standards Institution) of a Publicly Available Specification (PAS109) which provides a standard for the production of recycled gypsum from waste plasterboard. This document supports work being undertaken jointly by WRAP and the Environment Agency to produce a quality protocol for this material, the effect of which will be to reduce the regulatory burden on the industry sectors, by regarding quality assured recycled gypsum as having ceased to be a waste;

Developing end use markets for recycled gypsum through research and trials, providing a demand pull for increasing plasterboard recycling; and

Facilitating a voluntary agreement—the Ashdown Agreement—with the UK plasterboard manufacturers, under which they have made a commitment to increase the quantity of waste plasterboard recycled back into new plasterboard. This voluntary agreement is being extended to other sectors of the gypsum chain.

### Severn Barrage: Nature Conservation

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* species of flora and fauna which would be affected by the construction of a Severn Barrage and *(b)* effect on biodiversity in and around the Severn Estuary of such construction. [235337]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I have been asked to reply.

On *(a)* the cross-Government Severn Tidal Power feasibility study has commissioned a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and assessing impacts on flora and fauna is an integral part of this process. To date, with the SEA still in the Phase 1 scoping stage, topic papers have been prepared to inform the assessment of impacts on 16 diverse topics, many of which concern flora and fauna including Fish and Fisheries, Ornithology, Marine ecology and Terrestrial and Freshwater ecology. These topic papers have identified further studies which would be required were the study to proceed to Phase 2, following a ministerial review, to enable the assessment of likely affects on flora and fauna to be made by the SEA.

On *(b)* possible effects on biodiversity in and around the Severn Estuary form an integral part of the topic papers as outlined. As well as the Severn Estuary itself, a range of sites with nature conservation designations connect with, or lie in the vicinity of, the Severn Estuary including the Rivers Usk and Wye, and have the potential to be affected by the development of any tidal power option in the Severn Estuary. The formal process of assessment, required under the Habitats Regulations, has commenced with a preliminary screening of sites designated at the European level with the potential to be affected. In addition consideration will be made of nationally designated sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and local Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species.

If the feasibility study continues, the proposed scope of the SEA will be published for public consultation early in the new year, together with the topic papers.

### Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 401W, on waste disposal: council tax, (1) whether domestic properties with a *(a)* Class M and *(b)* Class N council tax exemption will be liable to pay the new charges for the collection of household waste being trialled in the waste incentive pilot areas; [235852]

(2) whether domestic properties with a Class V council tax exemption will be liable to pay the new charges for the collection of household waste being trialled in the waste incentive pilot areas. [235853]

**Jane Kennedy:** Pilot authorities will determine which households they wish a waste reduction scheme to cover.

Participation in a waste incentives scheme by diplomatic and consular agents would be on a voluntary basis.

## WALES

### Welsh Language: Railways

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Department for Transport, Virgin Trains and Great Western Trains regarding the use of the Welsh language in respect of rail services provided *(a)* in Wales and *(b)* across the border. [237846]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** None.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Electoral Register

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the Electoral Commission's latest estimate is of the number of eligible people who are not on the electoral register. [236726]

**Sir Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that its 2005 report, Understanding Electoral Registration, contains the most recent national estimate for non-registration for England and Wales. The percentage of the eligible household population not on the register at 15 October 2000 was estimated to be between 8 per cent. and 9 per cent., which was equivalent to approximately 3.5 million people.

The Commission further informs me that the most recent estimate for the number of eligible people aged 18 or older not on the Northern Ireland register was 15.5 per cent., which was equivalent to approximately 200,000 people. This estimate is drawn from the December 2007 Northern Ireland register and was published in the Commission's 2008 report Electoral Registration in Northern Ireland.

Both reports are available on the Commission's website.

### Political Parties: Finance

**Peter Luff:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 83W, on political parties: finance, when the Commission proposes to introduce any new requirements. [236233]

**Sir Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that its consultation closed on 3 October 2008. The majority of respondents welcomed the Commission's proposals to introduce a standard format for the submission of accounts, but a number of concerns were raised about the proposed timetable for implementation.

The Commission further informs me that it has considered these concerns carefully and has discussed them with some respondents to the consultation. As a result, the Commission has decided to continue to develop draft new standard requirements and guidance materials in discussion with the political parties, but will not now seek to make the new standard approach mandatory for accounts covering the financial year 2009.

The Commission anticipates that the new approach will become mandatory for accounts relating to the financial year 2010.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Members: Allowances

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission on what date the Commission expects to publish information relating to hon. Members' expenses following the judgment of the divisional court on 16 May 2008; and if he will make a statement. [237602]

**Nick Harvey:** Work is in train to prepare information relating to Members' expenses for publication. The House will be informed when a date for publication is known.

## TRANSPORT

### A40: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the *(a)* initial budget and *(b)* cost outturn was for the Highways Agency roadworks on the A40 at Over, Gloucestershire; [237594]

(2) what the reasons are for the delays in the completion of works to the A40 between Highnam and Over. [237595]

**Paul Clark:** The initial budget for the A40 scheme at Over was £10.8 million. The scheme is not yet complete, so it is too early to provide an outturn cost prior to the agreement of final accounts with all suppliers.

The scheme incorporates carriageway reconstruction, improved drainage, refurbishment of Over bridge, replacement of street lighting, upgrading of traffic signals, the renewal of safety fencing and construction of a bus lane in collaboration with Gloucestershire county council. Although this has made for a complex scheme, the Highways Agency consider it is essential to run these works together to avoid the need for unscheduled closures in the future.

The construction works commenced in May 2008 and were programmed to benefit from summer weather. Unfortunately the summer proved to be wetter than anticipated and this, together with the discovery of poorer ground conditions than anticipated, uncharted utilities equipment, and additional repairs to the Over bridge deck, has contributed to an extended programme.

### Aviation: Greater London

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* flights and *(b)* low-flying flights to (i) Heathrow and (ii) London City airports there were in (A) 1997 and (B) at the latest date for which figures are available. [236784]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The following table shows the number of flights to Heathrow and London City airports in 1997 and 2007.

*Flights to Heathrow and London City*

*Thousand*

| | *1997* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|
| Heathrow | 215 | 238 |
| London City | 16 | 39 |

*Source:*
DfT analysis of Civil Aviation Authority data

The Department does not have data on low-flying flights.

### Aviation: Noise

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the meaning is of the ferm bear down used in the Air Transport White Paper 2003 in relation to aircraft noise; and what the policy of bearing down on aircraft noise entails in relation to aircraft noise *(a)* across the UK and *(b)* in the vicinity of each UK airport. [237300]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 19 November 2008]:* The 2003 The Future of Air Transport White Paper recognised that noise from aircraft operations at night was widely regarded as the least acceptable aspect of aircraft operations and gave a commitment to bear down on night noise accordingly. However the White Paper stated that a fair balance needed to be struck between local disturbance, the limits of social acceptability and the economic benefits of night flights. This should be done on a case-by-case basis.

The policy to bear down on night noise was expressed in general terms as were the other broad aims for night restrictions including

"to strike a fair balance between the protection of local communities from excessive aircraft noise levels at night and the provision of air services at night where they are of benefit of the national regional or local economy."

The Government consider the term to be self explanatory. As part of the recent court action brought by the London boroughs of Wandsworth and Richmond, the claimants argued that the 2006 night restrictions regime did not bear down on noise. The judge found against this argument.

Outside the three London designated airports where the Secretary of State has direct responsibility for noise abatement measures, the Government consider that local issues such as any noise impacts of a regional airport's operations are best discussed locally. This recognises the wide variation in operational circumstances at individual UK airports. Accordingly airport operators are expected to consult locally to help achieve a reasonable balance between the local environmental impacts, the limits of social acceptability and the economic benefits of the flights.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Government's policy is on reducing aircraft noise from *(a)* day and *(b)* night and early morning flights to and from Heathrow airport. [237301]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 19 November 2008]:* The 2003 The Future of Air Transport White Paper set out the Government's basic aim to limit and, where possible, reduce the number of people in the UK significantly affected by aircraft noise.

Heathrow airport is designated under section 80 for the purposes of section 78 of the 1982 Civil Aviation Act. This means that the Secretary of State has direct responsibility for noise abatement measures at the airport. Current measures include noise limits, noise preferential routes, monitoring of aircraft noise and track keeping, and powers for the airport to charge by reference to noise. The airport also operates a number of operational procedures to mitigate against aircraft noise such as runway alternation.

As regards night flights, the Government recognise that noise from aircraft operations at night is widely regarded as the least acceptable aspect of aircraft operations and gave a commitment to bear down on night noise accordingly. However the White Paper stated that a fair balance needed to be struck between local disturbance, the limits of social acceptability and the economic benefits of night flights. This should be done on a case-by-case basis.

Accordingly there have been restrictions on the operation of night flights at Heathrow for many years. The current restrictions, which took effect from October 2006, recognise both a night period, (2300-0700 hours), and a night quota period, (2330-0600) hours. During the whole of the night period, the noisiest types of aircraft (classified as QC/8 or QC/16) may not be scheduled to land or to take off and they are effectively banned from doing so (other than in the most exceptional circumstances) in the night quota period. The next noisiest types (QC/4) may also no longer be scheduled to operate in the night quota period. In addition, during the night quota period movements by most other types of aircraft (including the new QC/0.25 category) will be restricted by a movements limit and a noise quota, which are set for each season. The seasons change with the clocks.

The current restrictions take account of environmental objectives and specific noise abatement objectives for Heathrow. These objectives were set out in the Night Flying Restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted decision document of 6 June 2006 which announced the night noise arrangements for Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports from October 2006 to October 2012.

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the national bus concessionary fares scheme on community rail partnerships. [237779]

**Paul Clark:** At present the Department for Transport has not conducted any research into the effect of the national concession on community rail partnerships. Local authorities have the discretion to offer concessionary travel enhancements to other modes, including community rail, based on their assessment of local needs and circumstances, and many choose to do so. The Department has no immediate plans to extend the coverage of statutory concessions to community rail.

### Departmental Postal Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department uses the Royal Mail as the primary company for sending its post, parcels and packages. [238121]

**Mr. Hoon:** The Department for Transport uses the Royal Mail as the primary company for sending its post, parcels and packages.

### Departmental Public Transport

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of his Department's staff use public transport to travel to and from work. [237618]

**Mr. Hoon:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Telephone Services

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has received from the use of revenue sharing phone numbers in each of the last five years. [236192]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has received the following amounts from its use of revenue sharing phone numbers for each of the last five years.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 3,381,649 |
| 2006-07 | 2,894,284 |
| 2005-06 | 2,423,517 |
| 2004-05 | 1,945,131 |
| 2003-04 | 874,965 |

The aforementioned figures include revenue from premium rate services provided for business rather than the public, as well as revenue from use of 0870 numbers.

DVLA are committed to following OFCOM advice on moving from 0870 numbers to 0300 numbers. This process is already under way but cannot be completed until OFCOM publishes its new guidance on the issue.

### Driving Tests: Gravesham

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will estimate the additional average cost to learner drivers from Gravesham if the Gravesend Driving Test Centre is closed and they are subsequently required to travel to the location of an alternative test centre to practise and to take the test; and if he will make a statement; [236312]

(2) on what basis current and forecasted *(a)* population density, *(b)* traffic congestion and *(c)* journey time statistics were used to assess the viability of the Gravesend Driving Test Centre and alternative centres for learner drivers from Gravesham. [236313]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** When considering relocating driving test centres DSA has regard to the resulting travelling distances, rather than traffic congestion or journey times. DSA's service distance criteria for practical car test candidates are:

| *Population density* | *Distance criteria* |
|---|---|
| >=1250 km$^2$ | No more than seven miles |
| 101-1249 km$^2$ | No more than 20 miles |
| 0-100 km$^2$ | No more than 30 miles |

The distance appropriate to the Gravesend area is 20 miles. The nearest alternatives are at Erith and Gillingham. These centres are within the 20 miles standard and have the capacity to absorb the extra demand without compromising the waiting time service target.

The closure of Gravesend Driving Test Centre should not significantly increase costs to learner drivers. Learner drivers need to practise on a variety of different roads, and should not focus on driving test routes at their chosen centre.

### Heathrow Airport: Construction

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effect of a third runway at Heathrow Airport on the UK's ability to meet EU nitrogen oxide targets. [235010]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Our assessment of the nitrogen dioxide ($NO_2$) impacts of adding a third runway was set out in the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation last November and the supporting technical reports published at the same time.

### Heathrow Airport: Public Transport

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish targets he has agreed with BAA for increasing the proportion of passengers arriving at and departing from Heathrow via public transport. [237957]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** It is our policy, as stated in the 2003 Air Transport White Paper, that airport operators should share our objective to increase the proportion of air passengers accessing airports by public transport; and that airport surface access strategies should include targets to this end. They do not require Department for Transport approval.

### Lorries: Safety

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will undertake research to evaluate the merits of mandatory fitting of Fresnel lens mirrors on *(a)* British and *(b)* foreign heavy goods vehicles. [237696]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We are already carrying out research to identify what more can usefully be done to improve vision for drivers of heavy goods vehicles. Once this work is completed we will be making detailed proposals for further improvements. However, we cannot take action unilaterally for British or foreign heavy goods vehicles because mandatory vehicle safety standards are drawn up and agreed at international level.

### National Contingency Plan

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will discuss with Ministerial colleagues the merits of amending the National Contingency Plan to incorporate cargo-related incidents; [237741]

(2) if he will make it his policy to introduce a comprehensive legislative framework to govern the recovery of cargo involved in shipping incidents in British waters. [237763]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I do not envisage introducing further legislative measures to address the recovery of cargo involved in shipping incidents in UK waters, because the merchant shipping legislation already contains a very broad range of provisions covering maritime safety and prevention of pollution. However, the practical aspects of dealing with cargo from a casualty could indeed be considered in the course of the next review of

the National Contingency Plan. Indeed, Recommendation R.3 of the recent report from this Department's Maritime and Coastguard Agency entitled "MSC Napoli Incident: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency's Response" already includes text which proposes that, during the next review of the National Contingency Plan, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency

"could also cover mechanisms for dealing with beached material other than oil and chemicals".

### Railways: Welsh Language

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with First Great Western Trains and Virgin Trains on the use of the Welsh language in respect of *(a)* rail services provided in Wales and *(b)* cross-border rail services. [237845]

**Paul Clark:** The Secretary of State has had no discussions with First Great Western or Virgin Trains on the use of the Welsh language.

### Rolling Stock

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what his Department's policy is on the involvement of rolling stock companies in the procurement and funding of new trains; [237925]

(2) what his Department's policy is on future private investment in the procurement and funding of new trains. [237926]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport's policy was most recently set out in the rolling stock plan published in January 2008, available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/rollingstock/rollingstockplan

### Thames Gateway Crossing

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what financial contribution his Department plans to make to the Thames Gateway road crossing in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15. [234336]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Transport for London Business Plan confirmed that the Mayor has now decided not to pursue the Thames Gateway Bridge project in the form submitted to the recent public inquiry. On that basis, the Department for Transport is expecting formal notification that the £350 million of PFI credits, offered by the Government to support the scheme, will not now be required. A decision on funding any alternative will, of course, be subject to the Mayor's decision as to what, if anything, should take the scheme's place.

## TREASURY

### Bank Services

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of depositors in Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man) who were unable to bank in the UK because of overseas residence. [233632]

**Ian Pearson:** No such estimate has been made.

### Bank Services: Charities

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report,* columns 1094-5W, on bank services, if he will put in place arrangements to support charities not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. [237716]

**Ian Pearson:** If a charity is eligible to claim compensation from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, it will be entitled to benefit from these arrangements. Charities which are ineligible for FSCS compensation will be creditors of the failed banks in the normal way. Tailored guidance for charities is available on the Charity Commission's website at:

www.charitycommission.gov.uk.

### Cash Dispensing

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 17 July 2008, *Official Report,* columns 37-38WS, on free cash machines (low-income areas), how many sites for the 600 proposed free automatic teller machines have now been identified. [237562]

**Ian Pearson:** As stated by the former Economic Secretary to the Treasury on 17 July 2008, the Government will issue a final statement on progress towards meeting the recommendations of the ATM Working Group, including the number of agreed sites, in December 2008.

### Child Trust Fund: Wales

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Child Trust Fund take-up rates were for *(a)* each constituency in Wales and *(b)* each ward in the Cardiff South and Penarth constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [238127]

**Ian Pearson:** The latest constituency data on Child Trust Fund accounts was published on 6 November 2008 and can be viewed on HM Revenue and Customs website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf.

Statistics by wards are not available.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work and *(b)* provide assistance to his Department. [237150]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 6 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 680W.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many page hits from how many visitors his Department's website received in 2007-08. [237151]

**Angela Eagle:** In 2007-08 18,686,268 pages were viewed by 3,174,007 visitors to:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of maintaining his Department's website was in 2007-08; and what the forecast costs for maintaining websites within his responsibility are for the 2008-09 financial year. [237152]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1312W, on website costs.

The forecast costs for maintaining websites within the Chancellor's responsibility in 2008-09 are as follows:

| *Website address* | *Forecast costs 2008-09 (£)* |
|---|---|
| www.hm-treasury.gov.uk | 185,193 |
| www.thegfp.treasury.gov.uk | 0 |
| www.isb.gov.uk | 9,750 |
| www.stakeholdersavings.gov.uk | 1 |
| www.ges.gov.uk | 0 |

[1] Unavailable

Until November the following sites were hosted on a shared server at a forecasted cost of £9,289. In November the sites were transferred to the servers which host the main website and costs are absorbed by the main site. The following table shows any additional forecast maintenance costs:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| www.gsr.gov.uk | |
| www.euro.gov.uk | 7,650 |
| www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk | |
| www.financial-reporting.gov.uk | |

Maintenance costs includes direct costs, for example web hosting, support, and infrastructure.

Staff costs are not included in the forecast as they could be established only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Liability

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what dates in each of the last five years his Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to his Department or its non-departmental public bodies. [232722]

**Angela Eagle:** Details of contingent liabilities and related Treasury Minutes can be found in the Contingent Assets and Liabilities note to the relevant years' Resource Accounts. Copies of the Treasury's Resource Accounts are available from:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
resource_accounting_and_budgeting_about_us.htm

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236934]

**Angela Eagle:** HM Treasury does not sponsor any non-departmental public bodies.

The remit and projected budgets for the organisations that make up the Treasury Group can be found in the Treasury's Annual Report: 2007-08. Copies of the Annual Report can be found on the Treasury's website and in Parliament's Library.

### Members: Correspondence

**John Penrose:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letters of 31 July and 8 September 2008 from the hon. Member for Weston-super-Mare on behalf of his constituent, Alex Layard. [237919]

**Mr. Timms:** I have replied to the hon. Member.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1988W, on empty property: regeneration, whether his Department has received representations from urban regeneration companies on the effect of increases in empty property business rates since that Answer was given. [235106]

**Angela Eagle:** Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such representations.

### Revenue and Customs: Databases

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 103-4W, on Revenue and Customs: databases, what personal details are held on the central frameworks database. [237508]

**Mr. Timms:** Personal attributes held for individuals are:

NINO-national insurance number;
Surname
First Name;
Second Forename;
Initials;
Title;
Honours;
Sex;
Date of Birth;
Date of Death;
Address.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 103-4W, on Revenue and Customs: databases, what guidelines there are on *(a)* the addition of an individual's personal details to and *(b)* the confidentiality of records held on the central frameworks database. [237509]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs is statutorily obliged to safeguard personal information and all staff have a responsibility for data security, with a view to ensuring that personal details are only made available to those legally entitled to them.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 103-4W, on Revenue and Customs: databases, what estimate his Department has made of the annual cost of maintaining the central frameworks database. [237510]

**Mr. Timms:** The service charges for the 2007-08 financial year were £7.5 million.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 103-4W, on Revenue and Customs: databases, what the definition is of a business need required to allow staff access to the Taxpayer Business Service. [237511]

**Mr. Timms:** In the context of the Taxpayer Business Service, a business need is defined as a purpose which is connected solely, and wholly, to matters for which H.M. Revenue and Customs has statutory responsibility.

### Revenue and Customs: South West

**Andrew George:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the proposed closure of the Penzance HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office upon *(a)* net average incomes in the area, *(b)* HMRC's services to the public, *(c)* the cost of accommodation in the area, *(d)* HMRC relocation costs and expenses and *(e)* the local economy; and what other effects his Department has assessed. [237089]

**Mr. Timms:** HMRC has reviewed all its accommodation to align it to future business requirements, and thereby create efficiency savings and reduce overall accommodation costs. It has proposed closing the Penzance office because, with the exception of the inquiry centre offering face to face advice to HMRC customers, the business units which are currently represented there can operate more efficiently by consolidating in fewer locations. No final decision has yet been taken on the future of the Penzance office.

If the office were to close, HMRC expects most staff to relocate to another office within reasonable daily travel. They would be given help with any additional travelling expenses. There would thus be little effect either on net average incomes or on the local economy.

Whatever the decision on the future of the Penzance office, HMRC services to the public will be unaffected as the inquiry centre services will remain in Penzance and will be staffed according to customer demand.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the 21 HM Revenue and Customs offices in the Government office of the South West region which are to be closed or substantially closed under the Workforce Change proposals are *(a)* leased from Mapeley, *(b)* leased from another landlord and *(c)* owned by the Government; how many years remain on the lease of each relevant office; what costs or penalties will be incurred for bringing the lease to an early termination in each relevant case; and what assessment he has made of whether each such office is capable of being used for another purpose for the duration of the lease. [237090]

**Mr. Timms:** Of the 21 HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) offices identified for possible full or part closure by the Workforce Change proposals:

*(a)* 17 are included in its strategic transfer of the estate to the private sector (STEPS) contract with its estate partner, Mapeley;

*(b)* no offices are leased from another landlord; and

*(c)* four are locations where HMRC occupies space by arrangement with other Government Departments.

HMRC occupies the properties under the terms of the STEPS contract rather than by the terms of a traditional lease. This contract expires on 31 March 2021, but HMRC will be able to continue to occupy beyond this date and also has flexibility within the contract to vacate properties prior to this expiry date.

If, as it intends, HMRC makes use of the contract's flexibility allowances to vacate properties, its liability under the terms of the contract will terminate in line with its vacation. With that level of flexibility to exploit in the contract, there is no requirement to consider alternative purposes.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely *(a)* cost and *(b)* savings associated with contracts for the lease of office premises resulting from the HM Revenue and Customs Workforce Change proposals for the Government Office of the South West. [237093]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) work force change proposals for the south-west relate to office premises that are either held by inter-departmental (non-lease) arrangements with other Departments or are held under its 20-year STEPS (strategic transfer of the estate to the private sector) contract with its estates partner, Mapeley, which commenced in 2001. Instead of contracts for lease for these premises, HMRC occupies space under the terms of this contract. The STEPS contract provides HMRC with the flexibility to reduce a proportion of its estates holding without penalty subject to a notice period (usually 12 months). HMRC intends to fully utilise this flexibility to achieve office vacations at nil cost where possible to support the work force change proposals. An assessment of whether possible exit costs may be incurred, whether in the south-west or elsewhere, is dependent on the timing of the specific vacation and will be considered as part of HMRC's wider UK proposals as decisions are taken to vacate properties.

In the event that the proposals for the south-west are implemented, HMRC estimates that the resultant estates running costs savings would be approximately £3,991,000 per annum.

## HEALTH

### Asbestos: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people required treatment for asbestos-related conditions in Tamworth constituency in each year since 1997. [237325]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Departmental Internet

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for which Government websites his Department is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [235032]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has ownership of two main websites. They are:

*1. Department of Health website:*

www.dh.gov.uk

*2. NHS Choices:*

www.nhs.uk

*Number of unique visitors: April 2007 to March 2008*

Department of Health website: 10,445,831

NHS Choices: 11,766,137

*Costs of maintaining these two sites: April 2007 to March 2008*

Department of Health website: £1.169 million

NHS Choices: £5.13 million

The NHS Choices service, which incorporates the original www.nhs.uk site, was launched in June 2007. NHS Choices is a new service for communicating with citizens and stakeholders in healthcare, health improvement and social care, the public and the media.

The Department has signed a contract with Capita plc to drive forward the NHS Choices service for the next three years. This investment demonstrates the Department of Health's commitment to secure the ongoing delivery and development of NHS/Department of Health digital services to the public. This contract is valued at £60 million-£80 million for the three years.

NHS Choices has increased rapidly since its introduction, with recorded visits in excess of three million for October 2008.

In addition to the two main websites above, the Department currently funds and/or manages a further 99 websites.

The Department is actively engaged in reducing this number of websites, in accordance with the guidelines and timescales set for website rationalisation under Transformational Government. By the end of this project in 2011, all 99 websites will have been closed.

To gather visitor figures and maintenance costs for these 99 would incur disproportionate costs.

### Diabetes: Hampshire

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* type 1 and *(b)* type 2 diabetes have been diagnosed in people of each age group in each primary care trust area in Hampshire in each of the last five years. [237225]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not collected in the format requested. Information is available from 2004-05 from the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) about patients who are on diabetes disease registers, which is not the same as the number of people diagnosed with diabetes each year. This information does not distinguish between type 1 and type 2 diabetes, nor is it separated into different age groups.

The following table shows the number of patients aged 17 and over who were on diabetes disease registers in primary care trusts (PCTs) in Hampshire from 2004-05 to 2007-08.

*Number of patients on diabetes disease registers in Hampshire PCTs*

| *PCT name* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT | 5,204 | 5,606 | n/a | n/a |
| East Hampshire PCT | 7,465 | 7,864 | n/a | n/a |
| Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT | 4,398 | 4,669 | n/a | n/a |
| Fareham and Gosport PCT | 6,581 | 6,900 | n/a | n/a |
| Mid-Hampshire PCT | 4,807 | 4,956 | n/a | n/a |
| New Forest PCT | 5,920 | 6,387 | n/a | n/a |
| North Hampshire PCT | 6,119 | 6,567 | n/a | n/a |
| Hampshire PCT | n/a | n/a | 43,758 | 46,491 |

n/a = Not applicable.

*Notes:*

1. Hampshire PCT was created on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT, East Hampshire PCT, Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT, Fareham and Gosport PCT, Mid-Hampshire PCT, New Forest PCT and North Hampshire PCT.
2. Patients will contribute to the QOF figures only if they are registered with a general practice participating in the QOF.
3. QOF data is collected annually and includes only people with diabetes aged 17 and over.
4. Figures are not available broken down into type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

*Source:*

Information Centre for health and social care

### Doctors: Training

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to provide doctors with training on communication with patients about the costs of different treatment approaches. [236837]

**Ann Keen:** In his report 'Improving access to medicines for NHS patients', a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, Professor Mike Richards recommended that doctors who are likely to have conversations with patients about unfunded treatments should ensure that they have the necessary communication skills to give patients the information they need on the risks, benefits and costs involved in any potential treatment. The Secretary of State has accepted this recommendation, and has asked Professor Richards to take this work forward as quickly as possible. Professor Richards has started this piece of work and is aiming for the training to be rolled out following the development and successful piloting and evaluation of a training 'module'.

### Drugs: Internet

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to prevent the sale of untested and illegal pharmaceutical drugs via the internet; and if he will make a statement; [237674]

(2) what correspondence his Department has received in support of an increase in penalties for individuals selling untested pharmaceuticals on the internet; and if he will make a statement. [237675]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) actively monitors the availability of medicines being offered online using specialist equipment and resources focused on identifying websites operating within the UK. Robust action is taken when illegal activity is detected.

Several initiatives are under way to communicate risks posed by online supply of medicines to consumers and potential customers, both by MHRA acting as regulator or in conjunction with relevant organisations such as the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

MHRA is not aware of any specific correspondence relating to increasing the penalties with regard to selling medicines via the internet. Penalties under medicines legislation extend to a maximum of two years imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine.

### General Practitioners: Cambridgeshire

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what savings were made by GP practices in the NHS Cambridgeshire area through the practice-based commission scheme in 2007-08; [235718]

(2) what the savings were of each GP practice under the practice-based commissioning scheme in the NHS Cambridgeshire (formerly Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust) area, ranked in order from the highest to the lowest level of savings. [236251]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect information centrally on the level of savings achieved at a local level by practice based commissioners.

### General Practitioners: Pharmacy

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to ensure that the availability of over-the-counter medicines from GP dispensing practices proposed in the Pharmacy White Paper does not affect the viability of community pharmacies in non-rural areas; [236486]

(2) what form the peer review audit of the Medicines Use Reviews (MURs) by primary care trusts proposed in the Pharmacy White Paper will take; and whether general practitioners will have a role in selecting patients for MURs. [236487]

**Phil Hope:** Consultation on a number of proposals for legislative and structural reform to national health service pharmaceutical services arising from the White Paper "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future" closed on 20 November 2008.

This included five options to permit the sale of over the counter medicines by general practitioner dispensing practices. We published our assessment of the impact of these proposals, including on other providers such as pharmacies, alongside that consultation. We are updating these assessments in the light of responses received. We will decide which, if any, option to pursue after full consideration.

The White Paper makes clear we are concerned that the provision of Medicines Use Review (MUR) services is currently geared to rewarding the volume of MURs undertaken. NHS primary care trusts are concerned that MUR services are not being targeted to local needs and patient priorities and that their quality is inconsistent. We believe it is necessary for MUR services to be prioritised to meet health needs. NHS Employers and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee is therefore discussing a mechanism for delivering this objective and ensuring funding rewards health outcomes. We hope general practitioners will support the local development of MUR services by advising on how best health needs can be targeted.

### Health Centres

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 83W, on health centres, what the potential risks of starting a new service are. [235605]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The potential risks are similar to those from starting any new primary care service including: variations in patient volumes, the contract value set at the wrong level and services are in the wrong place or do not meet the needs of local people. However, the process being used by primary care trusts to secure these new services provides an effective way to manage these risks.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 64W, on health centres, what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects on revenues of *(a)* an existing GP practice and *(b)* a new GP-led health centre in circumstances where a patient deregisters with the existing GP practice and reregisters at the GP-led health centre. [235723]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Where a patient chooses to leave their existing registered practice to register with a new General Practitioner (GP)-led health centre, the existing practice's registered population will decrease by one, and its global sum weighted capitation payment will reduce proportionately. The new GP-led health centre will be paid according to the contract with the primary care trust on the basis of an agreed local, equitable price per patient.

### Hospitals: Waiting Lists

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP referrals were made for *(a)* inpatient and *(b)* outpatient treatment in each of the last eight quarters. [237155]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect centrally the number of General Practitioner (GP) referrals made for in-patient treatment.

The total number of GP referrals for a first consultant out-patient appointment in the last eight quarters are shown in the following table.

*GP written referrals for first out-patient appointment (consultant-led), all specialties, England, provider based*

| *Quarter* | *GP Referrals Made* |
|---|---|
| September 2006 | 2,338,430 |
| December 2006 | 2,247,374 |
| March 2007 | 2,353,613 |
| June 2007 | 2,321,413 |
| September 2007 | 2,401,911 |

*GP written referrals for first out-patient appointment (consultant-led), all specialties, England, provider based*

| Quarter | GP Referrals Made |
|---|---|
| December 2007 | 2,375,984 |
| March 2008 | 2,539,721 |
| June 2008 | 2,740,616 |

*Source:*
Department of Health, QAR (Quarterly Activity Return)

### Hospitals: Yorkshire and Humber

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many delayed discharges there were from *(a)* the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, *(b)* York District Hospital and *(c)* Harrogate Hospital in the latest period for which figures are available. [237174]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not held centrally.

### Maternity Services

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 524W, on maternity services, what *(a)* standalone midwifery units and *(b)* midwifery units situated alongside consultant-led units there are in each region of England. [238541]

**Ann Keen:** The following table shows the number of standalone midwifery units and the number of midwife led units situated alongside consultant led units by strategic health authority (SHA).

| SHA | Standalone units | Units situated alongside consultant led units |
|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 3 | 1 |
| East of England | 5 | 3 |
| London | 2 | 7 |
| North East | 4 | 0 |
| North West | 4 | 3 |
| South Central | 10 | 4 |
| South East Coast | 3 | 0 |
| South West | 10 | 3 |
| West Midlands | 5 | 3 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 5 | 1 |
| Total | 57 | 25 |

*Source:*
Healthcare Commission's review of maternity services in England (January 2008).

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 524W, on maternity services, when the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts came into operation. [238542]

**Ann Keen:** The Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) came into operation on 1 March 1996. The scheme may only apply to claims made against member bodies where the incident took place on or after 1 April 1995. Further information about CNST can be obtained from the NHS Litigation Authority's website at:

www.nhsla.com

### Melanotan

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on the use of melanotan; and whether NICE is undertaking any work in relation to melanotan. [237651]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We have not had any discussions with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on the use of melanotan and NICE is not undertaking any work in relation to this drug.

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with regulators on the safety of Melanotan. [237675]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Medicinal products are regulated by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), part of the Department of Health. The MHRA considers that the unlicensed, injectible products Melanotan I and II fall within the definition of a medicinal product. Unlicensed medicinal products may not be advertised or placed on the market. As the Melanotan products are not licensed, the MHRA has no data to show that they are safe or of good quality.

### Mental Health Services: Hospital Beds

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mental health beds are in *(a)* single rooms and *(b)* mixed areas. [237611]

**Ann Keen:** At 31 March 2008, the number of single bedded rooms in mental health trusts was 17,894 and the number of beds not in single rooms was 5,454. These figures do not include mental health beds provided by other trusts.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of providing all mental health unit beds in single sex accommodation. [237167]

**Ann Keen:** The Department estimated the cost of achieving 100 per cent. single bedrooms in mental health trusts and community with mental health trusts as being £3.9 billion at current prices earlier this year.

### NHS Direct: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the Enfield Primary Care Trust area have consulted NHS Direct in each year since 2000. [235405]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

*Calls to NHS Direct 0845 line from the Enfield PCT area*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 6,642 |
| 2002 | 11,245 |
| 2003 | 12,290 |
| 2004 | 12,493 |
| 2005 | 12,077 |
| 2006 | 22,813 |
| 2007 | 22,444 |

Data are available only from 2001 onwards.

## NHS: ICT

**Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 444W, on medical records: data protection, when the Information Commissioner made the statement on new NHS systems referred to in the answer; and if he will publish in full the document containing the statement. [236519]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The views attributed to the Information Commissioner in the answer are taken from two sources. The first is the second paragraph of the Information Commissioner's response to the consultation, launched in October 2002, on the Department's 'Information for Life' confidentiality proposals. The other is a statement the Commissioner made in a document he published in January 2007 in the wake of inquiries he had received from people who had seen articles in the media relating to the introduction of electronic care records. The consultation response has been placed in the Library. The published statement is available from the Information Commissioner's Office website at:

http://www.ico.gov.uk/about_us/news_and_views/current_topics/NHS_electronic_care_records.aspx

## NHS: Negligence

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid out by the NHS in compensation to patients in each of the last three years; and how much has been paid out in legal costs in connection with medical negligence compensation cases by each English hospital trust outside London in each of those years. [236774]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested has been placed in the Library. The information was obtained from the NHS Litigation Authority.

## NHS: Standardisation

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS organisations are members of GS1. [237036]

**Ann Keen:** On 18 November 2008, there were 164 registrations of national health service organisations in England with GS1. In most cases these are for individual hospital sites, and in some cases individual departments within hospitals, as the number of items requiring coding in some large departments warrants an individual registration.

Of these 164, 59 are actively using coding at the present time. The remainder are developing implementation plans.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* medicines and *(b)* medical supplies to the NHS are being supplied with GS1 standardised barcodes. [237037]

**Ann Keen:** These figures are not held centrally.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many automated dispensing systems are in place in the NHS. [237038]

**Ann Keen:** The purchase of automated dispensing systems is an investment decision for local national health service organisations, and definitive figures are not held centrally. As of March 2008, the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency was aware of approximately 75 automated dispensing systems in hospital pharmacy departments across the United Kingdom, of which seven are in Wales, and the remainder in England.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients involved in safety incidents in NHS organisations which *(a)* are and *(b)* are not members of GS1. [237039]

**Ann Keen:** The most recently published data from the National Patient Safety Agency's (NS reporting and learning system (RLS) indicate that during the period April to June 2008, 276,839 incidents were submitted to the RLS from 377 national health service organisations in England and Wales. This information has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NPSA's website at: www.npsa.nhs.uk/nrls/patient-safety-incident-data/quarterly-data-reports. Analysis to compare the numbers of incidents in organisations that are and are not registered with GS1 is not available currently.

## North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust: Doctors

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors per 100,000 residents there were in the area covered by the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust in each year between 1997 and 2007. [237119]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows all doctors[1] by specified organisations[2] as at 30 September 2002-07.

*General and personal medical services and hospital and community health services (HCHS)*

| | | *Total specified organisations* | *North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT)* | *Selby and York PCT* | *Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT* | *Craven, Harrogate and Rural District PCT* | *Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | All doctors | 671 | n/a | 237 | 128 | 180 | 126 |
| | per 100,000 population | 88.8 | n/a | 86.6 | 107.6 | 87.5 | 80 |
| 2003 | All doctors | 704 | n/a | 246 | 137 | 191 | 130 |
| | per 100,000 population | 92.7 | n/a | 89.7 | 113.8 | 92.5 | 82.3 |
| 2004 | All doctors | 741 | n/a | 267 | 139 | 205 | 130 |
| | per 100,000 population | 96.9 | n/a | 96.5 | 114.6 | 98.5 | 81.8 |
| 2005 | All doctors | 762 | n/a | 284 | 135 | 204 | 139 |
| | per 100,000 population | 99.1 | n/a | 101.6 | 111.9 | 97.3 | 87.5 |
| 2006 | All doctors | 761 | 761 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | per 100,000 population | 97.1 | 97.1 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2007 | All doctors | 795 | 100.8 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | per 100,000 population | 795 | 100.8 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

[1] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are general practitioners working part time in hospitals
[2] These figures exclude HCHS Doctors that work in Hospital Trusts within the area

*Notes:*
1. Prior to 2002 PCTs did not exist. Therefore it is not possible to map the trusts contained within the table back any further than this with any degree of accuracy.
2. North Yorkshire and York PCT was created on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of Craven, Harrogate and Rural District PCT, Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT, Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT and Selby and York PCT.
3. Data quality: Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service trusts and PCTs in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

*Sources:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics
Office of National Statistics mid year population estimates based on 2001

## North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust: Pay

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust on salaries and wages for *(a)* general and senior managers, *(b)* nurses and midwives and *(c)* administrative and clerical staff in each year since its creation. [237173]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected in the format requested.

Information on wage costs for North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT) staff is shown in the following table.

*£000*

| | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|
| Managers and Senior Managers | 11,709 | 10,442 |
| Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Staff | 56,930 | 54,628 |
| Administrative and Clerical Staff | 10,427 | 12,076 |

*Notes:*
1. North Yorkshire and York PCT was established on 1 October 2006 from four dissolving PCTs: Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT; Craven, Harrogate and Rural District PCT; Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT; and Selby and York PCT.
2. The 2006-07 figures include data for the four former PCTs for the first six months of the financial year plus North Yorkshire and York PCT for the second half of the year and may be distorted due to the merger. It is not possible to split the data between the former PCTs and North Yorkshire and York PCT.
3. Data are from the 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial returns for North Yorkshire and York PCT. These data are not audited but are validated to the audited financial monitoring and accounts forms.
4. Data include salaries and wages, social security costs and pension contributions. It is not possible to separately identify salaries and wages for these groups of staff.
5. Figures include permanently employed staff and non-national health service (NHS) staff (eg agency staff).

## Oral Health

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 826W, on employment of oral health specialists, what steps his Department is taking to implement the recommendations of the Choosing Better Oral Health report. [237131]

**Ann Keen:** In September 2007 we published 'Delivering Better Oral Health: An evidence-based toolkit for prevention' which contains guidance to dentists and members of dental teams care teams on oral health promotion, prevention of dental disease and advice to primary care trusts on commissioning these services. A copy of the publication has been placed in the Library. Earlier this year the Chief Dental Officer and colleagues contributed to three regional conferences on implementation of the toolkit. Our oral health promotion programme has also included reforming the legislation governing the fluoridation of water to give communities with high levels of dental disease a real option of having their water fluoridated. And we continue to promote the Brushing for Life scheme whereby health visitors and other health professionals give families with young children a free pack containing a tube of fluoridated toothpaste, a toothbrush and a leaflet on oral hygiene. To provide for appropriately trained staff to undertake these tasks we are conducting a review of dental public health capacity which addresses the requirement for consultants in dental public health and oral health improvement officers.

## Pharmacy: Winchester

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescription items have been dispensed *(a)* by dispensing doctors in Winchester and the Meon Valley and *(b)* in the community by community pharmacists, appliance contractors and dispensing doctors in Winchester and the Meon Valley in each of the last three years. [237671]

**Phil Hope:** Data are not collected in the format requested. The number of prescription items that have been dispensed in the community by community pharmacists, appliance contractors and by dispensing doctors is available for primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The figures are based on a one in 20 sample of prescriptions. It is not possible to separate the figures for community pharmacists and appliance contractors so the combined figure is given in each case. The figures provided are for the PCT which is the closest match to the Winchester and the Meon Valley, namely Hampshire PCT and its predecessor bodies[1].

[1] Hampshire PCT was created on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT, East Hampshire PCT, Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT, Fareham and Gosport PCT, Mid-Hampshire PCT, New Forest PCT and North Hampshire PCT.

| *Prescription items dispensed* | *2007* | *2006* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dispensing doctors | 1,113,870 | 1,275,236 | 1,348,538 |
| Community pharmacists, appliance contractors and dispensing doctors | 15,223,861 | 15,997,960 | 16,939,424 |

*Source:*
Prescription Cost Analysis data Exemption Category Estimates, Information Centre for health and social care.

## Phenylketonuria

**Sir Peter Viggers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of phenylketonuria have been diagnosed in the last 12 months; and how many of these have led to a grant of disability living allowance. [235574]

**Ann Keen:** Information on diagnosis is not available in the format requested. However, Hospital Episode Statistics show that in 2006-07 there were 15 finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis was classic phenylketonuria (PKU). These admissions do not represent the number of inpatients as a patient may have been admitted to hospital more than once. Nor do they represent instances where PKU may have been diagnosed in a primary care setting and the patient was not admitted to hospital for treatment.

The number of claims for a disability living allowance, following a diagnosis of PKU, is a matter for the Department for Work and Pensions.

## Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Young People

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of 16 to 25 year olds who have been screened for sexually transmitted infections in each strategic health authority area. [237077]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Data on the number of sexual health screens in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics by age group are not available centrally. The following table gives the total number of sexual health screens in GUM in 2007 (the latest date for which figures are available), in each strategic health authority (SHA).

In addition to GUM screens, the National Chlamydia Screening programme (NCSP) has been screening for chlamydia since 2003. The following table includes the number of 16 to 24-year-olds tested between 1 January and 30 September 2008, in each SHA.

| *SHA Name* | *Sexual health screens in GUM clinics* | *Total number of chlamydia tests by the NCSP* |
|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 70,268 | 18,019 |
| East of England | 94,113 | 23,960 |
| London | 294,568 | 64,854 |
| North East | 43,413 | 19,607 |
| North West | 128,787 | 70,145 |
| South Central | 75,534 | 27,042 |

| SHA Name | Sexual health screens in GUM clinics | Total number of chlamydia tests by the NCSP |
|---|---|---|
| South East Coast | 69,169 | 20,215 |
| South West | 81,406 | 37,361 |
| West Midlands | 78,528 | 34,019 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 87,015 | 43,923 |
| England | 1,022,801 | 359,145 |

*Notes:*
KC60 return
1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for screens and diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of sexual health screens conducted, not the number of patients screened. Individual patients may have had more than one screen throughout the year.
3. Data are by area of GUM clinic and not patients' area of residence.
4. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
5. Sexual health screens in GUM clinics include a test for chlamydia and gonorrhoea as a minimum. Testing for HIV and syphilis may also be included.
The National Chlamydia Screening Programme Core Dataset
6. The data from the NCSP core dataset are for chlamydia screens made outside of GUM clinics only.
7. The data available from the NCSP are the number of tests conducted and not the number of patients seen.
8. Data are based on SHA of residence.
9. The data presented includes all tests done through the NCSP, which includes screening tests, diagnostic tests, and tests of sexual contacts.
*Source:*
Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns; The National Chlamydia Screening Programme Core Dataset.

### Slaughterhouses: Inspections

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many inspections of abattoirs were conducted by the Meat Hygiene Service in each of the last five years; and what the average number of inspections was during the period. [237676]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Meat Hygiene Service is responsible for official controls in all approved fresh meat establishments including abattoirs. It carries out these controls in abattoirs through ante and post-mortem inspection of every animal/carcase and, through audit, on a risk-based frequency, of operator compliance with all relevant legislation.

### Surgery: Waiting Lists

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times for *(a)* heart and *(b)* cancer operations in the area covered by South Staffordshire primary care trust were in the last 12 months. [237329]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not collected in the format requested. However, figures for median days waited for a heart operation and finished consultant episodes where a heart operation was the main or secondary procedure where South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) was the PCT of responsibility in 2006-07 are shown in the following table.

*National health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS.*

| South Staffordshire PCT of responsibility | 2006-07 |
|---|---|
| Median waiting time | 60 |
| Finished consultant episodes | 3,080 |

*Notes:*
1. 2006-07 is the most recent currently available annual data.
2. Time waited (days)—Time waited statistics from HES are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period, whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. HES also calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.
3. Finished consultant episode (FCE)—An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which the FCE finishes. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
4. Number of episodes with a (named) main or secondary procedure—These figures represent the number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and four prior to 2002-03) operative procedure fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one operative procedure field of the record. Please note that more procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients under going a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single episode.
5. Main procedure—The main procedure is the first recorded procedure or intervention in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, (eg time waited), but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedure.
6. Data quality—HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
7. Ungrossed data—Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data, i.e. the data are ungrossed.
*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Statistics on average waiting times for cancer patients and average waiting times for different types of cancer treatment are not collected centrally. Cancer waiting times' standards of a maximum wait of 31 days from diagnosis to first cancer treatment, and a maximum wait of 62 days from urgent referral for suspected cancer to first cancer treatment were introduced for all cancer patients from December 2005. In the last quarter (April to June 2008) national performance against these standards was 99.6 per cent. and 97.1 per cent. respectively.

### Tuberculosis

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of persons treated for tuberculosis who were living in (i) private and (ii) social housing in the last year for which figures are available. [237261]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This data are not collected centrally. The Health Protection Agency does not collect data on type of residence of tuberculosis cases.

### York Hospitals NHS Trust: Manpower

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent *(a)* medical consultants, *(b)* other medical staff, *(c)* nurses, *(d)* other professional staff, *(e)* administrative and clerical staff and *(f)* auxiliary staff were employed by York NHS Trust, excluding those transferred to Selby and York Primary Care Trust, in all its areas of activity in each year since 1996-97. [236885]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the required format.

Information on national health service staff in the York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust by main staff group as at 30 September each specified year is shown in the following table. It is not possible to exclude the number of staff who transferred to Selby and York primary care trust.

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All hospital, community and public health services (HCHS) medical and dental consultants | 102 | 98 | 110 | 109 | 120 | 113 | 119 | 131 | 149 | 155 | 158 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Medical consultant | 97 | 93 | 103 | 104 | 115 | 108 | 114 | 125 | 144 | 150 | 152 |
| All HCHS other medical and dental staff | 159 | 176 | 172 | 171 | 138 | 124 | 174 | 189 | 195 | 215 | 222 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Medical other | 153 | 166 | 161 | 160 | 131 | 119 | 166 | 180 | 184 | 206 | 212 |
| All non-medical staff | 3,399 | 3,230 | 3,234 | 3,451 | 2,967 | 2,605 | 2,817 | 2,927 | 2,958 | 3,149 | 3,067 |
| Professionally qualified clinical staff | 1,771 | 1,667 | 1,707 | 1,840 | 1,476 | 1,270 | 1,335 | 1,393 | 1,430 | 1,539 | 1,517 |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | 1,362 | 1,235 | 1,268 | 1,375 | 1,132 | 915 | 948 | 990 | 1,023 | 1,111 | 1,071 |
| Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff | 409 | 431 | 438 | 465 | 344 | 355 | 387 | 402 | 407 | 428 | 446 |
| Qualified allied health professions | 228 | 246 | 245 | 257 | 154 | 169 | 187 | 195 | 194 | 206 | 214 |
| Qualified health care scientists | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 94 | 98 | 105 | 113 | 111 |
| Other qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical (ST&T) staff | 181 | 186 | 193 | 208 | 189 | 186 | 106 | 109 | 109 | 109 | 121 |
| Support to clinical staff | 1,021 | 974 | 945 | 1,014 | 936 | 788 | 885 | 908 | 908 | 1,009 | 968 |
| Support to doctors and nursing staff | 915 | 866 | 832 | 887 | 783 | 605 | 688 | 707 | 696 | 793 | 764 |
| Support to ST&T staff | 105 | 108 | 113 | 128 | 153 | 183 | 197 | 201 | 212 | 217 | 203 |

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NHS infrastructure support | 602 | 583 | 576 | 591 | 554 | 548 | 597 | 626 | 621 | 600 | 583 |
| Central functions | 166 | 155 | 190 | 208 | 171 | 183 | 196 | 215 | 202 | 184 | 246 |
| Hotel, property and estates | 344 | 331 | 290 | 291 | 299 | 286 | 304 | 311 | 320 | 302 | 303 |
| Managers and senior managers | 92 | 97 | 96 | 92 | 84 | 79 | 97 | 100 | 99 | 114 | 33 |
| Other staff or those with unknown classification | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

n/a = Not applicable. Figures for health care scientists were not separately identifiable until 2003.

*Notes:*

1. In 2002, a number of staff migrated from York Hospitals NHS Trust to form Selby and York PCT. It is impossible to identify and retroactively remove the numbers of these staff from earlier years.
2. Full-time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.
3. Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens, any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level, they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level, this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

*Sources:*

1. The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.
2. The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Members: Allowances

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members have been required to make repayments of their communications allowance following investigations by the Standards and Privileges Committee since the allowance was introduced; and how much was repaid in each case. [236584]

**Chris Bryant:** The communications allowance was introduced at the beginning of the 2007-08 financial year. Since that time, five Members have repaid a total of £16,811.51 following inquiries by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards which were reported to the Committee. The figures are as follows:

| | Member | £ |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | Sadiq Khan | 500 |
| 2007-08 | Elfyn Llwyd | 5,169.82 |
| 2007-08 | Adam Price | 5,471.55 |
| 2007-08 | Hywel Williams | 5,170.14 |
| 2008-09 | Mark Hunter | 500 |
| Total | | 16,811.51 |

### Members: Pensions

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members have chosen to exercise each of the options available under the hon. Members' pension scheme. [236304]

**Chris Bryant:** Members have two principal options in relation to the pension scheme.

The first is whether to remain in the scheme or, to opt out. This option is available upon election to the House and at any time prior to ceasing to serve as a Member of Parliament. The second is to decide whether to pay contributions at 10 per cent. of pay and build up pension at the rate of 1/40th of final salary, or to opt to pay the lower 6 per cent. contribution rate and build up pension at the rate of 1/50th of final salary. There is currently no opportunity for Members to change the contribution rate they pay.

586 Members have their pension calculated on the 1/40th pension rate. 55 have their pension calculated on the 1/50th pension rate.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Science

9. **Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department proposes to take in order to increase public interest in science. [237522]

**Mr. Lammy:** Our Science and Society consultation received over 3,000 responses. We received strong support from key players such as the Royal Society and the engineering community. We will establish major themes by Christmas, and aim to launch a UK strategy in the spring.

### Apprenticeships

10. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure the provision of apprenticeships for small and medium-sized enterprises in the current economic situation. [237523]

**Mr. Simon:** We share employers' concerns that cutting back on training threatens their future competitiveness. We are taking forward 'World-class Apprenticeships' proposals to support and encourage small and medium-sized businesses to take on apprentices. We recently launched sector growth pilots to trial a range of support, including wage and training subsidies and overtraining trials to expand existing programmes. I encourage small businesses to bid for this funding. We are also encouraging the development of Group Training Associations to help support small businesses to provide Apprenticeship places. And the Department is leading the way on ensuring that public procurement plays its part in driving up apprenticeship opportunities.

15. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of apprentices employed in the public sector in *(a)* the Isle of Wight and *(b)* England. [237528]

**Mr. Simon:** We estimate 8 per cent. of all apprentices in England are employed in the public sector. The Learning and Skills Council estimate there are 15 public sector apprentices in the Isle of Wight. It is essential that the public sector plays its full role in offering apprenticeships to younger and older people. This is why, last month, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families launched a campaign to encourage the public sector to take on more apprentices. We are setting up a network of ministerial champions for apprentices, which is going to meet next month. The new National Apprenticeship Service will drive forward work in this area.

16. **Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to increase the number of apprenticeships available to young people. [237529]

**Mr. Simon:** The Government have rescued, rebuilt, improved and expanded apprenticeships in the last 10 years. Apprenticeships are now a mainstream option for young people.

On Tuesday, DIUS published our spending plans for 2009/10, and I am pleased to say, total Government investment for apprenticeships will increase to over £1 billion.

DIUS is committed to meeting the demand from suitably qualified young people. So as more young people want apprenticeships, we will work with employers to expand the programme further.

We have also launched a major drive to increase apprenticeships in the public sector. It is only right that the public sector matches our high aspirations for the private sector.

### University Places

11. **Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent representations he has received on numbers of applications by state school pupils for university places. [237524]

**Mr. Lammy:** The number and proportion of entrants from state schools has risen steadily. In 2006-07, the most recent figures available, 87.2 per cent. of university entrants came from state schools, up 6.2 percentage points from 1997-98. I am determined we should build on this progress.

### Maintenance Grants

12. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many new students in *(a)* Staffordshire, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* England will have a reduced entitlement to maintenance grants in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [237525]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State gave earlier to his colleague, the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb).

In July 2007, we predicted that two-thirds of students would get a full or partial grant—I expect this commitment will be met under the new system.

In July 2007, we predicted that one-third of students would get the maximum grant. I expect this commitment will be exceeded—under the new package 40 per cent. of students will be eligible for a full grant.

### Young People: University

13. **Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department takes to support universities in the work they undertake to encourage young people to apply to them. [237526]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) provides a widening participation allocation to universities, which totalled £95.4 million in 2008-09, helping to support their recruitment work with disadvantaged young people. We are also committed to supporting universities' outreach activities, in particular through Aimhigher and the launch of the Aimhigher Associates scheme.

### Tuition Fees

14. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he will begin the tuition fees' review. [237527]

**Mr. Lammy:** My right hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, South (Mr. Clarke), the then Secretary of State for Education and Skills, told the House on 8 January 2004 that there would be an independent review of tuition fees, reporting to the House, once we had evidence on the first three years of the variable fee regime. The first three years of operation will not be concluded until autumn next year.

### Further Education

17. **Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the contribution made by further education colleges to the communities in which they are based. [237531]

**Mr. Simon:** FE colleges make many valuable contributions to their communities in driving economic development and regeneration through their presence, participation and leadership. Colleges are responding proactively and innovatively to support individuals and businesses in their local community through the current economic downturn. Our increased funding for colleges and our investment in developing world-class facilities means they are fully equipped to make this contribution. We are committed to continuing to increase funding to support adult skills and giving colleges greater flexibility to use these funds in meeting the needs of their communities.

21. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many higher education students are studying in further education colleges. [237535]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest available figures show that in 2006-07, there were around 131,000 students studying for a higher education qualification in a further education college in England.

### Astronomy

18. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department is spending on astronomy and space research in 2008-09. [237532]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Science and Technology Facilities Council, which is responsible for astronomy and space research, will commit £189 million to astronomy and space science research and facilities this financial year.

### Higher Education

19. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent progress there has been in widening participation in higher education. [237533]

**Mr. Lammy:** Well over 50 per cent. of young people from all social classes aspire to go to university, and this figure has increased in every social class over the past eight years. The rate of increase in aspiration and ambition has been fastest in the lower socio-economic groups. Our 50 per cent. target therefore matches the aspirations of young people themselves.

### Further and Higher Education

20. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps the Government has taken to increase the numbers of students participating in further and higher education. [237534]

**Mr. Simon:** Government spending on higher education has increased by 24 per cent. in real terms from 1997-98 to 2008-09 to more than £8 billion a year. A record 1,156,000 places are funded in 2008-09. So far, acceptances for 2008 entry show a rise of almost 7 per cent. on 2007.

Total planned investment in further education and skills will increase to £5.0 billion in 2009-10. This will support over 3 million adult learners. To date, we have exceeded our Skills for Life target for 2010, and increased the number of adults in the work force qualified to Level 2 to 2.1 million compared with 2001.

### Energy Technologies Institute

22. **Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of progress in the work of the Energy Technologies Institute. [237536]

**Mr. Lammy:** Good progress is being made to fully establish the Energy Technologies Institute. Some £60 million of ETI funded projects are currently being prepared under its first technical programmes in "Offshore Wind" and "Wave and Tidal Stream" Energy. The ETI announced a further call in "Distributed Energy" and is holding workshops to help to develop further programmes, which will be formally announced in due course. ETI will hold a stakeholder workshop in December to develop, with others, a large-scale trial of Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles focused on understanding the requirements of the charging infrastructure.

### Skills

23. **Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to increase employees' skills levels in science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects. [237537]

**Mr. Lammy:** We recognise that Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills are critical to the success of the UK economy. Around 70 per cent. of the 2020 working age population have already left compulsory education so it is vital that we focus on working in partnership with business to up skill all employees. This is why we continue to invest heavily in programmes such as Apprenticeships and Train to Gain as well as working with schools and universities to encourage greater take-up of STEM. This is why the majority of HEFCE's £350 million investment in strategically important and vulnerable subjects is dedicated to STEM.

### Apprentices

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he has taken to ensure that apprentices do not lose their apprenticeships in the current economic climate. [237530]

**Mr. Simon:** We have rescued apprenticeships, rebuilt apprenticeships over the last 10 years and apprenticeships are now a mainstream option for all young people. We recognise that the current economic situation will impact on the numbers of apprentices starting, including in the construction sector. We are helping to drive up apprenticeship opportunities by requiring our further education building programme contractors to train their workforce; and have asked other Departments with large construction procurement projects to do likewise. We have put in place a matching service to help construction sector apprentices facing redundancy now to find an employer to finish their training.

### ConstructionSkills: Consultants

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 292W, on ConstructionSkills: Stratagem, if he will place in the Library a copy of the reply from the Chief Executive. [237718]

**Mr. Simon:** Due to an oversight within this Department, the letter from David Lammy to the chief executive of CITB-ConstructionSkills was not sent to him. I will ensure that the letter is sent without further delay, and on receiving his response a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Research: Finance

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much quality-related research funding was received by each UK higher education institution for the period 2003-04 to 2008-09. [238087]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 994W, to the hon. Member for Northampton, South (Mr. Binley).

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Public Places

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the maximum fine for anyone not obeying an instruction to stop drinking, or to give up their drink in a designated public place will increase from £500 to £2,500. [234306]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The Home Office intends to legislate to raise the maximum fine for anyone not obeying an instruction to stop drinking, or to give up their drink in a designated public place (DPPO) area as soon as the parliamentary timetable allows.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken following the publication of the Youth Alcohol Action Plan to assist the police, local authorities and communities to identify hotspots where underage drinking is a problem. [234564]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Youth Alcohol Action Plan stated that the Home Office would "support the police, local authorities and communities to identify problem hot spots". This is a reiteration of a commitment made in Safe.Sensible.Social. - the next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy to gather further evidence on how high risk licensed premises can best be identified i.e. those premises that have a higher likelihood of being associated with crime and disorder, public nuisance and risk to children.

Officials within the Home Office have commissioned expert practitioners from Dorset police and Lancashire constabulary to develop a toolkit for licensing officers to help identify problem premises. The toolkit identifies best working practices from across the country and provides a structured approach to tackling the problem. We are currently in consultation with ACPO, LACORS and the police regarding the document and a possible publication date.

### Automatic Number Plate Recognition

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner has made of the level of use of automatic number plate recognition; and what assessment she has made of the appropriateness of such usage. [236822]

**Mr. Coaker:** The use of automatic number plate recognition systems, which compare CCTV pictures with automated databases, is a matter for the Information Commissioner. The CCTV Code of Practice, revised recently by the Information Commissioner, makes it clear that information held by organisations that is about individuals is covered by the Data Protection Act 1998 ('DPA') and the Code helps operators comply with their legal obligations under the DPA.

### Borders: Personal Records

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will reduce for leisure boaters the period of notice required for the passenger and crew manifests and boat details of boats entering or leaving UK waters to be submitted under the e-borders scheme. [233577]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* The UK Border Agency (UKBA) is required to balance its obligation to the security of the United Kingdom's border with that of facilitating the entry and exit of legitimate travellers. The e-Borders system will assist in providing that balance.

Under the e-Borders system, leisure boaters will have 48 hours before an international voyage takes place to submit crew information and 24 hours for passenger information.

The data should be submitted before the voyage occurs and they would be expected no later than 30 minutes before departure. It is recognised that precise timing is not always possible in this environment, and hence there is considerable flexibility in this regard.

### Community Safety Accreditation Schemes

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which approved organisations have had enforcement powers granted to them through community safety accreditation schemes; and which enforcement powers have been granted in each case. [236498]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office does not collect data on which individual organisations have been given powers under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS). However, a Home Office CSAS audit this year

collected data on the number of accredited organisations and, also, which powers were given within each police force area. The audit is on the Home Office website:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/community-policing/citizen-focused-policing/community-safety-accredit-scheme/.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have a community safety accreditation scheme in place; and what enforcement powers have been granted to each scheme. [236499]

**Mr. Coaker:** The 2008 Home Office audit of the community safety accreditation scheme (CSAS) found that 23 police forces in England and Wales, including the British Transport police, had a CSAS scheme in place. The audit shows which forces have a scheme and is on the Home Office website:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/community-policing/citizen-focused-policing/community-safety-accredit-scheme/.

The Home Office does not collect data on the powers given to individual schemes but the audit does show which powers have been granted within the police force area.

### Community Support Officers: Manpower

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers have been stationed in Crosby constituency in each year since 1997. [236718]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available data for Merseyside Police and the Basic Command Unit (BCU) of Sefton are given in the following table. Police Personnel Statistics are not collected by parliamentary constituency.

*Police Community Support Officer Strength[1] (FTE)[2] as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2008[3]*

| | *Merseyside Police* | *Sefton Basic Command Unit* |
|---|---|---|
| 31 March 2003 | 40 | — |
| 31 March 2004 | 72 | — |
| 31 March 2005[4] | 170 | — |
| 31 March 2006[4] | 196 | — |
| 31 March 2007[4, 5] | 332 | 57 |
| 31 March 2008[4] | 407 | 68 |

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Full-time equivalent exclude those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data is not available prior to 2002-03.

[4] Strength figures as at 31 March 2005 onwards include those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore these figures are not comparable with those provided for other years in the table.

[5] 2006-07 is the first year that police community support officer strength by Basic Command Unit has been collected centrally.

### Crime Prevention

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Pendle of 9 March 2001, *Official Report*, column 310W, on the Home Office, which police forces used cardboard mock ups of police officers in crime prevention initiatives in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [177991]

**Mr. Coaker:** This information is not collected centrally by the Home Office. I understand that mock-ups have been used on a limited basis in some crime prevention initiatives.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* computers and *(b)* hard drives in her Department contain non-encrypted data. [232847]

**Jacqui Smith:** We are unable to answer this PQ because to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Information and Communications Technology

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of her Department's staff have remote access to the Department's IT infrastructure. [234735]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Home Office does not monitor the number of people who access IT systems remotely. We provide remote access capabilities through mobile working solutions but we cannot state where these are used (home or office).

In terms of potential usage, based on September 2008 data, there are currently 3,274 laptops, and 461 Blackberries in circulation.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what costs her Department incurred in internet and website design and hosting in each year since 2001. [232982]

**Jacqui Smith:** The most recent redevelopment/redesign of the Home Office website, was in 2005. Costs were embedded in the business as usual costs for that year and could be extracted only at disproportionate cost. Hosting costs are also embedded in budgets spread around the organisation and likewise, could be extracted only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, what payments her Department made to Chelsea Football Club in 2007-08; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [233437]

**Jacqui Smith:** Pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, based on the purchase order data held in the Home Department's financial database, the details of the payment made to Chelsea football club in 2007-08 are as follows:

| Date of purchase | Description of purchase | Payment (£) |
|---|---|---|
| 18 December 2007 | Hire of conference venue[1] | 9,719 |

[1] By the National Offender Management Service.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on Departmental procurement, what payments her Department made to *(a)* Abolish Pest Control, *(b)* Exact Pest Control, *(c)* Hawkins Pest Control, *(d)* Independent Pest Control Ltd, *(e)* Mitie Pest Control, *(f)* Moores Pest Control Services Ltd, *(g)* Zest Solutions Ltd and *(h)* Barford Pest Control Services in 2007-08; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [233438]

**Jacqui Smith:** Pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, based on the purchase order data held in the Home Department's financial database, the details of the payments made to *(a)* Abolish Pest Control, *(b)* Exact Pest Control, *(c)* Hawkins Pest Control, *(d)* Independent Pest Control Ltd, *(e)* Mitie Pest Control, and *(f)* Moores Pest Control Services Ltd in 2007-08 are as follows:

| Organisation | Payment date | Description | Payment (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Abolish Pest Control | 31 October 2007 | Treatment for ant infestation at Dominion Court | 80.00 |
| Abolish Pest Control | 31 October 2007 | Treatment at Sandford House | 320.00 |
| Abolish Pest Control | 7 September 2007 | Dominion Court Ant infestation | 95.00 |
| Abolish Pest Control | 7 September 2007 | Sandford House disinfestation treatment | 320.00 |
| Abolish Pest Control | 7 September 2007 | Pest control for Pembroke House for the period April 2006 to March 2007 | 240.00 |
| Abolish Pest Control | 21 September 2007 | Sandford House | 320.00 |
| Abolish Pest Control | 12 March 2008 | Disinfestation treatment at BIA Building Sandford House Solihull | 320.00 |
| Abolish Pest Control | 25 May 2007 | Visited Sandford House for routine rodent control | 110.00 |
| Abolish Pest Control | 25 May 2007 | Visited Sandford House to treat infestation on ground and first floor | 320.00 |
| Abolish Pest Control | 14 December 2007 | Treatment to GF at Sandford House | 320.00 |
| Abolish Pest Control | 31 October 2007 | Treatment for rodent control at Sandford House | 110.00 |
| Exact Pest Control | 11 January 2008 | Sandridge Rodent control agreement from 08/1107 for a 12 month period | 493.62 |
| Exact Pest Control | 21 July 2008 | To spray residual insecticide to treat ant problem in Orchid building at HOSDB | 45.00 |
| Exact Pest Control | 14 September 2007 | Treatment of wasps nests and HOSDB Sandridge on 13 August 2007 | 45.00 |
| Exact Pest Control | 20 July 2007 | To spray for ants in the kitchen and atrium at HOSDB Sandridge | 65.00 |
| Exact Pest Control | 19 August 2007 | To spray for ants in Block 5 room 1 and HOSDB Sandridge | 45.00 |
| Exact Pest Control | 24 August 2007 | The treatment of wasps nest above HOSDB entrance on 20 July 2007 | 45.00 |
| Exact Pest Control | 29 May 2007 | To spray insecticide to control ants | 45.00 |
| Hawkins Pest Control | 25 May 2007 | To spray for static in carpeted areas and spray for ground beetles in the Branston Registry Warehouse | 360.00 |
| Independent Pest Control | 10 August 2007 | Pest control service 6 December-November 2007 | 80.97 |
| Independent Pest Control | 7 December 2007 | ASC 4th floor India Building | 117.50 |
| Independent Pest Control | 13 February 2007 | Pest control service 6December-November 2007 | 80.97 |
| Independent Pest Control | 4 July 2007 | Pest control service 6December-November 2007 | 70.50 |
| Independent Pest Control | 18 September 2007 | Independent pest control 2007-April 2008 ASC 4th floor India Building | 117.50 |
| Independent Pest Control | 22 February 2008 | Independent pest control 2007-April 2008 ASC 4th floor India Building | 70.50 |
| Independent Pest Control | 13 April 2007 | Pest control service 6 December-November 2007 | 70.50 |

| Organisation | Payment date | Description | Payment (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Independent Pest Control | 15 November 2007 | Independent pest control 2007-April 2008 ASC 4th floor India Building | 70.50 |
| Independent Pest Control | 21 January 2008 | Independent pest control 2007-April 2008 ASC 4th floor India Building | 70.50 |
| Independent Pest Control | 4 July 2007 | Independent pest control no HOM001 9 April 2007-8 April 2008 ASC 4th floor India Building | 80.97 |
| Independent Pest Control | 4 July 2007 | Independent pest control no HOM001 9 April 2007-8 April 2008 ASC 4th floor India Building | 117.50 |
| Independent Pest Control | 20 November 2007 | Independent pest control 2007-April 2008 ASC 4th Floor India Building | 80.97 |
| Independent Pest Control | 4 July 2007 | HOM001 Pest control service 6 December-November 2007 | 117.50 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 4 May 2007 | Treatment for the quarter of March to May to treat insects at GIPU Ashdown House | 58.75 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 4 May 2007 | Treatment as per contract for the quarter of March to May to treat insects at room 1023 and 1024 north terminal Gatwick airport | 90.48 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 4 May 2007 | Treatment as per contract for the quarter of March to May to treat insects at arrival halls south terminal Gatwick airport | 891.83 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 4 May 2007 | Treatment as per contract for the quarter of March to May to treat insects at Ashdown House | 843.65 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 4 May 2007 | Treatment as per contract for the quarter of March to May to treat insects at Ashdown House | 233.83 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 4 May 2007 | Treatment as per contract for the quarter of March to May to treat insects at detention suite north terminal Gatwick airport | 177.43 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 30 November 2007 | Treatment as per contract for the quarter of March to May to treat for insects at detention suite north terminal Gatwick airport | 891.83 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 21 December 2007 | Pest control treatment as per contract covering September/ November 2007 at north terminal immigration office | 843.65 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 21 December 2007 | Pest control treatment as per contract covering September/ November 2007 at Ashdown House | 233.83 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 21 December 2007 | Pest control treatment as per contract covering September/ November 2007 at detention suite north terminal | 177.43 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 21 December 2007 | Pest control, as per contract | 135.13 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 21 December 2007 | Pest control, as per contract | 90.48 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 30 November 2007 | Pest control treatment as per contract covering September/ November 2007 at GIPU Ashdown House | 58.75 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 7 August 2007 | June to August 2007 pest control for Ashdown House GIPU | 58.75 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 31 July 2007 | June to August 2007 pest control for rooms 1023/ 1024 north terminal | 90.48 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 31 July 2007 | June to August 2007 pest control for Gatwick intelligence unit | 135.13 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 31 July 2007 | June to August 2007 pest control for north terminal detention suite | 177.43 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 31 July 2007 | June to August 2007 pest control for Ashdown House GIPU | 233.83 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 31 July 2007 | June to August 2007 pest control for Gatwick north terminal | 843.65 |

| Organisation | Payment date | Description | Payment (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mitie Pest Control | 31 July 2007 | June to August 2007 pest control for Gatwick north terminal | 891.83 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 25 February 2008 | Pest control biting insects covering qtr December/ February 2008 for Gatwick south terminal | 135.13 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 25 February 2008 | Pest control biting insects covering qtr December/ February 2008 for Gatwick south terminal | 891.83 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 25 February 2008 | Pest control biting insects covering qtr December/ February 2008 for Gatwick North Terminal | 177.43 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 25 February 2008 | Pest control biting insects covering qtr December/ February 2008 for Gatwick north terminal | 843.65 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 25 February 2008 | Pest control biting insects covering qtr December/ February | 58.75 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 25 February 2008 | Pest control biting insects covering qtr December/ February | 233.83 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 25 February 2008 | Pest control biting insects covering qtr December/ February | 90.48 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 30 April 2008 | To provide pest control treatment as per contract at Gatwick airport terminals and Ashdown House to cover period March 2008 to September 2008 | 891.83 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 2 May 2008 | To provide pest control treatment as per contract at Gatwick airport terminals and Ashdown House to cover period March 2008 to September 2008 | 843.65 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 2 May 2008 | To provide pest control treatment as per contract at Gatwick airport terminals and Ashdown House to cover period March 2008 to September 2008 | 233.83 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 2 May 2008 | To provide pest control treatment as per contract at Gatwick airport terminals and Ashdown House to cover period March 2008 to September 2008 | 177.43 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 2 May 2008 | To provide pest control treatment as per contract at Gatwick airport terminals and Ashdown House to cover period March 2008 to September 2008 | 135.13 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 30 April 2008 | To provide pest control treatment as per contract at Gatwick airport terminals and Ashdown House to cover period March 2008 to September 2008 | 90.48 |
| Mitie Pest Control | 4 May 2007 | Treatment as per contract | 135.13 |
| Mitie | 28 March 2008 | Call and control rodents in building 2 | 60.00 |

Although *(g)* Zest Solutions Ltd and *(h)* Barford Pest Control Services were set up as suppliers in the financial database, no payments were made to these companies in 2007-08.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on Departmental procurement, what payments her Department made to the Joanne Banks Dancers in 2007-08; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [233439]

**Jacqui Smith:** Pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement; although the Joanne Banks Dancers were set up as a supplier in the Home Department's financial database, no payment was made to this organisation in 2007-08.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on Departmental procurement, what payments her Department made to the Home Office Staff Social Club in 2007-08; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [233442]

**Jacqui Smith:** Pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, based on the purchase order data held in the Home Department's financial database, the details

of the payments made to Home Office Staff Social Club at Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) Sandridge in 2007-08 are as follows:

*Table 1*

| | *Description of purchase* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| January 2008 | Working lunch for external visitors attending meetings at HOSDB Sandridge | 280.76 |
| February 2008 | Working lunch for external visitors attending meetings at HOSDB Sandridge | 269.28 |
| February 2008 | Working lunch for external visitors attending meetings at HOSDB Sandridge | 273.13 |
| April 2008 | Working lunch for external visitors attending meetings at HOSDB Sandridge | 356.28 |

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, what payments her Department made to Darlington Football Club Company in 2007-08; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [233444]

**Jacqui Smith:** Pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, based on the purchase order data held in the Home Department's financial database, the details of the payment made to Darlington Football Club Company in 2007-08 are as follows:

| *March 2007—description of purchase* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|
| Hire of conference venue for the North East Restorative Community Partnership conference highlighting and advertising the work going on in North East Prisons. | 2,440.87 |

## Deportation

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people the Government have been unable to deport in the last 12 months; and for what reason in each case. [233631]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 30 October 2008]*: The information requested is not centrally collated and can only be obtained through the detailed examination of individual casefiles at disproportionate cost. The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly provided the Home Affairs Committee with the most robust and accurate information available on the subject of foreign criminals and associated deportation action.

Having exceeded the Prime Minister's target of 4,000 deportations or removals of foreign prisoners in 2007, the Agency has now been set an even tougher target and aims to remove or deport more than 5,000 foreign prisoners in 2008. In the first six months of this year, the Agency had deported or removed nearly 2,500 which is a record performance, 22 per cent. higher than for the same period in 2007 and nearly 140 per cent. higher than in 2006.

## Deportation: Iran

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent consideration she has given to a moratorium on the deportation of gay people to Iran. [234264]

**Jacqui Smith:** Asylum and human rights applications made by gay people from Iran continue to be considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations and taking full account of the latest available information about the conditions in Iran as they impact on the individual applicant. The UK Border Agency only enforces the deportation of gay people to Iran who they, and the courts, are satisfied are not in need of international protection and who do not elect to leave the UK voluntarily.

The August 2008 version of the Home Office Country Report for Iran is available to view at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html

## Deportation: Offenders

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons suspected of terrorism offences the Government has been unable to deport owing to *(a)* legal challenges and *(b)* an assessment that the individual concerned will be tortured if deported to the country of nationality in each year since 2001. [233979]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 6 November 2008]*: Foreign nationals suspected of involvement in terrorism are considered for deportation action. However, deportation action cannot be taken where it is concluded that removal would be contrary to our international obligations, in particular under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

The way in which individual immigration decisions are recorded and the timescales involved means it is not possible to provide a comprehensive reply of breakdown cases by year. However:

16 individuals were certified under part 4 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 as suspected international terrorists and were detained on the basis that their removal was prevented by a point of law which related wholly or partly to an international agreement. One other person was also certified under part 4 but was detained under other powers. Those detained had the right to leave the UK at any time, two did so. Six have since been deported.

Since 2005, there have been 19 cases where deportation action on national security grounds was commenced, but was later discontinued because it was concluded that it would not be possible to demonstrate that removal would be in conformity with the UK's international obligations, including our obligations under article 3 ECHR. These cases are kept under review.

There are currently 11 cases where we are seeking to deport individuals on grounds of national security because of their suspected involvement in terrorism. These are at various stages in the appeals process. In a twelfth case, the appeal against the decision to deport was allowed by the Special Immigration Appeals Commission as it was not satisfied that the case for deportation on national security grounds had been made out.

### Detention Centres: Security

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees escaped from each immigration detention centre in each year since 1997. [233325]

**Jacqui Smith:** The number of detainees who have escaped from immigration removal centres has only been collated centrally since 2005.

*Campsfield House*

2007: 29;

2008 to date: seven.

*Colnbrook*

2005: one.

*Dungavel House*

2006: one.

*Harlsar*

2008 to date: two.

*Lindholme*

2008 to date: one.

*Oakington*

2005: four;

2006: 19;

2007: 63;

2008 to date: 24.

*Yarl's Wood*

2007: one.

### Electronic Government: International Co-operation

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent estimate she has made of the cost of Project Stork; what progress has been made in the project; and if she will make a statement. [236257]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* Ministerial colleagues and *(b)* her EU counterparts on common data security standards as part of the implementation of Project Stork; [236258]

(3) if she will re-assess the data security aspects of Project Stork in the light of the recent security breach affecting the passwords and source codes of the UK Government Gateway; [236259]

(4) what recent assessment she has made of the level of potential data security risks connected with the sharing of personal information with other EU countries pursuant to the implementation of Project Stork. [236260]

**Meg Hillier** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* All EU member states are committed to the delivery of better and innovative services to citizens and businesses. The European Commission is supporting this commitment with a research programme on cross-border on-line services. The EU eID Large Scale Pilot, informally known as "Project Stork", is a consortium of 14 member states including the UK which are engaged in a research project on how to enable cross border on-line services. The project started on 1 June 2008 and will last for three years.

The UK contribution will examine how Government Gateway might offer services and will lead on development of relevant standards. The research is not about transmission of personal data and there will be no direct access to UK databases. Security and privacy are key issues within the project. All steps will be taken to ensure that mutual recognition of electronic identity is secure and makes identity theft extremely difficult and we will work with our EU partners to ensure key principles of privacy, trust and citizen control remain at the heart of the EU eID pilot.

The pilot will draw together elements of existing programmes and any additional resource to manage the work and analyse outcomes will be EU-funded. The UK will contribute approximately £1 million over the three year project—the EU will match this funding.

### Genetics: Databases

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of people on the national DNA database were aged *(a)* under 16 and *(b)* under 18 years at the time their profile was loaded, broken down by police force. [231778]

**Jacqui Smith:** The number of profiles added to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) by each police force in England and Wales, where the profile is recorded as relating to a person aged under 16 or under 18 at the time the DNA sample was taken, is shown in the following table. The numbers given for under 18s include the numbers given for under 16s. The figures are correct as at 29 October 2008.

The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because a number of subject profiles on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, a profile for a person has been loaded to the NDNAD on more than one occasion. This may arise for a number of reasons, such as a person giving a different name on different occasions they are arrested, or because of upgrading of profiles. It is estimated that 13.3 per cent. of the subject profiles held on the entire NDNAD are replicates. However, this rate may vary between police forces, so figures for the number of individuals are given for England and Wales as a whole, but not for particular forces.

The table also shows what percentage of the total number of profiles added by English and Welsh police forces are recorded as relating to persons aged under 16 or under 18 at the time the DNA sample was taken.

| *Profiles (not individuals) added by force* | *Under 16* | *Under 18* |
|---|---|---|
| England and Wales | | |
| Avon and Somerset | 12,070 | 21,740 |
| Bedfordshire | 5,680 | 10,033 |
| British Transport | 4,288 | 9,864 |
| Cambridgeshire | 7,406 | 12,800 |
| Cheshire | 10,104 | 18,166 |
| City of London Police | 473 | 1,251 |
| Cleveland | 7,996 | 13,532 |
| Cumbria | 6,565 | 11,046 |
| Derbyshire | 12,535 | 20,588 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 14,208 | 24,977 |
| Dorset | 6,394 | 11,374 |
| Durham | 8,843 | 14,513 |

| Profiles (not individuals) added by force | Under 16 | Under 18 |
|---|---|---|
| Dyfed-Powys | 6,142 | 10,903 |
| Essex | 20,108 | 33,194 |
| Gloucestershire | 6,335 | 10,834 |
| Greater Manchester police | 37,958 | 62,239 |
| Gwent | 7,351 | 13,132 |
| Hampshire | 21,220 | 35,541 |
| Hertfordshire | 10,648 | 17,979 |
| Humberside | 13,116 | 21,389 |
| Kent | 21,491 | 34,893 |
| Lancashire | 18,203 | 32,531 |
| Leicestershire | 8,183 | 14,607 |
| Lincolnshire | 5,616 | 10,349 |
| Merseyside | 16,312 | 29,761 |
| Metropolitan police | 79,796 | 150,901 |
| Norfolk | 8,453 | 14,552 |
| North Wales | 7,718 | 13,877 |
| North Yorkshire | 7,776 | 13,275 |
| Northamptonshire | 3,604 | 7,719 |
| Northumbria | 28,192 | 43,612 |
| Nottinghamshire | 14,078 | 23,749 |
| South Wales constabulary | 14,649 | 26,366 |
| South Yorkshire | 16,526 | 28,349 |
| Staffordshire | 12,832 | 22,444 |
| Suffolk | 8,027 | 12,713 |
| Surrey | 7,155 | 13,563 |
| Sussex | 15,039 | 25,722 |
| Thames Valley | 17,212 | 32,103 |
| Warwickshire police | 4,594 | 7,888 |
| West Mercia | 11,310 | 19,267 |
| West Midlands | 40,267 | 68,139 |
| West Yorkshire | 33,762 | 53,537 |
| Wiltshire | 6,724 | 11,570 |
| Total profiles | 626,959 | 1,086,582 |
| Total estimated individuals | 543,573 | 942,067 |
| Total profiles as per cent of total England and Wales subject profiles on NDNAD (percentage) | 12.43 | 21.54 |

### Human Trafficking: Children

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government has considered the establishment of a system of guardianship for child victims of trafficking. [232949]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Home Department does not believe a system of guardianship for child victims of trafficking would offer any extra value beyond what is currently provided by local authorities. Local authority children's services have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children including those that are thought to have been trafficked.

Following an assessment of a child's circumstances and under section 20 of the Children Act 1989, a local authority has a duty to provide accommodation for them within its area if it considers that the child is in need of care. Using the powers in the Children Act 1989, where there is a risk to the life of the child or a likelihood of serious harm, the local authority or police are required to act quickly to secure the immediate safety of the child.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support system is in place for children who are victims of human trafficking. [232953]

**Jacqui Smith:** Under the Children Acts of 1989 and 2004, it is the responsibility of local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of any separated child who is assessed to be at risk of harm and in need of accommodation. As separated children at risk of harm, trafficked children become the responsibility of local authorities as looked-after children. They also have access to legal advice, education, and medical and psychological support. The Government's White Paper "Care Matters" and Children and Young Persons Bill currently in Parliament contain additional measures to strengthen the service provision and improve outcomes for all looked-after children even further.

In England, local safeguarding children boards co-ordinate safeguarding activity for children at risk of harm. Some local and metropolitan authorities have already established trafficking sub-groups to promote best practice and co-operation between agencies.

On 7 December 2007, the Government published supplementary guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children who may have been Trafficked" which actively guides practitioners towards making appropriate decisions for safeguarding children they suspect may have been trafficked.

### Identity Cards: Biometrics

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the police on the use of *(a)* non-unique digital representations of fingerprint biometrics and *(b)* unique pure biometric images obtained via the National Identity Card scheme. [219756]

**Meg Hillier:** The Identity and Passport Service holds regular discussions with the police on all aspects of the performance of biometric systems and their relevance for the operation of the national identity scheme, via the National Policing Improvement Agency.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether workers employed in sensitive locations applying for identity cards from 2009 will be required to provide 10 fingerprints. [226403]

**Jacqui Smith:** It is intended that 10 plain fingerprint biometrics will be recorded and stored on the National Identity Register. The information to be recorded on the ID card will be prescribed in regulations to be approved by Parliament under section 6 of the Identity Cards Act 2006, but it is expected that two fingerprints will be recorded on the card.

### Identity Cards: Data Protection

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the personal information collated before an individual's interview to enrol in the identity card scheme will be destroyed after use; and how and where the details of *(a)* the particular questions asked during the interview and *(b)* the answers given will be stored. [219766]

**Meg Hillier:** In some cases, individuals will be asked to attend an interview when they apply for registration on the National Identity Register or for a replacement card. While precise arrangements for the retention of personal information gathered for the purposes of the interview have not been finalised, we will seek to build upon existing practice for interviews of first time passport applicants, which is usually to destroy the information shortly after the interview.

Section 3(1) of the Identity Cards Act makes clear that information may be entered on the register, and once entered, may continue to be recorded there, only if and for so long as it is consistent with the statutory purposes for it to be recorded in the register. Any request for verification of information or provision of data made to the Identity and Passport Service will be dealt with in line with the provisions of the Identity Cards Act 2006 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

### Identity Cards: Young People

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what work is being undertaken by her Department on whether identity cards should be extended to British citizens under the age of 16 years. [226402]

**Jacqui Smith:** Section 2(6) of the Identity Cards Act 2006 would allow the minimum age of 16 to be modified through secondary legislation, subject to approval by Parliament. However, there are currently no plans to extend the issue of identity cards to British citizens under the age of 16.

### Illegal Immigrants: Prisoners

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost per day of detaining an immigration offender in the immigration estate was in the latest period for which figures are available. [234733]

**Jacqui Smith:** The estimated average cost of detaining an immigration offender in an immigration removal centre is £130 per day.

### Interception Modernisation Programme

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what access local authorities will have to geodata from mobile telephone use under the Interception Modernisation Programme. [236500]

**Mr. Coaker:** Under the s21(4) (b)(c) Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, local authorities can only access service use and subscriber data. This does not include geo-data and there are no plans to change this.

### Interception of Communications Commissioner

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role the Interception of Communications Commissioner has in inspecting local authorities. [236589]

**Mr. Coaker:** The interception of communications commissioner is appointed by the Prime Minister under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) to exercise independent oversight both in relation to the interception of communications and access to communications data. In the discharge of his functions, the commissioner and his staff carry out a programme of inspection visits, reports and meetings. An annual report is laid before Parliament. Local authorities who make use of the provisions in RIPA to access communications data will be included in the commissioner's inspection regime.

### Local Authorities: Inspections

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which local authorities have been inspected by the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner in the last 12 months. [236587]

**Mr. Coaker:** In 2007-08, a total of 174 local authorities were inspected. The Office of Surveillance Commissioners does not publish details of which local authorities were inspected.

### Local Authorities: Surveillance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance the Interception of Communications Commissioner has issued to local authorities on their use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2002. [236494]

**Mr. Coaker:** Representatives from the Interception of Communications Commissioner's Office are responsible for inspecting those local authorities which make use of communications data provisions within the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. They will provide guidance during these inspections and as appropriate at other times throughout the year, including in the information published in the Commissioner's Annual Report.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what response she has made to the Interception of Communications Commissioner on her proposals for local authorities to make greater use of their powers to intercept communications. [236496]

**Mr. Coaker:** Local authorities cannot intercept communications under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and there are no plans for them to do so.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many local authorities were authorised to intercept communications data in the last year for which figures are available according to records held by the Interception of Communications Commissioner. [236588]

**Mr. Coaker:** Local authorities cannot intercept communications under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA), but they can use the communications data provisions to make requests to communication service providers for service use and subscriber data under s21(4) (b)(c) of RIPA. The figures

published in the interception of communications commissioner's annual report shows that 154 local authorities made use of their powers to acquire communications data in 2007.

### Marriage

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason approval as a venue for a civil marriage ceremony may not be given to premises with a recent connection with any religion, religious practice or religious persuasion. [236516]

**Meg Hillier:** The Marriage Act 1949 draws a distinction between civil and religious marriages in England and Wales. The approval of premises for civil marriages is a matter for the local authority in which the premises are situated and it is the local authority which must be satisfied that the statutory requirements are met before it can grant an approval.

The statutory position on approved premises is contained in the Civil Partnership Act 2004 and the Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005. The regulations state that the premises must not be religious premises as defined by section 6(2) of the 2004 Act. The Act defines religious premises as those which are used solely or mainly for religious purposes; or have been so used and have not subsequently been used solely or mainly for other purposes.

Therefore, if a premises which has previously been used for religious purposes has subsequently been used for another purpose then the previous use, by itself, should not prohibit the premises becoming approved for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letter to her dated 1 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton with regard to Mrs N. Akhtar. [225189]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 14 October 2008.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer the letter to her dated 25 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton in regard to Mrs Mohsin. [231854]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 3 November 2008.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will respond to the letter to her of 12 August from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Faiz ur-Rasool. [235587]

**Jacqui Smith:** A reply to the right hon. Member was sent on 22 September 2008. As my right hon. Friend has not received my reply, a copy of the letter will be re-sent to his office.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will respond to the letter of 24 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. F. Khan. [235588]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* I replied to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 13 November 2008.

### Office of the Surveillance Commissioner

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual cost to the public purse of the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner has been in each of the last three years. [236497]

**Mr. Coaker:** The relevant financial year figures are as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Annual cost to the public purse (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 1,391,000 |
| 2006-07 | 1,595,800 |
| 2007-08 | 1,651,000 |

### Police National Computer

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received from the Data Protection Commissioner on the accuracy of criminal records held on the Police National Computer; and what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of criminal records held on the Police National Computer which contain significant inaccuracies or errors. [234447]

**Meg Hillier:** None.

Any complaint about the accuracy of information held on the Police National Computer (PNC) would be dealt with locally by police forces. Each chief constable is a data controller and is responsible for the accuracy of information recorded by his or her force on the PNC. Police forces are required to have a quality assurance process in place to ensure that data entered onto the PNC are as accurate as possible.

### Police: Databases

**Mr. Ilsley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of her Department's ability to implement the recommendations of the Bichard Inquiry on a Police National Intelligence database. [237248]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Police National Database (PND) is being delivered by the IMPACT Programme within the National Policing Improvement Agency. The Full Business Case for the PND is being closely scrutinised and covers, among other things, affordability and deliverability.

The Programme is subject to the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Gateway reviews and will undergo a Gateway 3 (Investment Decision) review prior to the award of the contract. The purpose of a Gateway 3 review is to:

"investigate the full business case and the governance arrangements for the investment decision to confirm that the project is still required, affordable and achievable. The Review also checks that implementation plans are robust."

The Programme submits regular reports on progress, plans, risks and issues including:

a monthly Home Office Project Monitoring System (ProMS) report;

a quarterly Government Major Projects and Programmes (MPP) report which goes to, among others, HM Treasury and the OGC; and

monthly reports and weekly updates to Ministers.

The Home Office is represented on the IMPACT Programme Board, which also regularly reviews progress, plans and the key risks and issues.

This is a challenging and complex programme which involves not just delivering new information technology, but also significant business change within the Police Service and considerable work for forces in preparing their data, infrastructure and other resources. However, the programme remains on track to commence deployment of PND capabilities in 2010.

### Police: Parades

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of policing the *(a)* Henley Regatta 2008, *(b)* London Marathon 2008, *(c)* London Gay and Lesbian Pride March 2008 and *(d)* Beijing Olympic and Paralympics welcome home parade was. [237334]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not held centrally.

These are operational matters for the police authorities and the chief officers concerned, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

### Police: Surveillance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the National Policing Improvement Agency's report on the lawful and effective use of covert techniques. [236586]

**Mr. Coaker:** Guidance on the lawful and effective use of covert techniques was published by the National Policing Improvement Agency in March 2008 on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers, Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland, Serious Organised Crime Agency, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and Home Office.

Due to its subject matter, the guidance is marked 'Restricted' and as such, copies cannot be placed in the House Library.

### Powers of Entry

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she expects Lord West to complete his review of powers of entry; and what plans she has to publish his report; [236503]

(2) whether the remit of Lord West's review of powers of entry extends to powers of entry affecting Northern Ireland. [236585]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office is working with colleagues in other Government Departments to draw up a definitive list of entry powers and who may use them. The review is limited to England and Wales. We plan to consult widely on a potential legislative framework for such powers by spring 2009. Regular updates on progress will be placed on the Powers of Entry Review website at:

http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/powers-pace-codes/powers-of-entry-review/

### Proof of Identity

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what joint ventures have been established by the Identity and Passport Service concerning identity verification. [236322]

**Meg Hillier:** For a number of years, the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) has provided a passport validation service for both private sector and public sector customers.

*Private sector customers*

The passport validation service (PVS) allows financial services firms to check the validity of UK passports presented as evidence of identity by customers directly against Identity and Passport Service records (via a dedicated call centre). By verifying these details against IPS data, the service provides assurance of the validity of the document presented and significantly prevents the use of lost, stolen or counterfeit passports.

*Public sector customers*

Other Government Departments use PVS as an integral part of their identity management processes. For example, the UK Border Agency who use the service (via the Government secure internet) to check the validity of a British passport where there are specific doubts about the integrity of the document on arrival in the UK.

### Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what use there has been of notices under section 49 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 since 1 October 2007. [236604]

**Mr. Coaker:** Since October 2007, a total of 26 notices have been issued. 13 individuals have been charged with failing to comply with a section 49 notice and one person has been convicted.

### Royal Mail: Standards

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the most recent inspection report of the Royal Mail Group by the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner. [236619]

**Mr. Coaker:** I refer the right hon. Friend to the previous answer given on 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 235W. The Office of Surveillance

Commissioners is independent of Government. The disclosure of its inspection reports, including those relating to local authorities, is a matter for the chief Surveillance Commissioner.

### Vetting: Fees and Charges

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what costs will be incurred by *(a)* employers, *(b)* employees and *(c)* volunteers to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority. [236579]

**Meg Hillier** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* Individuals in paid employment will pay £64 when applying for registration with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). The one-off application fee is composed of two elements—£28 to fund the running of the ISA and £36 to pay for Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) administration and, in most cases, an enhanced disclosure will be included. Those involved only in unpaid voluntary activity will pay no application fee. The responsibility for paying this fee legally falls on employees. It is at the discretion of employers if they choose to pay the fee, and we know from our consultations that many will, either in full or part. It will be the individuals' responsibility to register with the scheme, but as an "employment incentive" employers can offer to pay for the registration cost. Current employees in most of these settings should possess a valid CRB check.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Carer's Allowance: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of carer's allowance in Tamworth constituency in each year since its inception. [237326]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information about carer's allowance by parliamentary constituency is not available prior to August 2003. The available information is in the table.

| | *Number receiving carer's allowance in Tamworth constituency* |
|---|---|
| May 2008 | 850 |
| May 2007 | 820 |
| May 2006 | 790 |
| May 2005 | 810 |
| May 2004 | 790 |
| August 2003 | 760 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance. They exclude those who are entitled but receive another income maintenance benefit at a higher rate instead. Both payment and entitlement can give lower-income carers access to higher rates of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance, pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit. They also exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended.
3. These figures are published on the DWP website at: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

### Child Benefit

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many EU or EEA nationals are receiving UK child benefit for a child or children living in another EU or EEA member state; and how much was spent on child benefit for such children in the latest period for which information is available. [236861]

**Mr. Timms:** I have been asked to reply.

Applicants for Child Benefit are not asked to state their nationality, so the information is not available.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what IT projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [229169]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Although the Department does not have any discrete IT projects, it has a number of projects and programmes that include changes to IT to a greater or lesser extent. We have included in the following table:

those current projects and programmes undertaken by the Department where the IT element of the project or programme will result in the development and/or implementation of services that underpin the delivery of departmental business; and

those where non-delivery of the IT element would significantly damage the project's or programme's ability to deliver its intended results.

The costs shown represent the investment costs of the project/programme. The cost of running the solutions implemented by the projects and programmes are not included as in the great majority of cases they are more than compensated for by the financial benefits they generate.

Initiatives that are associated with ongoing system improvements or enhancements as part of business as usual have not been included. For all programmes or projects, the costs and dates reported relate to the total project or programme and not only the IT element. The table shows information on the programme/project purpose, expected completion date and estimated costs.

It should be noted that the scope of projects can change as they pass through their project lifecycle, and as plans and costs become more robust. At each stage of this process, they are assessed to ensure that they continue to fit with departmental strategy and continue to deliver value for money.

| *Project* | *Purpose* | *Expected completion date* | *Estimated cost (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pensions Transformation Project | The programme will transform the Pension Service, bringing together business and IT change in ways that improve customer service and deliver efficiencies. | 2010-11 | 598 |

| Project | Purpose | Expected completion date | Estimated cost (£ million) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Customer Information System[1] | This project will deliver a database of key citizen information to be shared across DWP. The database will complement information currently available in the Department's key customer information systems, i.e. personal details computer system and departmental central index, and become their replacement. Consideration is being given for wider use of CIS by other Government Departments. | March 2008 | 88 |
| Document Repository Service[2] | This project seeks to support the Department's modernisation programmes through the provision of a document repository to store digitised images of documents received from customers (letters, faxes, e-mails etc.), cutting down paper in the organisation. | March 2009 | 11 |
| Central Payments System (formerly part of Payment Modernisation) | A modern integrated central payment engine and accounts payable system to improve accounting for benefit/pension payments, reduce risks of service failure, increased speed and efficiency, and information for improved customer service and reduced fraud and error. | December 2011 | 177 |
| Employment and Support Allowance | The project delivers the system and processes to implement the new ESA allowance from October 2008; expected completion date is October 2009. | October 2008 | 295 |
| On Time Solution | Provide a range of improved information services to DWP businesses, including improved quicker management information, fraud and error intervention and analysis. | March 2011 | 11 |
| Provider Referrals and Payment Project | Deploy an IT system to automate and e-enable transactions between Jobcentre Plus and training providers. | June 2010 | 18 |
| Pension Reform Delivery Programme[3] | To co-ordinate, manage and deliver a range of measures and consequential impacts which will establish a new structure for the UK pension system long term. | December 2010 | 118 |
| DWP Change Programme | This programme brigades a number of complementary initiatives to deliver the DWP Business Vision including major projects to bring in continuous improvement using lean techniques which should allow greater customer focus and efficiency in our process, and business change projects to allow greater access to information. | March 2011 | 246 |
| Local Services Integration Programme | To provide local services with an IT solution that supports the end to end process. | December 2011 | 15 |
| Government Connect | To roll out a secure data network connecting Government and local authorities, including secure file transfer, e-mail and web-browser capability | March 2011 | 33 |

[1] *Customer Information System (CIS)*:
The expected completion date of March 2008 was based on a plan to migration off legacy benefit system data on the same date. However, to minimise the risks associated with this approach, a phased implementation was planned. The dates for this phased approach have previously been published and are:
Start of Migration: March 2008
Completion of phased roll-out: June 2008
Final Technical Release: October 2008
End of Project Review Date: December 2008

[2] *Document Repository System*:
The date shown for the expected completion date (March 2009) is the End Project Review (EPR) date. A completion date of November 2008 has been previously quoted, this refers to the first 'Go Live Date' which was delivered to the original planned deadline.

[3] *Pensions Reform Delivery Programme (PRDP)*:
The date shown for the expected completed date December 2010 is the End Project Review (EPR) date. A completion date of April 2010 (in line with original plans) has previously been quoted, this refers to the 'Go Live Date' which was delivered to the original planned deadline.

## Departmental Mass Media

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last three years; and what the cost of each contract was. [230044]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information is as follows.

*(a)* The following organisations have provided media monitoring services to the Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies over the past three years:

1. Central Office of Information—Media Monitoring Unit

2. Durrants

3. Press Association—Mediapoint

1. The expenditure on the Media Monitoring Unit was as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 53,000 |
| 2006-07 | 60,015 |
| 2007-08 | 68,700 |

2. Durrants has provided a press cutting service to DWP over the past three years.

The cost of this contract is commercially sensitive and thus cannot be disclosed.

3. Press Association—Mediapoint

The cost of this contract is commercially sensitive and thus cannot be disclosed.

*(b)* Agencies.

DWP agencies are covered by the departmental contracts aforementioned.

In addition, a separate broadcast monitoring service provided by Media Measurement for the Child Support Agency (CSA), now Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission (CMEC), has been in place since December, 2006.

Romeike provided a media monitoring service to Jobcentre Plus between April 2005 and July 2008.

*(c)* Non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). The NDPBs make their own arrangements for the provision of these services and DWP has no control over their expenditure. An exception is the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) which has used the Durrants contract for their press cutting service since the beginning of 2008.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many temporary workers *(a)* are employed by his Department and *(b)* were employed by his Department in each year since 1997; [231835]

(2) how much his Department spent on temporary workers in each of the last 10 years. [231836]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001. The first full year that staffing statistics for the Department are available is from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003.

Staff numbers in the Department are counted and recorded on the last day of each month. The number and costs of staff directly employed in each year from 2002-03 onwards is shown in the following table. Numbers are shown both as an average for each year and as at 31 March each year. Typically numbers of temporary staff tend to be higher during the summer months when there is a need to cover absences during the peak leave period.

| *Financial year* | *Average number of temporary staff employed* | *Number of temporary staff employed at 31 March each year* | *Cost of temporary staff (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 4,231 | 2,684 | 29.290 |
| 2003-04 | 4,662 | 4,374 | 43.637 |
| 2004-05 | 3,674 | 2,004 | 45.256 |
| 2005-06 | 2,268 | 1,419 | 32.828 |
| 2006-07 | 1,767 | 825 | 29.197 |
| 2007-08 | 1,491 | 1,295 | 20.387 |

*Notes:*
1. Staff figures are full time equivalents.
2. Costs are rounded to nearest £1,000.

Given that temporary staff can be employed for periods of between one day and 51 weeks neither the average number nor the end of year number will necessarily correlate with the annual cost.

The number of temporary staff directly employed by the Department as at 30 September 2008 was 2,854 full time equivalents. The cost of temporary staff, to date, in the current financial year (2008-09) is £14.696 million.

### Departmental Training

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on external training courses for departmental staff in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; and which external organisations were paid by the Department to provide such courses in each year. [230490]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information about the cost of external training courses and the identity of training providers could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many questions for written answer were tabled to his Department in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235378]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information on disproportionate cost replies is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The number of questions tabled to the Department for which replies were given[1] is in the following table:

[1] Questions which were subsequently withdrawn by hon. Members or transferred to other Government Departments for reply have not been included.

| *Parliamentary Session* | *Number of questions* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 2,136 |
| 2003-04 | 2,712 |
| 2004-05 | 1,288 |
| 2005-06 | 5,195 |
| 2006-07 | 2,256 |
| 2007-08 to date | 3,184 |

### Disability Living Allowance

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum duration of a fixed award of (i) disability living allowance and (ii) attendance allowance was in each of the last 10 years, broken down by condition. [230090]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The available information has been placed in the Library.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many awards have been made for *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance under special award rules in each of the last 10 years; how many were (i) made for three years initially, (ii) paid for the full three years and (iii) renewed after three years, broken down by category of condition. [230091]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The available information is in the following tables.

*Disability living allowance special rules cases with initial awards of three years in the last 10 years: Great Britain—durations of award*

| | | *Duration* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *As at May:* | *All special rules awards* | *Up to three years* | *Three years (one month either side)* | *Over three years* | *Indefinite awards* |
| 1998 | 3,700 | — | — | — | 3,700 |
| 1999 | 4,000 | — | — | — | 4,000 |
| 2000 | 4,100 | — | — | — | 4,100 |
| 2001 | 4,900 | — | — | — | 4,900 |
| 2002 | 4,400 | — | — | — | 4,400 |
| 2003 | 4,200 | — | — | — | 4,200 |
| 2004 | 4,900 | — | — | — | 4,900 |
| 2005 | 4,300 | — | — | — | 4,300 |
| 2006 | 4,200 | — | — | — | 4,200 |

*Disability living allowance special rules cases with initial awards of three years in the last 10 years: Great Britain—durations of award*

| | | Duration | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *As at May:* | *All special rules awards* | *Up to three years* | *Three years (one month either side)* | *Over three years* | *Indefinite awards* |
| 2007 | 4,300 | — | 4,200 | — | [1]100 |
| 2008 | 4,500 | [1]100 | 4,300 | — | — |

*Attendance allowance special rules cases with initial awards of three years in the last 10 years: Great Britain—durations of award*

| | | Duration | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *As at May:* | *All special rules awards* | *Up to three years* | *Three years (one month either side)* | *Over three years* | *Indefinite awards* |
| 1998 | 6,300 | — | — | — | 6,300 |
| 1999 | 6,700 | — | — | — | 6,700 |
| 2000 | 6,200 | — | — | — | 6,200 |
| 2001 | 6,500 | — | — | — | 6,500 |
| 2002 | 6,900 | — | — | — | 6,900 |
| 2003 | 7,100 | — | — | — | 7,100 |
| 2004 | 8,200 | — | — | — | 8,200 |
| 2005 | 7,300 | — | — | — | 7,300 |
| 2006 | 7,100 | — | — | — | 7,100 |
| 2007 | 6,900 | [1]100 | 6,200 | — | [1]500 |
| 2008 | 7,500 | [1]200 | 7,200 | — | [1]100 |

"—" = Nil or negligible.

[1] Figures are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Although the preferred data source for benefit statistics is 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, the 5 per cent. sample data has been used in this case because it provides some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling conditions of disability living allowance and attendance allowance claimants.

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample

## Disability Living Allowance: Chronically Sick

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are receiving disability living allowance under the special rules relating to a terminal illness *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by (i) region and (ii) constituency; and if he will make a statement. [236012]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information about the number of people who are receiving disability living allowance under special rules provisions by parliamentary constituency is not available. The available information is in the table.

*Disability living allowance special rules cases in payment, Great Britain, May 2008*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| All | 45,100 |
| North East | 2,700 |
| North West | 7,600 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 4,000 |
| East Midlands | 3,200 |
| West Midlands | 3,900 |
| East of England | 3,400 |
| London | 5,300 |
| South East | 4,600 |
| South West | 3,400 |
| Wales | 3,000 |
| Scotland | 4,100 |

*Notes:*

1. Data is taken from a 5 per cent. sample, therefore figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall case load from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. 'Terminally ill' has been defined as all cases where the main disabling condition is recorded as "D00 - Terminal Illness" or the award was made under the special rules provision.
4. Figures exclude cases suspended, for example, where the claimant is in hospital.

*Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions 5 per cent. sample.

## Disability Living Allowance: Sight Impaired

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to decide whether the higher rate of mobility allowance should be awarded to those who are visually impaired. [230766]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 76W, to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock).

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate his Department has made of the likely cost of extending the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance to include people registered blind; and if he will make a statement. [236010]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We have made no recent estimate of the likely cost of extending the higher rate mobility component to registered blind people.

For the likely costs of extending the higher rate mobility component to people with severe sight impairments, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett) on 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2226W.

## Incapacity Benefit

**Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidelines his Department has in place regarding contacting incapacity benefit claimants by telephone in the evenings and at weekends. [237844]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Atos Healthcare, formerly Atos Origin Medical Services, provides medical services on behalf of the Department to support the Department's decision making on sickness and disability related benefits, including incapacity benefit.

Working within departmental guidelines, Atos Healthcare uses a telephone appointment system to contact customers to arrange their medical examination appointments. The telephone lines are open from 8 am to 8 pm, Monday to Friday, and 9 am to 5 pm, Saturday to

Sunday, as approved by the Department. This allows for both inbound and outbound calls within these times.

### Income Support: Lone Parents

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's estimate is of the average benefit income of lone parents affected by the changes to the eligibility rules for income support coming into effect in November 2008 *(a)* before and *(b)* immediately after these changes come into effect (i) in the UK and (ii) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [230280]

**Kitty Ussher:** Jobseeker's allowance is paid at the same rate as income support so lone parents who claim income support on other grounds or who transfer to jobseeker's allowance will receive the same amount.

According to latest benefit data (February 2008), the average income support payment for a lone parent with a child aged seven or over is £95.32 per week.

A table showing the average income support payment for a lone parent with a child aged seven or over, at local authority level, has been placed in the Library.

The assessment phase rate of employment and support allowance is also paid at the same rate as income support and so, in general, lone parents will see no change to their benefit if they transfer over to employment and support allowance.

However, those who are in receipt of the income support disability premium and transferring to the main phase of employment and support allowance will receive slightly less (£1.85 a week), from the point they transfer to employment and support allowance. Jobcentre Plus identified, and attempted to contact, all the lone parents affected, to make them aware and to invite them to claim income support on the grounds of incapacity to give them an opportunity to remain on income support on the grounds of incapacity. All existing incapacity benefits customers will be moved to employment and support allowance by 2013.

### Mentally Ill Staff

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public sector bodies for which he has responsibility; and what use has been made of that information. [228561]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Under the Disability Equality Duty introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, the Department and its public sector bodies listed in the associated regulations are required to publish and implement Disability Equality Schemes. These are plans setting out how they will carry out the Disability Equality Duty, monitor, and report on progress. In particular this includes their arrangements for gathering information on the effect of their policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of their disabled employees, including those with mental health conditions, and making use of that information.

The public sector bodies sponsored by my Department that are subject to these requirements are responsible for publishing and implementing their own disability equality schemes.

In order to carry out the Disability Equality Duty we have adopted a number of specific measures which include:

all external recruitment advertisements contain the "Positive About Disabled People Two Ticks Symbol", which ensures that all applicants who declare a disability are given reasonable adjustments at each stage of the selection process to ensure they are competing on a level playing field.

when disabled applicants are successful, all relevant adjustments are made, in consultation with the individual and expert advisors where appropriate. Managers keep under review any particular requirements that disabled employees may have, in line with the "Two Ticks" commitments.

we operate the Workstep scheme, which enables people with severely disabled people to be employed, with support from external providers such as Scope.

all our employment policies and processes are subject to equality impact assessments in order to assess the impact of the policy or process on disability, race or gender.

we run a specific development programme for disabled and ethnic minority staff which aims to identify and overcome the barriers that can prevent these groups of staff from fulfilling their potential. The current intake includes staff who have mental health conditions.

we are currently developing a holistic wellbeing programme to look at and tackle the underlying causes of poor physical and mental health. To assist this we collect and analyse data on sickness absence caused by anxiety, depression and other mental health conditions. Our annual staff survey also seeks employees' opinions on the causes and effect of work-related pressure and we collect anonymous data on the reasons our staff telephone our counselling help line.

In line with the Disability Equality Duty, a report is published every three years to show progress towards disability equality in my policy sector and proposals for co-ordination of future work by relevant public authorities, within my policy sector. These reports will show what impact, if any, policies have had on the recruitment and retention of disabled people including those with mental health conditions, and set out proposals to address any gaps identified when establishing the progress made across the policy sector. The first report must be published by December 2008.

### Motability

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 69W, on Motability, how many allegations of *(a)* fraud and *(b)* misuse were substantiated but did not lead to the cancellation of a contract; and what the nature of the fraud or misuse was in each year since 1999. [236375]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* Motability is an independent charitable company and is responsible for the administration of the Motability scheme. Motability has advised that this information can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Further information about Motability can be obtained directly from the scheme.

### Post Office Card Account

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what additional functionality the new Post Office Card Account will offer; and if he will make a statement. [236850]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The precise functionality will be subject to detailed contractual discussions with Post Office Ltd., but we expect enhancements to include: (i) a simpler more automated opening process for customers (ii) an ability to make payments more quickly into Post Office card accounts through industry standard Faster Electronic Payments (iii) an ability to correct mistakes, for example if the customer withdraws more than they intended to and wants the money immediately put back into their account. This can happen when the customer does not realise, for example, that their winter fuel payment has been paid into their Post Office card account and they ask to withdraw the full balance in their account.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the oral statement of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 965-82W, on the Post Office Card Account, what the increased functionality of the new Post Office Card Account will be under the new contract. [237000]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* The precise functionality will be subject to detailed contractual discussions with Post Office Ltd., but we expect enhancements to include: (i) a simpler more automated opening process for customers (ii) an ability to make payments more quickly into Post Office card accounts through industry standard Faster Electronic Payments (iii) an ability to correct mistakes, for example if the customer withdraws more than they intended to and wants the money immediately put back into their account. This can happen when the customer does not realise, for example, that their winter fuel payment has been paid into their Post Office card account and they ask to withdraw the full balance in their account.

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place a copy of each of the public tender documents for the Post Office Card Account in the Library. [237407]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The procurement exercise for a successor to the Post Office card account has been halted and instead another contract will be awarded to Post Office Ltd.

As the tender process never reached a final conclusion it would serve no purpose to publish anything more than the notice that appeared in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (already in the Library) which set out what we intended to procure.

### Winter Fuel Payments

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the cost of extending the winter fuel payment to people *(a)* receiving the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance and *(b)* receiving the higher rate care component of disability living allowance because they are terminally ill, who otherwise would not be entitled to it in each of the next six years in real terms; and if he will make a statement. [237094]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Winter fuel payments are made to people aged 60 or over including those who are disabled or terminally ill.

The estimated annual cost of extending winter fuel payments to people receiving the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance is in the table.

*Estimated annual cost of extending winter fuel payments to people receiving the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance—all under 60 (including children)*

| | *Total cost in each year at 2008-09 prices (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 199 |
| 2009-10 | 160 |
| 2010-11 | 160 |
| 2011-12 | 161 |
| 2012-13 | 162 |
| 2013-14 | 163 |

The estimated annual cost of extending winter fuel payments to people receiving the higher rate care component of disability living allowance under the special rules relating to a terminal illness is in the table.

*Estimated annual cost of extending winter fuel payments to people with a terminal illness receiving the higher rate care component of disability living allowance under the special rules—all under 60 (including children)*

| | *Total cost in each year at 2008-09 prices (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 6.6 |
| 2009-10 | 5.6 |
| 2010-11 | 5.7 |
| 2011-12 | 5.8 |
| 2012-13 | 6.0 |
| 2013-14 | 6.1 |

These estimates include those customers living in a household that already receives a winter fuel payment. It is not possible to identify disability living allowance customers living in households that are not entitled to a winter fuel payment.

The estimates for 2008-09 are based on a £250 payment, which includes a one off additional payment of £50 for this year. Constant prices have been used, therefore, the estimates are based on a £200 payment for subsequent years.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many studies his Department has *(a)* initiated and *(b)* completed on the lessons learned for his Department from the war in Afghanistan; and if he will place copies of each completed study in the Library. [232933]

**Bill Rammell:** We continuously review our strategy in Afghanistan to identify and learn lessons for the future. My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Secretaries of State for Foreign and Commonwealth

Affairs, International Development, and Defence are actively involved. In addition to the work undertaken in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Stabilisation Unit, a cross-Government department, provides specialist, targeted assistance to countries emerging from violent conflict, and the FCO works closely with them to draw on the experience of those in theatre.

### British Indian Ocean Territory: Prisons

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Prisons Ordinance 1981 of the British Indian Ocean Territory was intended to authorise. [228650]

**David Miliband:** The British Indian Ocean Territory Ordinance No. 9 of 1981, more generally known as the "Prisons Ordinance, 1981", was an Ordinance to make provision for prisons in the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). It enables the BIOT Commissioner to declare prisons where necessary to do so. The Ordinance was signed by the then BIOT Commissioner on 27 November 1981.

### China: Carbon Emissions

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to hold discussions with the Governments of China and India on ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and use more renewable energy resources; and what plans he has to involve the incoming US administration in such discussions. [235812]

**Gillian Merron:** Climate change is not just an environmental problem but something that threatens international peace and security, prosperity and development.

The UK is seeking to agree, at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Copenhagen in December 2009, a comprehensive, global and long-term framework for addressing climate change. This deal must put us on the right pathway for stabilising emissions in the atmosphere at a level that avoids dangerous climate change consistent with global emission pathways in line with the 2° C target.

It is important that all countries are included in a global deal, and China and India, as well as the United States and the EU, will be critical to achieving it. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has twice visited China this year and held substantive discussions on China's low carbon future. The UK Government have also hosted a number of inward visits from Chinese dignitaries with whom we have had extensive dialogues on climate change.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has also been working with our Chinese (and European) partners to ensure climate change is a priority for the 1 December EU-China summit. We hope that one outcome from this summit might be further discussions on possible low carbon development zones (LCDZ) which could be a very practical step in reducing China's greenhouse gas emissions.

We are equally committed to continuing our discussions with India about climate change. The British high commission in New Delhi recently hosted the UK-India Structured Dialogue on Climate Change and the global move to low carbon is a consistent theme in our conversations with partners in India.

We welcome the positive statements President-Elect Obama has made on climate change and energy, and we are looking forward to engaging with his administration when they are formally in place.

### Climate Change

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress his Department has made on Departmental Strategic Objective 8 to promote a low carbon, high growth global economy since it was set; and if he will make a statement. [225370]

**Gillian Merron:** Departmental Strategic Objective (DSO) 7—promoting a low carbon, high growth, global economy has five outcomes:

A visible and accelerated shift in investment initiated in the major economies towards low carbon.

Political conditions created for an equitable post-2012 agreement at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference of parties to the Kyoto protocol in Copenhagen in December 2009 of sufficient ambition to avoid dangerous climate change.

Risks to UK and EU energy security managed through more diverse and reliable external sources of supply and more efficient global markets.

Increased international commitment to an open, stable and equitable low carbon global economy delivering higher standards of living.

Increased international commitment to achieve the millennium development goals.

We are adjusting our strategy to meet the risks of greater protectionism caused by the current economic climate and to preserve the benefits of open markets for trade and investment. We are continuing to make the case for EU leadership on the transition to the low carbon economy outlined by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's speech to the London School of Economics on 7 May.

We have increased resources in some of our overseas posts in order to deliver the Government's international objectives on tackling climate change in the run up to the international climate change meeting in Copenhagen at the end of 2009. Examples of progress are:

We are supporting efforts to increase low-carbon co-operation between the EU and China in advance of the EU-China summit on 1 December;

Leaders in a number of priority countries have expressed a raised level of ambition on climate change, including Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico and South Africa;

Appointment of the UK Climate Security Envoy for Vulnerable Countries in October;

Maintaining political momentum for EU 2020 Package;

June European Council Conclusions called for a financing mechanism for carbon capture and storage and European Parliament approved the use of New Entrant Reserve for funding the 12 EU carbon capture and storage demonstration plants;

The G8 Summit at Toyako reaffirmed Heiligendamm commitments on the goal of achieving at least 50 per cent. reduction of global emissions by 2050;

Political agreement at the June Energy Council for the Third Energy Package.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution the UK *(a)* provides and *(b)* plans to provide to the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and if he will make a statement. [233067]

**David Miliband:** The UK contributes 7.8 per cent. of the cost of the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) through its assessed payments to the UN's peacekeeping budget, and also contributes through the provision of UK military staff. In the 2007-08 financial year the UK contributed £39,728,447 to MONUC through assessed costs, and provided six military personnel at a cost of £1,077,271. We expect the UK assessed contribution to MONUC in 2008-09 to be approximately £45 million. The UK currently has five military personnel in the mission, including three based in Goma and a senior military advisor to MONUC's force commander. If the UN Security Council mandates an increase in resources for MONUC then our assessed financial contribution to MONUC will increase.

MONUC's current mandate expires in December 2008, and subject to UN Security Council decisions regarding its renewal, its budget for 2009-10 will be approved by UN member states at the UN's fifth Committee in June 2009. We will keep our voluntary contribution to the mission under review.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is UK policy that the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo should be reinforced; and what changes are being proposed. [233077]

**David Miliband:** We fully support the efforts of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (MONUC) to reinforce its presence in and around Goma by moving troops and resources from other areas of the DRC.

The UK is committed to working with international partners and the UN to ensure MONUC's resources are utilised as efficiently as possible and targeted where they are most needed.

The UN Secretary-General has written to UN Security Council member states requesting further resources for MONUC and will present further recommendations on the restructuring of MONUC to the Security Council in his report due to be issued on 19 November. The extra resources are likely to be further troops and enablers, such as air support. We will support a properly evidenced request for extra resources and will work closely with Security Council partners to agree on the resources required by MONUC.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what IT projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [229163]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services, an executive agency of the FCO, undertakes a wide range of IT-enabled projects. Some are managed centrally, while others are initiated and managed by the holders of devolved budgets both in the UK or at posts overseas. Details of the larger projects, requiring formal approval by the FCO's Investment Committee, are shown in the following table. In some of these, FCO Services was a supplier for the project.

| *Current information technology projects > £2 million* | *Expected completion date* | *Estimated costs £million* |
|---|---|---|
| Future Firecrest Programme[1] | February 2012 | 401.0 |
| FCO Web Platform | December 2008 | 9.7 |
| FTN (FCO Telecommunications Network) PFI Implementation and service 2000 to 2010[2] | May 2010 | 252.0 |
| Ocean (Telecommunications procurement)[3] | November 2009 | 7.6 |
| Prism Simplification | April 2009 | 5.3 |
| Prism Management Information Phase 1 | April 2009 | 3.1 |
| FEDIS Phase 1—Emergency Passports | December 2009 | 4.5 |
| Secure Video Conferencing | December 2008 | 2.5 |

[1] Previous answers to similar questions from other hon. Members have included just the AIM project, the largest single project within a programme that includes also an electronic document records management system, business change, and various other items needed to effect the comprehensive replacement of the FCO desktop infrastructure.

[2] FTN is a service, chargeable by usage. The figure given is the total service charge anticipated over the 10 years of the contract and includes both implementation and running costs.

[3] Ocean is led by FCO; the scope includes the procurement of the successor to FTN, but also the cross-Government managed Telephony Service and the Government secure intranet. The cost given here is that to be incurred by the FCO.

### Departmental Marketing

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226523]

**Gillian Merron:** Obtaining full information to answer this question would involve contacting a wide range of departments within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London, and a large number of our posts overseas. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Pensions

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229532]

**Gillian Merron:** The following table shows the distribution of UK civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO services between the various civil service pension schemes.

| Scheme | Number of members | Percentage of staff |
|---|---|---|
| Classic | 4,598 | 66 |
| Classic Plus | 326 | 5 |
| Premium | 1,834 | 26 |
| Nuvos | 207 | 3 |

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many citizens' juries his Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227479]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not held any citizens' juries in this period.

### Departmental Security

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) agencies sponsored by his Department in each year since 2001. [228919]

**Gillian Merron:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1071W.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what agencies or units for which his Department is responsible require the public to make telephone calls to them on numbers which charge more than the national call rate; and how much income each such agency has derived from such charges in each of the last three years. [225709]

**Gillian Merron:** No telephone numbers in use by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) or its agencies require the public to make telephone calls which charge more than the national rate.

A contractor, on behalf of the FCO's consular directorate, maintains one local rate number (0845) in use for the public to obtain travel advice. This service supplies all travel advice offered by the FCO and is primarily aimed at people calling from the UK, but is contactable from certain countries outside of the UK. No income is derived from this number.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of overseas visits by each Minister in his Department has been since 1997. [214651]

**Gillian Merron:** Since 1999, the Government have published the total cost of all overseas travel by Ministers and a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Information in respect of overseas visits by all Ministers for the period 1997-99 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Diego Garcia: Aviation

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who is responsible for maintaining and possessing the flight logs of aeroplanes flying in and out of Diego Garcia. [228465]

**David Miliband:** Records on flight departures and arrivals on Diego Garcia are held by the UK authorities on the island. Records are generally kept for a period of between three and five years. These include the Customs and Immigration Daily Occurrence Log and the General Declarations made by all aircraft on arrival. In addition to this, a seven-day rolling flight schedule is given to the UK authorities on the island by the US authorities on a daily basis. Any changes to this schedule are also notified to the UK authorities.

### Diego Garcia: Detainees

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the United States is required to seek permission from the UK Government to use UK-run civilian detention facilities on Diego Garcia. [228462]

**David Miliband:** The UK detention facility on Diego Garcia is operated and staffed by the UK authorities and there is no standing agreement between the US and the UK for use of the facility. The US would, therefore, be required to seek permission from the UK authorities if they wished to use the facility.

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether there is a US-administered military detention facility on Diego Garcia. [228463]

**David Miliband:** The US detention facility (for US servicemen within the US base) on Diego Garcia was decommissioned in August 2007. There is now only one detention facility on Diego Garcia. It is operated by the UK authorities.

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people have been held in the police station on the island of Diego Garcia since 2001; and for what reasons in each case. [228467]

**David Miliband:** Our records indicate that, since 2001, approximately 200 people have been held in the police station and/or the detention facility. A significant proportion of those were detained in connection with illegal fishing in British Indian Ocean Territory waters, assault or being drunk and disorderly. Others were held under suspicion of or having been found guilty of one or more of the following offences under British Indian Ocean Territory law: driving whilst disqualified; causing criminal damage; violations of the Visitors and Visiting Vessels

Ordinance; driving under the influence; dangerous driving; breaking and entering; importing prohibited articles; being drunk and incapable; attempted murder; drunkenness; harassment; fighting; taking a vehicle without consent; grievous bodily harm; actual bodily harm; wounding with intent; indecent assault; burglary; leaving the scene of an accident; rape; vagrancy; threatening behaviour; obtaining property by deception; affray; mooring in the outer islands without permission; possession of an offensive weapon; indecency; driving without a licence; theft; and urinating in public.

### Diego Garcia: Military Bases

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether there have been any requests put *(a)* to British officials based in Diego Garcia and *(b)* directly to his Department since 2001 to (i) change the nature of US facilities on the island, (ii) construct new US facilities and (iii) extend existing US facilities. [228524]

**David Miliband:** Under Section 2(b) of the 1966 Exchange of Notes, before either the US or UK Government proceeds to construct or install any facility in the British Indian Ocean Territory, which includes the island of Diego Garcia, both Governments shall first approve in principle the requirement for that facility, and the appropriate administrative authorities of the two Governments shall reach mutually satisfactory arrangements concerning specific areas and technical requirements for respective defence purposes.

Approval under the Exchange of Notes is only required for construction or installation of major new developments. Such developments would be of the order of an air staging base, a fleet support installation or a space tracking station. The UK authorities have received several requests from the US for upgrades to existing facilities within the Exchange of Notes since 2001. In August 2001, the UK received a request for infrastructure upgrades to the existing US Navy support facility on Diego Garcia and its designation as a "bomber forward operating location". Further requests for infrastructure upgrades were received in July 2002. In November 2004, the UK received a request from the US to expand the existing satellite tracking station on Diego Garcia.

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether there have been any requests from the US Administration for permission to use their facilities on Diego Garcia for extraordinary purposes since 2001. [228525]

**David Miliband:** With thanks to the hon. Member for his subsequent clarification of the information that he seeks: there have been no requests from the United States to use Diego Garcia for purposes outside of the agreements governing their use of the island.

### Georgia: Russia

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of relations between Georgia and Russia; and if he will make a statement. [231649]

**Caroline Flint:** Relations between Georgia and Russia are strained, following the conflict in August.

The EU and Organisation for Security Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) ceasefire plan, brokered between President Sarkozy and President Medvedev on 12 August, included a commitment to talks on security and stability in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The first round of these talks took place in Geneva on 15 October under EU chairmanship with UN and OSCE participation. The next meeting is scheduled for 18 November. We are encouraging both Georgia and Russia to engage constructively and hope that this will lead to a lasting, peaceful solution. In the meantime we urge restraint on both sides.

### Ilois: Resettlement

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has held with the Chagos islanders on their wish to return to the Chagos Islands. [235121]

**Gillian Merron:** In April this year discussions were held with the Diego Garcia Society about the possibility of a visit to the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) by a group of Chagossians who had settled in the UK. A visit was agreed to take place from 15-22 November, funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Officials have been in frequent touch with the Diego Garcia Society over the arrangements.

In August, the Chagos Refugees Group met with the Acting Commissioner of BIOT to discuss various issues of concern to Chagossians living in or hoping to live in the UK. Future visits to the territory were also discussed.

On neither occasion was the issue of a return to BIOT by the Chagossians raised. The issue was sub judice following the Government's appeal to the House of Lords.

Our high commissions in Port Louis and Victoria are also regularly in touch with the Chagossian communities in Mauritius and the Seychelles.

### Iraq: Asylum

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much it has cost to date to administer the Locally Employed Staff Assistance scheme for Iraqi nationals; and if he will make a statement. [227952]

**Bill Rammell:** The cost to date of administering the Iraq locally employed staff assistance scheme are as follows:

The cost of administering the scheme at our missions in Iraq is £256,000. The cost of administration at our embassy in Amman is £27,000. These costs include staff and overheads.

Administration costs are also being incurred in London by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Department for International Development (DfID), UK Boarders Agency (UKBA) and Ministry of Defence (MOD). FCO has so far incurred £75,000 costs, DfID £15,000 and UKBA £156,000. The costs incurred by MOD are not yet available and will be forwarded in an addendum to this answer.

The Government have also contributed US$80,000 to the UN high commissioner for refugees to enable the recruitment of two additional members of staff to process applications under the scheme.

This gives a total cost (excluding MOD costs) of £529,000 plus US$80,000.

These statistics represent costs to date and do not include the Gateway Resettlement programme which has allocated £12,000,000 over two years to resettle 600 Iraqi former locally employed staff and their dependents. It also excludes the financial assistance package payments of US$2,418,552 made to staff as set out in PQ 227954.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the legal basis for the presence of UK forces in Iraq will be after the expiry of the UN mandate in December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [237270]

**Mr. Hutton:** I have been asked to reply.

The multinational force, including British forces, operates in Iraq under the mandate of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1790 and at the request of the Government of Iraq. The UK and the Government of Iraq are negotiating a legal framework to allow us to continue to provide the assistance requested of us by the Iraqi authorities, laying the foundations for a long-term normalised bilateral relationship. Our negotiations have made good progress and we expect to conclude an agreement prior to the expiry of UN Security Council Resolution 1790 at the end of 2008.

### Plain English

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [230651]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) submitted 22 documents to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in 2005, and five in 2006. All of these documents were approved for a Crystal Mark. The FCO did not submit any documents in 2007 and 2008.

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231118]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) submitted 22 documents to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in 2005, and five in 2006. All of these documents were approved for a Crystal Mark. The FCO did not submit any documents in 2007 and 2008.

### Turks and Caicos Islands: Hurricanes

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department plans to provide to the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands during the reconstruction phase following Hurricane Ike; on what basis overseas territories receive financial assistance from the Government for help with reconstruction efforts following natural disasters; and if he will make a statement. [236772]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development (DFID), jointly with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has indicated a willingness to provide up to £5 million to support post Hurricane Ike priority reconstruction needs.

Overseas Territories receive assistance for reconstruction after natural disasters on the basis of our assessment of a range of factors. These include the scale of damage suffered, the urgency of the need, the extent of the territory's capacity to meet recovery costs itself. We also take into account the likelihood of receiving assistance from other sources, such as from insurance.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237413]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department subsidises the sale of food and drink at its offices at Cockspur street.

The Royal Parks, the Department's one executive agency, does not subsidise the sale of food to staff from public funds.

### Gambling

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to revise his guidance on split premises and adult gaming centres. [235651]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* In line with its responsibilities under the Gambling Act 2005, the Gambling Commission is required to provide Guidance to Licensing Authorities (GLA) and, in turn, Licensing Authorities are required to have regard to this advice.

Following a full public consultation the Gambling Commission issued revised guidance on 31 October 2008 to licensing authorities on split premises and also on the primary purpose of the gambling activity. This revision to the second edition of the GLA took immediate effect.

This guidance covers all gambling facilities, though the issues on split premises have emerged primarily in respect of adult gaming centres and bingo clubs. A copy

of the guidance can be found on the Gambling Commission website at the following link:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/Client/mediatail.asp?mediaid=138

### Licensing Laws

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to amend the legislation relating to applications for licences under the Licensing Act 2003 so that *(a)* right hon. and hon. Members and *(b)* local councillors can (i) make representations to and (ii) speak at application hearings on behalf of their constituents without the necessity of first being asked by a constituent to do so; and if he will make a statement. [227671]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 16 October 2008]:* I believe that the current arrangements for making representations sufficiently protect the rights of local residents in licensing cases. Local residents and local businesses may make representations or seek a review under the Act, as can bodies acting on their behalf (e.g. residents' associations, parish or town councils, or trade associations). Any of these individuals or groups may specifically request a representative to make a representation on their behalf (e.g. a Member of Parliament or a local ward or parish councillor). Local councillors can also make representations in their own right if they live or are involved in a business in the vicinity of the premises in question. I have received no indication from any source that these arrangements have led to significant problems. Furthermore, I think it would be inappropriate for an hon. Member or ward or parish councillor who is not personally affected by the premises in question to make representations without first obtaining the authorisation, by way of a request, of those who are.

### Music: Internet

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to protect smaller music bands and record labels from illegal downloading. [233246]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have been asked to reply.

The problem of unlawful peer-to-peer file-sharing was addressed in the Government's consultation which closed on 30 October. This identified potential regulatory options including the Government's preferred co-regulatory approach.

We have had a good response from individual members of the public, trade associations, Internet Service Providers and consumer groups as well as companies and organisations from the content industries (including music). These responses need to be considered and evaluated both in terms of unlawful file-sharing but also in the wider context of the Digital Britain Report.

File-sharing itself is a manifestation of the new digital age and the communications revolution of the last 20 years. It is the result of converged technologies and new consumer behaviours and dealing with it may require a combination of responses by a number of players, including Government. The Digital Britain work will look to deliver a digital copyright framework which supports creativity, investment and job creation in the creative sectors.

We would expect that any action which significantly reduced the overall level of unlawful file-sharing would benefit the smaller music bands and record labels.

### Redundancy

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (Y) his Department and (Z) its agency. [237356]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport there have been no *(a)* involuntary or *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in any year since 2005-06. There are none planned for 2008-09 or 2009-10. In our agency the Royal Parks there was an involuntary staff exit scheme in 2006-07 but as the numbers of staff involved were less than five we are unable to reveal how much they were paid in order to protect the privacy of the individuals. There are no staff exit schemes planned in the Royal Parks for 2008-09 or 2009-10.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has plans to fund a catering training institute in Sylhet, Bangladesh; and if he will make a statement. [236474]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is funding the Hotel and Catering Institute in Sylhet, through the Skills and Opportunities for Employment Project (SKOPE). This funding was approved in February 2008. SKOPE is a three-year, £12.9 million project run by a leading Bangladesh education non-governmental organisation (NGO) (the Under Privileged Children's Education Project, UCEP). It provides skills and training to the urban poor that is directly linked to getting a job in the private sector. A portion of this project, £400,000, has been ear-marked to establish the Hotel and Catering Institute in Sylhet. The Institute will be a private-public partnership between UCEP and the Government of Bangladesh. A Memorandum of Understanding to that effect was signed this year on. 1 September.

The foundation stone for the architect-designed, three-storey building will be laid on 25 November 2008, in the presence of senior UK and Bangladesh Government officials. The Institute will provide training in food preparation and cooking, beverages, reception, and accommodation services. Around 300 students will complete training in the first five years, and this should provide a model for future skills development in Bangladesh.

### Cayman Islands: Hurricanes

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of islands on the Cayman Islands which have been affected by the recent hurricane. [237107]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Hurricane Paloma caused minimal damage to the main island of Grand Cayman. Little Cayman and Cayman Brac, which have a combined population of 2,000, suffered extensive infrastructure damage.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the level of the damage caused by the recent hurricane to hit the Cayman Islands; and what estimate he has made of the cost of reconstruction. [237156]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Hurricane Paloma caused extensive damage to infrastructure on Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. There was minimal damage to the main island of Grand Cayman.

Initial reports indicated that up to 80 per cent. of houses on Cayman Brac were damaged. There were no deaths or major injuries. It is too early to determine the cost of reconstruction. The Cayman Islands government are undertaking a detailed impact assessment with the assistance of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. We have offered support for this assessment.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department has provided for the Cayman Islands following the recent hurricane. [237157]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Royal Navy hurricane patrol assisted Cayman Island authorities with an initial reconnaissance of Cayman Brac in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Paloma, with reopening of the airport and with the distribution of relief supplies provided by the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Royal Navy.

The emergency response for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman has been effective and well co-ordinated. The government of the Cayman Islands has not requested external assistance.

### Chain Reaction Conference

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department provided to the Chain Reaction conference on 17 to 18 November 2008. [236118]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development provided £100,000 to the Chain Reaction conference.

### Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's *(a)* chart of accounts and *(b)* resource account codes and usage descriptions for the financial years (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [235959]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** A copy of the Department for International Development's (DFID) chart of accounts for 2006-07 and 2007-08 will be placed in the Library.

The codes used in the chart are also used for preparing resource accounts. Each code has a brief description that describes its use.

### Montserrat

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government is taking to encourage tourists to visit Montserrat. [236109]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has recently approved funding of nearly £1 million for a three-year Montserrat tourism development project, building on support provided in previous years. The project will also receive financing from the European Union's European Development Fund.

The project will improve tourism infrastructure, in particular marine and beach environments, walking trails, and develop the Volcano Visitor Centre. It will also regenerate marketing activities and develop tourist services to international standards. The project includes a community-based challenge fund to support creative ideas for tourism investment.

Other work supported by the DFID, including the development of the new capital town at Little Bay and the improvement of air and sea services to the island, will also contribute to enhancing Montserrat as a tourist destination.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has had with the government of Montserrat on encouraging alternative industries to tourism in Montserrat. [236108]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** Officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) are in regular contact with the Montserrat government on business development initiatives.

DFID has financed the establishment of the Montserrat Development Corporation (MDC) in 2007 to promote private sector development. The corporation is implementing a programme to support local businesses and to expand and diversify the economy. Plans are being developed in renewable energy, fruit and vegetable processing, and volcano-related products, including the manufacture of composite building materials using volcanic ash. We are separately financing projects to explore the potential for commercial wind-power and geothermal energy production.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether there are plans to develop the transport infrastructure of Montserrat. [236110]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The new airport on Montserrat was completed in 2005. Focus has now shifted to the

improvement of sea access. A preferred option for harbour improvements and the construction of a breakwater in Little Bay has been agreed by the government of Montserrat and detailed design studies are expected to be commissioned shortly.

A road investment programme to improve the main arterial route on the island is planned to start in 2009. We have agreed in principle to fund this, which is likely to cost in the region of £3 million.

We are also supporting the Montserrat government's efforts to improve services,

notably through the re-introduction of a ferry route to Antigua and the appointment of an access co-ordinator to ensure better quality and reliability of both air and ferry services to the island.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will provide financial assistance to Montserrat to establish a network of abattoirs for the humane slaughter of animals. [236113]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** We recognise there is a need for improved livestock slaughtering arrangements in Montserrat. We are willing to provide financial assistance for an appropriate solution, which is likely to be a single facility rather than a network of abattoirs. The Montserrat government is currently developing proposals.

### Turks and Caicos Islands: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department plans to provide to the residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands during reconstruction following Hurricane Ike; and whether this includes a cash element. [235528]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** The Department for International Development, jointly with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has indicated an intention to provide up to £5 million to support the post Hurricane reconstruction plan. This will be subject to agreements on managing the funds, including the appointment of technical expertise to oversee the use of all funds, to ensure that they are targeted to the most vulnerable.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what role his Department has played in the development of a long-term recovery plan for the Turks and Caicos Islands following Hurricane Ike. [235529]

**Mr. Michael Foster:** In conjunction with other international agencies, the Department for International Development (DFID) has funded expert technical support to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Island (TCI). The United Nations Development Programme has engaged a consultant to assist the TCI Government develop its reconstruction plan.

DFID, jointly with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has indicated an intention to provide up to £5 million to support the reconstruction plan.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Aerials: Planning Permission

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on the number of mobile telephone mast planning applications which were *(a)* refused and *(b)* approved in the latest period for which figures are available; and what average number of objections to such applications were received in that period. [237177]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department does not hold this information.

### Buildings: Demolition

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what statistics *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies collect on the number of demolitions of non-domestic dwellings. [235839]

**John Healey:** Neither the Department nor its agencies collect statistics on the number of demolitions of non-domestic properties.

### Business Links: Finance

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1256W, on business links: finance, which projects are under investigation for potential financial irregularities. [236027]

**John Healey:** The information cannot be disclosed due to commercial confidentiality.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1256W, on business links: finance, what the timetable is for the investigation of the financial irregularities in the Business Link projects funded under the Interreg programme. [236028]

**John Healey:** The Business Link projects funded under the Interreg programme, which have been subject to audit checks, have been submitted in a report to the European Commission. The European Commission has not set a specific timetable for responding to my Department.

### Carbon Monoxide: Poisoning

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to reduce levels of carbon monoxide poisoning in private homes. [237012]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Landlords are responsible for maintaining their properties, including the safety of gas and electrical appliances and the fire safety of furniture and furnishings provided under the tenancy. All private

landlords are required by the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to ensure that all gas appliances are maintained in good order and that an annual gas safety check is carried out by a CORGI-registered tradesman.

There are no current requirements to install carbon monoxide monitors in privately rented properties. However, we are keen to promote good practice and landlords' organisations are already engaged on safety issues and are involved in the promotion of good practice to their members.

The Building Regulations are reviewed periodically on the basis of advice from technical experts, and we are planning later this year to look at the changes and developments that have taken place since our last review in 2002.

### Community Relations: Dalits

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will assess the extent of inter-communal discrimination against Dalit people living in the UK. [237916]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Communities and Local Government has conducted, with stakeholders, an informal scoping exercise to learn more about the extent to which some communities believe caste is a continuing social phenomenon within British society and to identify any evidence that individuals have been discriminated against on these grounds. We are currently in the process of assessing responses received.

### Council Housing

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations are being paid to facilitate work for her Department on *(a)* council housing, *(b)* the review of council housing finance and *(c)* the housing reform green paper; and how much each organisation is being paid. [235505]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* In terms of *(a)* council housing, there are too many organisations to list on this topic. This question would need to be more specific for us to be able to respond.

In terms of *(b)* the review of council housing finance:

Housing Quality Network - An Evaluation of Management and Maintenance Costs in Local Authorities - £29,980;

Housemark - Evaluation of Management and Maintenance Costs (data supply) -£9,600;

Building Research Establishment - Review of the Major Repairs Allowance £35,388;

Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) are providing organisational support and facilitation in the delivery of theme-based and regional workshops, hosting an e-forum and developing narratives. This contract will be concluded towards the latter stages of the Review and will be under £100,000 in total;

GFK-NOP - Research into tenants' attitudes towards Council Housing Finance and Rents Policy - £28,898;

Professor Steve Wilcox - Analysis of Rents - £18,500;

Sharp Research Services - Processing of Tenant Questionnaire - £8,550;

Tribal Consulting - Analysis of Debt Options - £16,400;

David Hall and Professor Michael Jones, CLG Expert Panel - Analysis of Evidence Gaps - £14,687;

Wave 9 of the Housing Corporation Residents' Panel Survey - £11,900;

Sheffield City Council has seconded a member of staff for up to 3.5 days per week to lead on two of the four workstreams in the Review;

In terms of *(c)* the housing reform green paper:

Ipsos MORI- Omnibus survey module aimed at lower income groups- £121,575;

Ipsos MORI - The housing choices of low income groups, and attitudes and experiences towards different types of housing advice, support and provisions - £41,400;

Sarah Monk and Anne Green, CLG expert panel - Review of existing data on attitudes to housing and the social housing Sector- £9,700;

Danny Dorling and Alex Marsh - CLG expert panel- Discussions on demographic and future challenges linked to the Housing Green Paper- £2,900;

Ken Gibb, CLG expert panel - Support to the Housing Green Paper Modelling Workstream- £3,000;

The CIH have developed and are managing an e-forum to allow stakeholders and members of the public including tenants to debate housing reform - £2,000. This amount is included within the wider contract with the CIH on the housing finance review (listed above).

All costs are exclusive of VAT.

### Council Tax: Fraud

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate the Audit Commission has made under the National Fraud Initiative of the *(a)* level and *(b)* number of fraudulent claims of council tax discounts. [236085]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 125-26W.

### Deprivation Indicators

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list in descending order the *(a)* current and *(b)* previous rankings of all lower super output areas (LSOA) in the principal seaside towns in the top 15 per cent. most deprived LSOA areas, giving the (i) local authority, (ii) seaside town, (iii) LSOA code and (iv) LSOA ward in each case. [237667]

**John Healey:** A table has been deposited in the Library of the House that lists the lower super output area (LSOAs) in the principal seaside towns which falls within the 15 per cent. most deprived on the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2004 and 2007.

### Eco-towns: Shelter

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 122W, on eco-towns (1) how much funding has been *(a)* provided and *(b)* allocated for future financial years to Shelter in relation to work on eco-towns; [236018]

(2) on what grounds her Department decided to give funding to Shelter; and whether the decision to provide such funding was made by a Minister. [236019]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We have committed £166,000 + VAT to Shelter in relation to their project on eco-towns. The funding has been provided for this specific project only and at this stage there are no plans for further funding to Shelter in future financial years in relation to eco-towns. This project was supported by the then Housing Minister, my right hon. Friend for Don Valley (Caroline Flint).

We agreed to provide funding to Shelter to assist them with this project on the basis of a proposal that they put to the Department to produce publications to provide information about the housing situation in and around potential eco-town locations, with associated dissemination, so that people are able to make an informed input to decisions about whether an eco-town should go ahead. Any views expressed in the document are those of the authors and not my Department.

### Energy Performance Certificates

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of energy performance certificates in encouraging homeowners to improve levels of domestic energy efficiency. [236727]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department will commission research to assess the effectiveness of energy performance certificates, including the extent to which recommendations are followed up, early in the new year.

### Government Offices National Indicator Analysis Tool

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* specification of her Department's Government Offices National Indicator Analysis Tool scoping project is. [235874]

**John Healey:** The purpose of the national indicator analysis tool is to drive the performance management of the national indicators (NIs) and local area agreement (LAA) targets.

The specification of this stage of work is to work with the Government Office and LSP potential users of this tool to understand better their requirements and to provide advice and an options appraisal on how best to deliver the requirement.

### Home Ownership Incentive Schemes

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much local authority stock was sold under the Right to Buy scheme in each year since 1997. [234925]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The following table shows the number of local authority right to buy sales in England for each year since 1997-98.

| | *Local authority right to buy sales* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 41,330 |
| 1998-99 | 40,270 |
| 1999-2000 | 54,250 |
| 2000-01 | 52,380 |
| 2001-02 | 51,970 |
| 2002-03 | 63,390 |
| 2003-04 | 69,580 |
| 2004-05 | 49,980 |
| 2005-06 | 26,660 |
| 2006-07 | 16,900 |
| 2007-08 | 11,960 |

*Source:*
Quarterly P1B returns from local authorities.

### Homelessness

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce levels of *(a)* street and *(b)* youth homelessness. [237206]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We have long recognised that the most visible form of homelessness is that of people sleeping on the streets. In 1998 the then Prime Minister set a target that by 2002 the number of rough sleepers should be reduced by at least two thirds. The target was met ahead of time and is being sustained. On 18 November we launched a new strategy "No One Left Out: communities ending rough sleeping", in which we stated our vision to end rough sleeping once and for all by 2012. The strategy includes a 15 point action plan which has been developed with leading rough sleeping charities and will use action, advice and assistance across England to prevent the flow of people onto the streets, as well as to support those already there to get off the streets into stability.

In November 2006 the Government announced a package of measures to prevent and tackle youth homelessness. Alongside this we made a commitment that by 2010, no 16 or 17-year-olds should be placed in bed and breakfast accommodation by a local authority under the homelessness legislation, except in an emergency. Since then we have seen a dramatic fall from an estimated baseline of 1,000 in September 2006 to 420 at the end of June this year.

We have improved access to homelessness mediation across the country (including family mediation for young people) and have helped local authorities establish supported lodgings schemes across the country, providing accommodation, advice and mediation services for young people who can no longer stay in the family home.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government has taken to promote services available to people who are homeless. [237208]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We have allocated £200 million to local authorities and voluntary organisations over the next three years to support their strategies for tackling and preventing homelessness in their areas—the biggest cash injection for homelessness services. It is for local authorities to determine how they promote homelessness services that best serve their communities.

We also invested £90 million capital funding in 2005-08, to improve hostels and day centres used by rough sleepers so they can move into education and employment and make the transition from the street to a settled home. A further £80 million capital funding has been allocated through our Places of Change Programme to work in partnership with voluntary organisations to build on the success of improving hostels and day centres.

We provide £2.5 million funding to the National Homelessness Advice Service which is a partnership between Citizens Advice and Shelter, to ensure high quality advice on homelessness prevention through the network of participating Citizens Advice Bureaux and other voluntary agencies across England.

In September we announced a £200 million mortgage rescue scheme, which will help up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable households facing repossession over the next two years. The scheme will be launched very shortly.

**Homelessness: Cornwall**

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have been recorded as homeless in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall since 1979. [235194]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected include all decisions made on applications by eligible applicants, and the number of applicants accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). These households are known as 'accepted' households. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available. Information on acceptances and number of households in temporary accommodation at local authority level is available from 1997-98 onwards.

Figures at parliamentary constituency level are not held centrally. A table summarising homelessness figures for the South West region and each local authority within Cornwall, for the past 10 years, including (a) the total number of households accepted as owed the main homelessness duty, and (b) the total number of households in temporary accommodation are provided as follows:

*Table A: Number of households in local authorities within Cornwall accepted[1] as owed a main homelessness duty during the year, 1997-98 to 2007-08*

| *Cornwall* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Caradon | 70 | 40 | 78 | 171 | 169 | 131 | 69 | 59 | 58 | 35 | 31 |
| Carrick | 149 | 186 | 207 | 191 | 163 | [2]— | 177 | 179 | 171 | 115 | 97 |
| Kerrier | 134 | [2]— | 153 | [2]— | 220 | 240 | 220 | 111 | 74 | 57 | 63 |
| North Cornwall | 181 | 116 | 211 | 226 | 191 | 209 | 184 | 208 | 173 | 88 | 121 |
| Penwith | 164 | 168 | 146 | 143 | 189 | 180 | 201 | 174 | 159 | 128 | 69 |
| Restormel | 199 | 166 | 181 | 159 | 205 | 241 | 225 | 138 | 130 | 123 | 116 |
| South West Region[3] | 8,980 | 8,930 | 9,790 | 11,360 | 11,300 | 12,790 | 11,230 | 9,680 | 7,820 | 5,270 | 4,520 |

[1] Households eligible under homelessness legislation, found to be unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category, and consequently owed a main homelessness duty.
[2] Data not reported.
[3] Regional figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

*Table B: Number of households in temporary accommodation[1] in local authorities within Cornwall, March 1998-March 2007*

| *Cornwall* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Caradon | 12 | 17 | 20 | 21 | 30 | 64 | 17 | 32 | 20 | 15 | 17 |
| Carrick | 85 | 105 | 119 | 132 | 162 | 193 | 215 | 252 | 313 | 254 | 210 |
| Kerrier | 38 | 46 | 36 | 71 | 128 | 204 | 190 | 202 | 200 | 129 | 82 |
| North Cornwall | 36 | 21 | 44 | 33 | 42 | 46 | 59 | 81 | 95 | 44 | 29 |
| Penwith | 8 | 14 | 13 | 22 | 46 | 96 | 144 | 234 | 259 | 245 | 188 |
| Restormel | 85 | 72 | 94 | 123 | 129 | 176 | 202 | 209 | 172 | 162 | 138 |
| South West Region[2] | 3,270 | 4,720 | 4,780 | 5,600 | 5,790 | 6,530 | 6,150 | 6,740 | 6,360 | 5,140 | 4,180 |

[1] Households in accommodation either pending a decision on their homelessness application or awaiting allocation of a settled home following acceptance. Excludes those households designated homeless at home that have remained in their existing accommodation and have the same rights to suitable accommodation as those in accommodation arranged by the authority.
[2] Regional figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
CLG P1E Homelessness returns (quarterly)

The regional data on acceptances and temporary accommodation can also be found in our published quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness. This is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 11 September 2008, and provides national and regional acceptance figures in table 3, and temporary accommodation figures in table 7, both back to 1997:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/840324.xls

## Housing

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what reports on housing policy her Department and its predecessors have *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* issued in each year since 1997; and what the cost of (i) drafting and (ii) producing each was. [237264]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Departmental reports are published in accordance with the Communities and Local Government Publications scheme, details of which can be found on the departmental website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/freedomofinformation/communitieslgps/publication-scheme/

A list of publications can be found on the departmental website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/publications/all/?viewPrevious=true

The information requested is not available in the form requested and could be issued only at disproportionate cost.

## Housing: Construction

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of changes in the *(a)* market for housing, *(b)* availability of mortgage finance and *(c)* projected house completion rates on her Department's (i) targets for annual house building and (ii) estimates of housing need in each Government region. [235977]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government recognise that current international credit conditions pose serious difficulties for all housing sectors.

However, the Government remain committed to the delivery of the homes we need over the long-term to accommodate our ageing, growing population. We remain committed to achieving an annual completion rate of 240,000 net additions per year, and continue to work with regional partners to ensure that there is capacity in the planning system to achieve this.

## Housing: EC Law

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 125W, on housing: regeneration, for what reasons the Government Office was found not to have complied with the European Commission's regulations. [236015]

**John Healey:** In 2007, the European Commission suspended payments on the 2000-06 North West ERDF Objective 2 and Urban programmes because of deficiencies in aspects of the recording of actions taken by intermediate bodies engaged in the delivery of the programme in the amount of on-site checking of project expenditure that had been carried out to the end of 2006. There was no suggestion of financial impropriety and vigorous action has been taken since to rectify the problems identified.

## Housing: Elderly

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimates she has made of the number of over-80s households in *(a)* the Vale of York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* the UK. [237118]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The following table shows the projected number of 'over-80s' households in York local authority, North Yorkshire and England for mid 2008.

| | *Number of over 80s households for mid 2008 (Thousand)* |
|---|---|
| York local authority | 7 |
| North Yorkshire | 30 |
| England | 1,690 |

The figures are from the Communities and Local Government Household Projections (revised 2004-based). These provide figures for England only, not UK.

## Housing: Low Incomes

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has assessed the merits of revising her targets for the creation of new *(a)* social and *(b)* intermediate market housing in the light of recent changes in the housing market and house building sectors. [235976]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We remain committed to the delivery of affordable housing for social rent and low cost home ownership. Our aspiration is to reach 70,000 homes a year by 2010-11, of which, 45,000 are for social rent with 50,000 a year during the next Spending Review period, our long-term aspiration. This is still some time away and it remains too early, given current market conditions, to predict outputs with certainty.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 124-5W, on housing: low incomes, what data her Department and its predecessors have transferred to the Valuation Office Agency from the National Register of Social Housing. [236146]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1700W.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 124-54W, on housing: low incomes, and with reference to the December 2004 letter to local authority directors of housing from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Divisional Head of Housing Data and Statistics, how many local authorities provided data to the Valuation Office Agency to assist with the council tax revaluation *(a)* directly and *(b)* via her Department's predecessor. [236149]

**John Healey:** No data were provided directly. 134 local authorities provided information via the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has allocated for affordable housing in Crosby constituency in the next three years. [236710]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Over the three years, 2008 to 2011, an indicative total of over £830 million is being made available through the regional housing pot for the north west region, of this around £525 million has been earmarked for use through the Affordable Housing programme. Allocations are not made to constituency levels.

### Housing: Valuation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 628W, on housing: valuation, if she will place in the Library information that identifies the geographical extent of each locality for the Valuation Office area of Hammersmith and Fulham. [235861]

**John Healey:** The extent of any locality is the intellectual property of an arm of government, and as such, is commercially sensitive. It is not appropriate to place this in the public domain.

### Local Government Finance

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1279W, on local government finance, which *(a)* district councils, *(b)* metropolitan councils, *(c)* unitary council and *(d)* London boroughs will receive the lowest possible increase in grant from her Department in 2008-09. [235862]

**John Healey:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* 94 district councils will all receive a 1 per cent. increase in formula grant in 2008-09. This is the minimum percentage increase for district authorities in 2008-09. The authorities are as follows:

Adur
Allerdale
Alnwick
Arun
Berwick-upon-Tweed
Blyth Valley
Brentwood
Bridgnorth
Broxbourne
Cambridge
Carlisle
Castle Morpeth
Cheltenham
Chester
Chester-le-Street
Chichester
Chiltern
Christchurch
Cotswold
Crawley
Dacorum
Derbyshire Dales
Derwentside
Dover
Durham
Easington
East Dorset
East Hampshire
East Hertfordshire
Eastbourne
Ellesmere Port and Neston
Elmbridge
Epping Forest
Epsom and Ewell
Fareham
Gosport
Guildford
Harlow
Hart
Havant
Hertsmere
Horsham
Kennet
Lincoln
Macclesfield
Maidstone
Malvern Hills
Mid Suffolk
Mid Sussex
Mole Valley
New Forest
North Wiltshire
Preston
Purbeck
Reigate and Banstead
Rother
Rugby
Rushmoor
Salisbury
Sevenoaks
Shepway
Shrewsbury and Atcham
South Bucks
South Cambridgeshire
South Hams
South Lakeland
South Oxfordshire
Spelthorne
St Albans
Stafford
Stevenage
Stratford-on-Avon
Surrey Heath
Tandridge
Tewkesbury

Three Rivers
Tonbridge and Mailing
Tunbridge Wells
Tynedale
Uttlesford
Vale of White Horse
Warwick
Watford
Waverley
Wealden
West Dorset
West Lancashire
West Oxfordshire
West Somerset
Winchester
Woking
Worcester
Worthing
Wycombe.

*(b)* Eight metropolitan district councils will all receive 2 per cent. increase in formula grant in 2008-09. This is the minimum percentage increase for authorities with responsibility for education and social services in 2008-09. The authorities are as follows:

Gateshead
Knowsley
Liverpool
Newcastle upon Tyne
North Tyneside
Solihull
South Tyneside
Trafford.

*(c)* 12 unitary councils will all receive 2 per cent. increase in formula grant in 2008-09. This is the minimum percentage increase for authorities with responsibility for education and social services in 2008-09. The authorities are as follows:

Bournemouth
Bracknell Forest
Brighton and Hove
Poole
Portsmouth
Slough
Southend-on-Sea
Swindon
Warrington
West Berkshire
Windsor and Maidenhead
Wokingham.

*(d)* 30 London boroughs, including the City of London, will all receive 2 per cent. increase in formula grant in 2008-09. This is the minimum percentage increase for authorities with responsibility for education and social services in 2008-09. The authorities are as follows:

Barnet
Bexley
Brent
Bromley
Camden
City of London
Croydon
Ealing
Greenwich
Hackney
Hammersmith and Fulham
Haringey
Harrow
Havering
Hillingdon
Hounslow
Islington
Kensington and Chelsea
Kingston upon Thames
Lambeth
Lewisham
Merton
Reading
Richmond upon Thames
Southwark
Sutton
Tower Hamlets
Waltham Forest
Wandsworth
Westminster.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2008, Official Report, column 1277W, on local authorities, what her Department's definition is of *(a)* a rural and *(b)* an urban local authority for local government formula grant purposes. [235866]

**John Healey:** In calculating the amount of formula grant for an authority we make no distinction between authorities on the basis of any classification of rural and urban authorities. We apply the same formula to all authorities that provide the same services and we also use the best data that are available on a consistent basis across all authorities.

### Local Government: Bank Services

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 724W, on local authorities: bank services, which local authorities had borrowed funds from Icelandic bank accounts under prudential borrowing arrangements. [236023]

**John Healey:** The Department does not collect information on which individual financial institutions local authorities have borrowed funds from.

### Local Government: Non-Profit Making Organisations

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* regional development agencies on increasing the number of contracts awarded to social enterprises. [236226]

**John Healey:** Social Enterprises can play an important role in supporting local authority objectives by bringing dynamism and innovation to the design and delivery of public services. They can also help local authorities achieve more with their money, engage local communities and stimulate new markets.

In December 2006, Communities and Local Government, alongside other Government Departments, launched Partnership in Public Services, an action plan for social enterprise and wider third sector engagement with public bodies, including local authorities.

CLG also published statutory guidance to local government and its key partners earlier this year. Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities states local authorities should recognise and embrace diversity in the way services are provided, with the focus on desired outcomes and not whether the service is delivered by the public, private or third sectors.

We also intend to publish the Tackling Worklessness Review early in 2009 which will make recommendations on how Regional Development Agencies, the private sector, social enterprises and other third sector groups, can work with local partners to improve employment in Working Neighbourhood Fund areas and through the new Local Performance Framework.

**Local Government: Reorganisation**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable for elections to each of the new unitary authorities is. [236090]

**John Healey:** Elections to each of the new unitary authorities will be held on 4 June 2009, with the exception of Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Durham and Northumberland, where elections were held earlier this year on 1 May 2008.

In relation to Cornwall, due to the delays in putting in place new electoral arrangements for the new Cornwall unitary, I announced to the House, in the debate on the Order moving the date of the 2009 local elections to coincide with the European Parliament elections, that I was minded to introduce for consideration an order that would, exceptionally, move the election date for Cornwall from the beginning of June to the end of October 2009. I also made clear that this would be dependent on the work of the Boundary Committee and Electoral Commission being completed in good time and said that before doing so, I propose to take soundings and consult those affected in Cornwall.

**Mobile Homes: Coastal Areas**

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* permanent and *(b)* holiday caravans there are in the catchment area of each of the principal seaside towns of England. [237670]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information requested is not held centrally.

**Multiple Occupation**

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses of multiple occupation there are in each of the principal seaside towns of England; and what percentage this represents of total housing stock in each case. [237669]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information requested is not available centrally.

**Noise: Pollution**

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of noise levels attributable to micro-wind turbines under permitted development consents; and if she will make a statement. [236327]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** This Department has not made any assessment of noise levels attributable to micro-wind turbines under permitted development as micro-wind turbines do not currently have permitted development rights. However, this Department is considering what an appropriate noise limit on permitted development would be. Our aim is to ensure that what would be permitted would have little or no adverse impact on others.

Work is being undertaken by the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Microgeneration Certification Scheme to put in place a methodology that would predict the likely noise level arising from the installation of a turbine on a site-specific basis.

**Non-domestic Rates: Business**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether implementation of *(a)* a Nottingham workplace parking tax and *(b)* a Greater Manchester congestion charge would constitute a material change of circumstances for the purposes of calculating the rateable value of business premises within the charging zone. [235838]

**John Healey:** Whether the implementation of a *(a)* Nottingham workplace parking tax and *(b)* Greater Manchester congestion charge would count as a material change of circumstances (MCC), would depend on establishing the physical facts at the material date i.e. when the scheme(s) came into existence and judging those facts against the matters set out in schedule 6 to the Local Government Finance Act (LGFA) 1988 and by reference to the Non-Domestic Rating (Alteration of Lists and Appeals) (England) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005 No. 659) & [Wales (WSI2005 No 758)].

Any MCC may or may not have an effect upon the rateable value (hypothetical letting value) of hereditaments.

**Non-domestic Rates: Valuation**

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1284W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, whether *(a)* hard copy and *(b)* electronic maps exist of the boundaries of each sub-location. [235849]

**John Healey:** A sub-location defines a group of properties having similar characteristics which are not necessarily geographically contiguous and neither electronic nor hard copy maps of them are produced.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1284W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, what criteria have been used to identify the boundaries of each sub-location. [236147]

**John Healey:** 'Sub-location' is a VOA description or label for a particular category of property having similar characteristics and which should therefore be treated in the same way for valuation, but may not cover a geographically continuous area.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1284W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, whether each sub-location is ranked according to its value. [235850]

**John Healey:** Sub-locations are not ranked as such because they are intended to identify groups of property which will reference a particular pool of market evidence for arriving at a valuation level. However properties within them may have different values reflecting their individual physical characteristics and/or specific location factors.

### Regional Planning and Development

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the Government's response to the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration; [236096]

(2) whether she plans to bring forward legislation to implement the content of the Government's response to the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration; [236098]

(3) when she expects to publish a response to the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration. [236100]

**John Healey:** The Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration (the SNR) and the subsequent consultation document 'Prosperous Places—Taking Forward the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration' generated a high level of interest and a large number of responses. We have been carefully considering options for implementing the SNR reforms following the consultation. We will make our formal response shortly and will legislate to implement the reforms at the earliest opportunity.

### Regional Planning and Development: Thames Gateway

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many small businesses she expects to undertake work in connection with the Thames Gateway project. [235807]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Data are not collected in the form requested. Government intervention in the Thames Gateway is not targeted at individual businesses. The role of central Government across the Thames Gateway is to create the conditions for economic growth. All businesses will benefit from the additional Government investment set out in the Thames Gateway Delivery Plan (November 2007) and the Thames Gateway Economic Development Investment Plan, published by the three Greater South East regional development agencies in September 2008.

### Repossession Orders

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many house repossessions have been enforced by lenders without a court order in each month of the last three years, broken down by *(a)* constituency and *(b)* region. [237847]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Data giving the number of repossessions are published separately by the Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Financial Services Authority. Data are only available at the UK level and cannot be split by whether a court order was involved or not.

### Retail Trade: Planning

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the revised Planning Policy Statement 6 will include a presumption against out-of-town retail development. [236507]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for town centres (PPS6, March 2005) sets out a strong town centre-first policy which positively promotes vital and viable town centres across England. However, neither PPS6 nor our Proposed Changes to Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for town centres, published on 10 July 2008, contain a presumption against out-of-town retail development. PPS6 sets out a clear framework within which local authorities should plan for their town centres and the considerations which need to be taken into account when managing development proposals for town centre uses in specific locations. Our proposals reaffirm and strengthen this policy framework. They refine the way in which development proposals should be considered and tested if they are outside town centres and not in accordance with an up to date development plan strategy.

### Shelter: Eco-Towns

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps her Department took to ensure that *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* local authorities and councillors, *(c)* local media and *(d)* members of the public received copies of the documents concerning eco-towns produced by Shelter and funded by her Department; how many hon. Members were sent copies; what further arrangements were made for the distribution of the documents in the relevant areas; and if she will make a statement; [232767]

(2) what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* officials in her Department had with Shelter about the arrangements

for (i) publicising and (ii) consulting on the eco-town documents produced with a grant from her Department. [232768]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Shelter organised mailings of their series of publications in respect of each potential eco-town location. Shelter is in the process of sending copies of publications to the relevant hon. Members, and is also mailing them to local authorities and councillors, members of the public, community groups, housing organisations and other organisations that are in contact with local residents in areas where a potential eco-town has been proposed. The publications are available to download from Shelter's website. Shelter has also issued press notices to coincide with the publication of each document, which have been sent to the local media and include links to the PDFs of these documents on Shelter's website.

Shelter discussed and agreed the arrangements for publishing and disseminating these eco-town documents with, my officials. However, any views expressed in the publications are those of the authors and not my Department.

### Small Businesses: Tax Allowances

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 116W, on business: tax allowance, what funding has been given to local authorities to assist them in promoting and raising awareness of small business rate relief. [235854]

**John Healey:** When the scheme was introduced in April 2005 the Department requested that all local authorities send information leaflets to ratepayers to provide information on revaluation 2005 and the new small business rate relief scheme. The total amount paid to local authorities for the distribution of the leaflets was £500,000.08.

### Travelling People

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many authorised sites for gypsies and Travellers were provided in *(a)* 1988 and *(b)* 1998 by local authorities in (a) Essex, (b) Suffolk, (c) Norfolk, (d) Kent, (e) Hertfordshire, (f) Berkshire, (g) Cambridgeshire and (h) Greater London. [237751]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The number of authorised local authority sites as at January 1998 was as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Essex | 15 |
| Suffolk | 4 |
| Norfolk | 5 |
| Kent | 19 |
| Hertfordshire | 12 |
| Berkshire | 7 |
| Cambridgeshire | 15 |
| Greater London | 37 |

We do not hold data on authorised local authority sites in 1988.

### Valuation Office: Databases

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how many residential dwellings in England and Wales the Valuation Office Agency has access to property data through its interface with rightmove.co.uk. [236175]

**John Healey:** Releasing this information would prejudice the commercial interests and the procurement position of the Valuation Office Agency.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the proportion of records relating to private *(a)* sales and *(b)* rental transactions in England which are accessible each year to the Valuation Office Agency through its interface with rightmove.co.uk. [236177]

**John Healey:** The Valuation Office Agency does not obtain records of sales or rental transactions as a result of its contract with Rightmove.

### Valuation Office: Reorganisation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency will use the property information held by the Rent Service for its valuation functions once the Rent Service is integrated into the Valuation Office Agency. [236164]

**Mr. Timms:** I have been asked to reply.

Work is well under way in both organisations to ensure a seamless transfer of Rent Service functions to the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) in April 2009. The aim is to ensure minimal disruption to normal working.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Departmental Members Interests

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library the latest copy of the Cabinet Office Board Members' Register of Interests. [233698]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Cabinet Office maintains a Register of Board Members' Interests in accordance with Government accounting requirements.

A copy of the Register as at July 2008 has been placed in the Library of the House.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Children in Care: Crime

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken to reduce the risk of young people in care becoming involved in criminal activity. [234039]

**Beverley Hughes:** I would refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1067-68W.

### Children: Bed and Breakfast Accommodation

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were housed in bed and breakfast accommodation in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* region. [236949]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I have been asked to reply.

Data are not held centrally on the overall number of children housed in bed and breakfast accommodation. However, since mid-2004, some information has been collected on the number of children (and expected children) housed in bed and breakfast style accommodation used under homelessness provisions of the 1996 Housing Act.

Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information on the number of children (and expected children) in bed and breakfast style temporary accommodation (i.e. bed and breakfast hotels and other privately managed shared facility annexes) is reported quarterly by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. This has been collected since mid 2004. Figures as reported by local authorities from 2004-05 onwards (as at the last day of March each year) are provided in a table, which has been placed in the Library. The response rate and quality of data reported by authorities is not yet sufficient to gross up to a regional and national level estimate, and data on the age of the children is not collected centrally.

### Children: Day Care

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many child care places there were in the London Borough of Enfield in each year since 1997. [235453]

**Beverley Hughes:** The information requested is shown in the following tables.

*Table 1: Number[1, 2] of day care places for children under eight years of age by type of provider, Enfield local authority area, position at 31 March each year 1997 to 2002*

| Type of provider | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Day nurseries | 900 | 900 | 900 | 1,000 | 900 | n/a |
| Playgroups and pre-schools | 1,900 | 2,000 | 2,100 | 1,200 | 1,900 | n/a |
| Child minders | 2,300 | 2,000 | 2,400 | 2,000 | 1,600 | n/a |
| Out of school clubs | 300 | 400 | 600 | 900 | 1,600 | n/a |
| Holiday schemes[3] | 700 | 800 | 2,400 | 7,600 | 7,500 | n/a |

n/a = Not available.
[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100, if over 100.
[2] Data source: Children's Day Care Facilities Survey.
[3] From 1999, places were counted once for each school holiday. Before 1999, places were counted once each year.

*Table 2: Number[1, 2] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age by type of care, Enfield local authority area, position at 31 March each year 2003 to 2008*

| Type of care | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Full day care | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,800 | 2,100 | 2,200 | 2,600 |
| Sessional day care | 1,400 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,100 |
| Child minders | 1,900 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 |
| Out of school day care | 1,300 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,800 | 1,900 | 2,000 |
| Crèche day care | 100 | 200 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100, if over 100.
[2] Data source: Ofsted.

Since 2003, Ofsted has been responsible for the registration and inspection of child care providers. Ofsted have produced figures on the number of registered child care providers and places on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Their latest figures were published in their report "Registered Childcare Providers and Places, August 2008", which is available on their website at:

www.Ofsted.gov.uk/

### Departmental Information

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East, of 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1583W, on departmental information, what the individual names are of the publications, reports and datasets sold by his Department. [233358]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Most of the Department's publications are available free of charge on the Department's website and can be reused free of charge under the terms of the PSI Click-Use Licence which is administered by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) in accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations. Core information produced by the Department can also be reused under the terms of the Value Added Licence which is also administered by OPSI. Re-use of the information under the terms of the Value Added Licence may incur a change based on the type and amount of information.

OPSI has provided the available information on the individual names of the departmental publications, reports and datasets that have been made available for re-use

under the terms of the Value Added Licence and incurred a charge since 2005, as follows:

Child Abuse Linked to Accusations of "Possession" and "Witchcraft"

Common Assessment Framework

Identification, Referral and Tracking Software

Models of Adult Learning—A Literature Review

Open Plan Schools.

These are all publications and some of them were published by the former Department for Education and Skills.

The answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge) of 17th October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1583W, on departmental information, covered the same information and period but inadvertently referred to the financial year 2007-08. No departmental publications, reports and datasets have been made available for re-use and incurred a charge under the terms of the Value Added Licence in the last 12 months.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [226501]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I would direct the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford to the Departmental Published Account for 2007-08 which sets out the performance of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in this regard. The Department paid 98.8 per cent. of all valid invoices for goods and services within 30 days.

DCSF does not currently publish information about the size of its suppliers. We do not discriminate by size of business because many small and medium sized enterprises (SME's) can be found within larger supply chains. Alongside speeding up government payments we are also looking to our main contractors to pass on the benefits to smaller suppliers in their supply chains.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 as a result of a machinery of government change. The data included in the 2007-08 account also includes that of its predecessor department, the Department for Education and Skills.

The Department does not have any Executive Agencies.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families welcomes the statement by the Prime Minister to Prime Minister's questions on 8 October 2008 on moving to the payment of invoices as soon as possible and within 10 days. The Department will be working towards this goal.

### Further Education

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent guidance he has issued to local authorities on the provision of post-16 education. [237538]

**Jim Knight:** Following the proposals set out in the White Paper Raising Expectations: Enabling the System to Deliver to transfer of funding for learning for 16 to 19-year-olds from the Learning and Skills Council to local authorities from September 2010, guidance for local authorities on the new arrangements was issued on 28 July 2008 and can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19

This outlined the need for local authorities to work together in sub-regional groupings and the process by which readiness of the groupings would be reviewed. We will be issuing further guidance to local authorities on the second stage of the process which will focus on the governance of the sub-regional groupings and set out how we expect local authorities to come together with their partners e.g. schools, colleges and 3rd sector in delivering these reforms.

Additionally, the Department is working closely with the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Children's Services to support local authorities in taking on their new functions.

### General Certificate of Secondary Education: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of eligible pupils passed GCSEs at grades A to C including English and mathematics in Crosby constituency in 2008; [236676]

(2) what percentage of GCSE students in schools in Crosby constituency achieved five or more A* to C grades including English and mathematics in 2008. [236720]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Information at constituency level will be available when the 2008 Secondary School Achievement and Attainment Tables have been published in January.

### Higher Education: Vocational Guidance

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the extent to which careers advice influences academically-able pupils in their decision on whether to proceed to higher education. [237721]

**Jim Knight:** Young people's decisions about HE are influenced by a range of factors. Research suggests that for a young person with no family history of higher education (HE), discussions with teachers, university visits and information on courses of interest enhance considerably the likelihood of a positive attitude towards HE. We also know that Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) on learning and careers can raise the aspirations of a Level 3 student who has financial concerns and no family history of HE[1].

A range of measures are in hand that will improve the careers education/IAG available to support young people. For example, we have specifically targeted gifted and talented disadvantaged young people that are eligible for Free School Meals, through City Challenge, in a programme which has the explicit aim of improving progression to university. We will bring together our

work to improve IAG in the spring in a published Information Advice and Guidance Strategy for Young People.

[1] Morris, M., and Rutt, S., Aspirations to Higher Education: A baseline analysis, (August, 2003), p 8

Morris, M., and Rutt, S., Aspirations to Higher Education: A baseline analysis, (August, 2003)

### Plain English

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent by his Department on Plain English Campaign training courses for its staff in each year since 2005. [230612]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department was formed on 28 June 2007. The Department does not offer central Plain English training courses to employees. Some plain English courses have been run in-house by writing editors in the Communications Directorate but these have been at no extra cost to the Department. Costs for individual literary training arranged for employees as part of their learning and development are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does provide a writing style guide including information on standards and plain English which employees can access from the departmental intranet.

### Primary Education: Greater London

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the expected demand is for primary school places for each London borough for the next four years. [235667]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department collects information annually from each local authority on their projected pupil numbers for forthcoming years, as part of the Surplus Places Survey. The following table gives a breakdown of primary pupil numbers in 2008 and primary pupil projections for the next four years for each London borough, as provided by the respective local authorities.

| *London borough* | *Actual Pupil Numbers* | *Projected Pupil Numbers* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2008* | *2009* | *2010* | *2011* | *2012* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 16,817 | 17,649 | 18,580 | 19,714 | 21,005 |
| Barnet | 23,873 | 24,173 | 24,671 | 25,269 | 25,927 |
| Bexley | 18,630 | 18,569 | 18,656 | 18,565 | 18,764 |
| Brent | 21,300 | 22,470 | 22,990 | 23,568 | 23,970 |
| Bromley | 23,050 | 22,732 | 22,832 | 22,976 | 23,157 |
| Camden | 10,205 | 10,266 | 10,381 | 10,550 | 10,756 |
| City of London | 208 | 210 | 210 | 210 | 210 |
| Croydon | 28,964 | 26,774 | 26,859 | 27,087 | 27,261 |
| Ealing | 23,512 | 24,327 | 24,722 | 25,242 | 25,775 |
| Enfield | 25,620 | 26,013 | 26,465 | 27,022 | 27,434 |
| Greenwich | 18,696 | 18,904 | 19,410 | 20,067 | 20,780 |
| Hackney | 15,600 | 16,081 | 16,481 | 16,965 | 17,523 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 8,459 | 8,672 | 8,772 | 8,834 | 8,899 |
| Haringey | 19,283 | 19,618 | 19,987 | 20,483 | 20,971 |
| Harrow | 18,435 | 18,620 | 18,767 | 19,003 | 19,260 |
| Havering | 18,284 | 18,119 | 18,048 | 17,960 | 17,999 |
| Hillingdon | 21,387 | 21,572 | 21,692 | 22,054 | 22,550 |
| Hounslow | 16,897 | 17,216 | 17,733 | 18,248 | 18,887 |
| Islington | 12,286 | 12,245 | 12,243 | 12,341 | 12,446 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 6,292 | 6,182 | 6,176 | 6,319 | 6,456 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 10,404 | 10,584 | 10,809 | 10,928 | 11,119 |
| Lambeth | 18,038 | 18,243 | 18,527 | 18,846 | 19,084 |
| Lewisham | 19,318 | 19,706 | 20,101 | 20,503 | 20,913 |
| Merton | 12,806 | 12,929 | 13,113 | 13,367 | 13,899 |
| Newham | 27,003 | 27,288 | 27,714 | 28,083 | 28,459 |
| Redbridge | 22,165 | 22,431 | 22,831 | 23,399 | 24,147 |
| Richmond-upon-Thames | 12,458 | 12,750 | 12,969 | 13,288 | 13,744 |
| Southwark | 19,939 | 20,055 | 20,166 | 20,334 | 20,517 |
| Sutton | 13,317 | 13,285 | 13,444 | 13,635 | 13,939 |
| Tower Hamlets | 19,890 | 20,979 | 21,200 | 21,423 | 21,615 |
| Waltham Forest | 19,649 | 20,133 | 20,616 | 21,196 | 21,863 |
| Wandsworth | 15,446 | 15,884 | 16,131 | 16,593 | 17,016 |
| Westminster | 9,813 | 9,731 | 9,764 | 9,824 | 9,821 |

*Source:*
Surplus Places Survey

### Pupils: Intimidation

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department is making in tackling cyberbullying in schools. [236728]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department introduced legal provisions in the 2006 Education Act which gave school staff new powers to confiscate mobile phones and to discipline pupils for bad behaviour outside the school gate, including cyber bullying. We published detailed guidance for schools on how to prevent and tackle cyber bullying in September 2007, and have more recently produced a resource pack for school staff which includes a DVD and a booklet for teachers. We ran a digital information campaign on cyber bullying last year aimed at 12 to 15-years-olds, and as part of anti-bullying week we are currently re-running this campaign to drive home the message that if young people laugh at, or pass on bullying messages online or with mobile phones, they are taking part in bullying. I have asked the Anti-Bullying Alliance and National Strategies to work with local authorities and schools to ensure the cyber bullying guidance is effectively implemented on the ground, and that schools make effective use of the other materials.

### Runaway Children

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many young runaways there were in each year since 2000; and what steps have been taken to assist them over that period; [236941]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of children who were sleeping rough in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority. [236948]

**Beverley Hughes:** Statistics on the numbers of all children who are reported as missing, and on the number of children who sleep rough are not collected centrally. However, a recent Children's Society survey ("Still Running II, 2005") estimates that each year 100,000 children in the UK run away or are forced to leave home to escape problems. That survey suggests that one in six of those young people will sleep rough while they are away.

In June 2008, the Department, in partnership with the Home Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government, published the Young Runaways Action Plan. This set out how we will support those who have run away from home or care, draws on the findings of a series of parliamentary hearings, and reflects the direction set by the working group of officials and local government and voluntary sector experts which my Department set up earlier this year to drive work to improve services for runaways. In particular, we have committed to update the statutory guidance for local authorities about service provision for runaways; to produce a resource pack that schools and other organisations working with young people can use to educate them about the dangers of running; and to review the provision of emergency accommodation, which helps those young people who do run to stay safe.

Additionally, the National Police Improvement Agency's Missing Persons Bureau has been working with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the charity Missing People to establish joint working arrangements to improve the recording, sharing and exchange of information, to improve the way in which missing persons are dealt with, and to inform our understanding of the problem in order to develop strategies to address it. A comprehensive national police database of missing and unidentified people reported either to the police or the charity has been established, and will be supported by a new police Code of Practice on the recording of data relating to missing people, which will be in place in the spring. Local areas will be asked to confirm the extent to which this data is collected and used appropriately at a local level as part of the new indicator, N1 71, 'Missing from Home or Care', which will be in place from April 2009.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what provision is in place for long-term specialist foster carers to take in young runaways for an extended period of time; and if he will make a statement. [236951]

**Beverley Hughes:** Local authorities are responsible for commissioning sufficient placements in order to respond to the diverse needs of children in their care. The information requested, therefore, is not held centrally.

Our Care Matters White Paper outlined a range of initiatives to offer support to foster carers and improve placement choice.

**Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006**

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what original estimate was made of the costs of implementing the provisions of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006; and what his most recent estimate is of such costs. [235897]

**Meg Hillier:** I have been asked to reply.

Implementing the provisions of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 required the setting up of a new Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) through which unsuitable people would be barred from working with children and/or vulnerable adults. The VBS Full Business Case of 28 September 2007 showed set-up costs for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are expected to be £84 million in total, with five-year operational costs expected to be £246 million. Hence, over the five years of implementing the scheme, and vetting approximately 11.3 million people, the total costs will be £330 million. Since the figures quoted in that business case, the costs have not risen.

**Special Educational Needs**

**Mr. Fielle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average time taken to issue a statement of special educational needs was in *(a)* Stoke-on-Trent and *(b)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [231603]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Audit Commission has collected figures on how many draft statements have been completed by each local authority within the statutory 18 weeks, both when none of the allowed exceptions to the time limits within the 18 weeks are relevant and when they are. The latest figures available are for 2006-07 and are available on the Audit Commission's website at

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/performance/dataprovision.asp

(Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) 43a and 43b). These show that Stoke-on-Trent achieved an average of 98.2 per cent. of draft statements completed within 18 weeks excluding exceptions and 87.6 per cent. with exceptions. The average local authority scores for England were 97.5 per cent. and 86.5 per cent. respectively.

2007-08 is the last statutory period for the collection and reporting of the BPVIs. The new national indicator set, which has replaced all other local authority performance indicators, includes an indicator on what percentage of final statements each local authority completes within the statutory 26 weeks.

**Special Educational Needs: East of England**

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was allocated to special needs provision in each county in the East of England in each year since 1997. [232622]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The available information on how much funding was allocated to special needs provision in each local authority in the East of England in each year since 1997 is contained within the following table: Data is not available prior to 2000-01.

*Budgeted net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs by local authorities in England since 2000-01*

£

| Local authority name | Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 2,763,226,000 | 2,908,380,000 | 3,038,661,000 | 3,486,180,000 | 3,774,757,000 |
| Eastern Government Office Region | 262,755,000 | 281,291,000 | 296,178,000 | 339,448,000 | 371,652,000 |
| Bedfordshire | 19,250,000 | 21,011,000 | 18,838,000 | 24,669,000 | 26,198,000 |
| Cambridgeshire | 31,017,000 | 33,352,000 | 36,290,000 | 44,958,000 | 42,980,000 |
| City of Peterborough | 12,325,000 | 13,410,000 | 14,787,000 | 16,936,000 | 18,620,000 |
| Essex | 62,904,000 | 68,285,000 | 69,328,000 | 75,876,000 | 81,359,000 |
| Hertfordshire | 54,162,000 | 56,668,000 | 55,427,000 | 63,654,000 | 71,970,000 |
| Luton | 9,136,000 | 9,321,000 | 14,765,000 | 15,673,000 | 17,867,000 |
| Norfolk | 34,824,000 | 37,782,000 | 38,304,000 | 42,233,000 | 44,946,000 |
| Southend | 8,867,000 | 10,222,000 | 10,653,000 | 13,096,000 | 15,107,000 |
| Suffolk | 22,845,000 | 23,452,000 | 29,012,000 | 32,374,000 | 41,529,000 |
| Thurrock | 7,425,000 | 7,788,000 | 8,774,000 | 9,979,000 | 11,076,000 |

£

| Local authority name | Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 4,120,549,000 | 4,481,245,000 | 4,863,604,000 | 5,098,742,000 |
| Eastern Government Office Region | 393,062,000 | 431,678,000 | 473,843,000 | 516,779,000 |
| Bedfordshire | 27,455,000 | 31,224,000 | 32,013,000 | 32,719,000 |
| Cambridgeshire | 45,120,000 | 47,217,000 | 48,756,000 | 51,210,000 |
| City of Peterborough | 20,337,000 | 23,188,000 | 24,838,000 | 23,747,000 |
| Essex | 87,946,000 | 96,982,000 | 103,046,000 | 126,001,000 |
| Hertfordshire | 75,794,000 | 79,344,000 | 87,928,000 | 93,423,000 |
| Luton | 17,431,000 | 21,541,000 | 23,164,000 | 22,377,000 |
| Norfolk | 48,604,000 | 51,472,000 | 60,953,000 | 69,471,000 |
| Southend | 15,810,000 | 19,076,000 | 21,469,000 | 21,455,000 |
| Suffolk | 43,991,000 | 50,159,000 | 57,750,000 | 58,210,000 |
| Thurrock | 10,574,000 | 11,475,000 | 13,926,000 | 18,166,000 |

*Source:*
The data are drawn from local authorities Section 52 Budget Statements (Tables 1 and 2) submitted to the DCSF (formally the DfES).

## Special Educational Needs: Transport

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children with special education needs (SEN) are transported to school from *(a)* their homes and *(b)* pick-up points for each local authority in England; and how much each local authority in England spent on SEN transport in the latest period for which figures are available. [234862]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold information with regard to the number of children with special educational needs that are transported to school (i) from their homes and (ii) pick-up points. The amount each local authority in England spends on SEN transport in the latest period for which figures are available is contained within the following table:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| England | 552,558,571 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 2,781,486 |
| Barnet | 5,921,620 |
| Barnsley | 1,423,580 |
| Bath and NE Somerset | 2,486,100 |
| Bedfordshire | 5,714,663 |
| Bexley | 2,656,000 |
| Birmingham | 14,427,443 |
| Blackburn and Darwen | 1,580,173 |
| Blackpool | 1,386,786 |
| Bolton | 2,767,088 |
| Bournemouth | 977,190 |
| Bracknell Forest | 1,408,478 |
| Bradford | 6,233,823 |
| Brent | 4,085,000 |
| Brighton and Hove | 3,016,142 |
| Bromley | 3,598,614 |
| Buckinghamshire | 7,424,940 |
| Bury | 1,999,500 |
| Calderdale | 1,732,770 |
| Cambridgeshire | 6,343,005 |
| Camden | 2,977,372 |
| Cheshire | 7,985,466 |
| City of Bristol | 5,398,933 |

| | £ | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| City of Kingston-upon-Hull | 2,525,190 | North East Lincolnshire | 2,025,138 |
| City of London | 34,900 | North Lincolnshire | 1,501,770 |
| City of Nottingham | 1,810,178 | North Somerset | 1,764,011 |
| City of Peterborough | 1,628,583 | North Tyneside | 1,392,889 |
| City of Plymouth | 2,072,800 | North Yorkshire | 5,867,096 |
| Cornwall | 1,117,027 | Northamptonshire | 6,769,580 |
| Coventry | 3,121,433 | Northumberland | 3,244,040 |
| Croydon | 5,520,572 | Nottinghamshire | 5,079,617 |
| Cumbria | 4,110,000 | Oldham | 2,089,162 |
| Darlington | 651,171 | Oxfordshire | 6,463,391 |
| Derby | 2,346,412 | Poole | 1,021,220 |
| Derbyshire | 7,119,762 | Portsmouth | 1,657,677 |
| Devon | 2,226,871 | Reading | 1,278,440 |
| Doncaster | 3,068,970 | Redbridge | 3,361,085 |
| Dorset | 5,230,890 | Redcar and Cleveland | 1,030,326 |
| Dudley | 2,410,773 | Richmond-upon-Thames | 2,466,463 |
| Durham | 4,647,889 | Rochdale | 2,036,394 |
| Ealing | 4,639,006 | Rotherham | 2,479,415 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 4,603,040 | Rutland | 0 |
| East Sussex | 6,844,466 | Salford | 2,555,549 |
| Enfield | 4,123,120 | Sandwell | 2,636,500 |
| Essex | 13,339,592 | Sefton | 2,738,058 |
| Gateshead | 1,541,354 | Sheffield | 4,466,569 |
| Gloucestershire | 5,157,802 | Shropshire | 3,346,794 |
| Greenwich | 2,881,170 | Slough | 2,135,874 |
| Hackney | 3,101,585 | Solihull | 2,119,110 |
| Halton | 1,226,758 | Somerset | 3,507,624 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 2,296,342 | South Gloucestershire | 2,860,000 |
| Hampshire | 15,482,800 | South Tyneside | 1,094,618 |
| Haringey | 4,090,166 | Southampton | 1,723,293 |
| Harrow | 4,103,430 | Southend | 1,882,140 |
| Hartlepool | 1,044,479 | Southwark | 3,973,043 |
| Havering | 1,870,775 | St Helens | 1,900,813 |
| Herefordshire | 1,514,990 | Staffordshire | 7,427,450 |
| Hertfordshire | 14,125,312 | Stockport | 3,279,309 |
| Hillingdon | 3,853,343 | Stockton-on-Tees | 1,900,465 |
| Hounslow | 3,013,032 | Stoke | 1,609,686 |
| Isle of Wight | 395,912 | Suffolk | 6,150,246 |
| Isles of Scilly | 0 | Sunderland | 2,079,453 |
| Islington | 2,043,197 | Surrey | 17,212,358 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 1,603,400 | Sutton | 3,573,200 |
| Kent | 16,783,450 | Swindon | 1,567,311 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 2,039,871 | Tameside | 970,000 |
| Kirklees | 3,429,117 | Telford and Wrekin | 1,783,149 |
| Knowsley | 1,501,332 | Thurrock | 1,125,002 |
| Lambeth | 3,235,828 | Torbay | 1,290,648 |
| Lancashire | 14,820,081 | Tower Hamlets | 3,742,415 |
| Leeds | 6,978,340 | Trafford | 2,838,171 |
| Leicester City | 3,921,116 | Wakefield | 2,828,348 |
| Leicestershire | 5,901,210 | Walsall | 2,280,126 |
| Lewisham | 3,761,016 | Waltham Forest | 3,301,375 |
| Lincolnshire | 10,558,393 | Wandsworth | 2,937,535 |
| Liverpool | 4,650,541 | Warrington | 1,492,579 |
| Luton | 2,444,236 | Warwickshire | 4,726,752 |
| Manchester | 6,662,836 | West Berkshire | 2,299,572 |
| Medway | 3,989,500 | West Sussex | 835,776 |
| Merton | 2,245,040 | Westminster | 2,972,900 |
| Middlesbrough | 2,030,546 | Wigan | 3,299,113 |
| Milton Keynes | 1,746,871 | Wiltshire | 4,365,717 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 2,059,350 | Windsor and Maidenhead | 1,341,893 |
| Newham | 3,190,667 | Wirral | 4,036,800 |
| Norfolk | 9,874,655 | Wokingham | 1,606,290 |

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Wolverhampton | 3,094,900 |
| Worcestershire | 6,154,350 |
| York | 1,279,324 |

*Notes:*
1. The data are drawn from Children, Schools and Families Financial Data Collection (Budget).
2. Budgeted net expenditure on special educational needs transport by local authorities in England during 2008-09.
3. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 11 November 2008.

### UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent assessment is of the steps necessary to implement the removal of the Government's reservations on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; and what timetable he has set for taking these steps. [237061]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Government are currently taking the necessary procedures to remove the reservations against the Articles 22 and 37c of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is writing to the UN Secretary-General withdrawing the reservations. The Secretary-General will then notify the other states parties of the withdrawal. The withdrawal will take effect upon such notification, which we anticipate will take place by the end of this year.

### Vetting: Overseas Residence

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps need to be taken in order to facilitate the taking into account of relevant offences committed overseas when individuals put themselves forward to be monitored under procedures established under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. [235896]

**Meg Hillier:** I have been asked to reply.

The Independent Safeguarding Authority, established under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006), can use foreign offences information when deciding whether to bar individuals from working with children or vulnerable adults.

There are several ways this information can be accessed. Under an EU Council Decision agreed in November 2005, an EU member state must inform the UK if a UK national is convicted in that other EU state. This information is put onto the Police National Computer (PNC) and is available for the disclosure services.

Under the same Council Decision criminal conviction information can also be sought on EU nationals being proceeded against in the UK and any information received from other member states put onto the PNC. A standard format for securely exchanging this information electronically was agreed at the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 24 October.

The UK sees information sharing as a key priority for the next EU work programme. We have signed the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation which recognises the need to share information among member states for child protection purposes.

The Criminal Records Bureau is pursuing bilateral agreements, for example with France, Ireland and Australia, on exchanging information for employment vetting purposes. But, this is a difficult area and so far only three of the 26 EU countries approached have said they can co-operate with us on these bilateral agreements and we recognise that there is much more work to do on this.

Sir Ian Magee's Review of Criminality Information published in the summer recommended that by January 2009, the Government should agree an approach to the international exchange of criminality information and that vetting and barring should be a priority area. The Government expect to publish its response to the review shortly.

### Young People: Antisocial Behaviour

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1082W, on young people: anti-social behaviour, when the independent national evaluation *(a)* will begin and *(b)* is expected to report. [236335]

**Beverley Hughes:** The independent national evaluation of Intensive Intervention Projects will begin in 2009, and will report in 2011.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Broadband

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations his Department has received on the role of private companies' in the roll-out of broadband internet. [233619]

**Mr. McFadden:** This Department has not received representations explicitly about the role of private companies but has received correspondence, where calls were made for Government to intervene to make industry roll-out broadband internet to areas that currently suffer from lack of service.

I am committed to looking at this issue seriously and we will consider this in more detail over the coming months, in particular through The Digital Britain Report that the Government launched on 17 October. Reporting in the spring, The Digital Britain Report will develop a comprehensive strategy to further our digital economy and society. One strand of this work will look at options for maximising broadband participation and levels of service.

### Business Confidence

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what surveys of business confidence his Department and its predecessors have conducted or commissioned since 1997; and if he will place in the Library copies of each. [232036]

**Ian Pearson:** The Department has not conducted or commissioned surveys of business confidence. There are a number of private sector surveys of business confidence (for example, the quarterly CBI Industrial

Trends Survey) that provide a regular, reliable source of information on business confidence, which negate the need for BERR to conduct its own surveys and add to the survey burden on business.

### Business Link

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the number of businesses that *(a)* sought advice, *(b)* received intensive assistance and *(c)* received other assistance from the Business Link network in each year since 1997. [231957]

**Ian Pearson:** The information requested, where available, can be found in the following table.

*Business Link—customers helped*

| | *Total customers* | *Pre-start-ups* | *Established businesses* | *Start Up* | *Established and start up* | *Intensive assists* | *Inquiries to national phone number* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 245,342 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2002-03 | 309,680 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2003-04 | 605,937 | 170,749 | 435,293 | — | — | 49,830 | — |
| 2004-05 | 663,086 | 171,737 | 452,797 | 38,552 | 491,349 | 37,769 | 72,672 |
| 2005-06 | 740,224 | 185,711 | 515,315 | 39,198 | 554,513 | 43,662 | 85,376 |
| 2006-07 | 792,741 | 182,407 | 564,241 | 46,093 | 610,334 | 48,107 | 104,394 |
| 2007-08 | 798,031 | 207,952 | 537,901 | 52,178 | 590,079 | 57,586 | 151,000 |

It shows the number of customers that have benefited over the years from Business Link where they can access a wide range of business support products. Business Link provides a wealth of information on business related topics, it helps customers diagnose their needs and helps them to identify solutions to meet those needs in both the public and private sector. It can be accessed through the website www.businesslink.gov.uk, by telephone (0845 6009006) or through the network of advisers based in England.

### Business: VAT

**Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many new businesses in Leicester South constituency have registered for value added tax in each year since 1997. [234683]

**Ian Pearson:** The number of new VAT registrations in Leicester South in each year from 1997 to 2006 is shown in the following table. Data for VAT registrations in 2007 will be available 28 November 2008.

*Number of new VAT registrations and VAT-registered businesses, Leicester South*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *New VAT registrations* | |
| 1997 | 320 |
| 1998 | 340 |
| 1999 | 355 |
| 2000 | 340 |
| 2001 | 330 |
| 2002 | 355 |
| 2003 | 365 |
| 2004 | 380 |
| 2005 | 425 |
| 2006 | 405 |

*Source:*
BERR National Statistics publication "Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 2006" available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

Although the number of new registrations fluctuated over the 10 years, the total number of VAT registered businesses in Leicester South increased from 3,170 at the start of 1997 to 3,580 at the start of 2007, an increase of 13 per cent.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (43 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

### Departmental Internet

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for which Government websites his Department is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [235033]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department's website is:

www.berr.gov.uk

It received a total of 10,107,460 visits from 6,589,815 unique visitors in the period 01 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

The main cost elements of its upkeep are:

The Rhythmyx content management system (CMS). The CMS is used by staff across the Department and cost £1,029,474.83 in 2007-08.

Provision and maintenance of the site's search engine facility by a third-party supplier, Open Objects. In 2007-08 this cost £15,784.21

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236915]

**Mr. McFadden:** The remit of each of the non-departmental public bodies sponsored by the Department can be found at the following link. An updated version of this list will be published shortly.

http://www.berr.gov.uk/aboutus/corporate/performance/annual-spending/page40391.html

Funding for 2008-09 agreed with each of the Department's Executive non-departmental public bodies, above £1 million, can be found on page 398 of the published Central Government Supply Estimates 2008-09—see extract and following link. The only body not included on the list is "Sitpro" and we have agreed a figure of £800,000 for 2008-09. Funding for future years (i.e. 2009-10 and 2010-11) has not yet been agreed.

The advisory NDPBs sponsored by the Department incur little or no expenditure and are resourced from within the Department. As a result, information on budgets for 2008-11 is not available.

Web link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/5705.htm

### New Businesses: Greater London

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many new business start-ups there were in Bexley in each of the last three years. [232292]

**Ian Pearson:** VAT registration data provide the only accurate indicator of the level of business start-up activity.

The number of new VAT registrations in the London borough of Bexley was 580 in 2004, 535 in 2005 and 560 in 2006. Data for VAT registrations in 2007 will be available 28 November 2008.

Although the number of new registrations fluctuated over the three years, the total number of VAT registered businesses in Bexley increased from 5,140 at the start of 2004 to 5,385 at the start of 2007, an increase of 245 (5 per cent.).

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (43 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

### Smarta

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding his Department provided for Smarta in each of the last three years. [231953]

**Ian Pearson:** Smarta is a private sector enterprise, of which the Department is aware but has no direct involvement in its day to day operations. The Department has not given any funding to Smarta in the last three years.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the user numbers for Smarta in each of its first three years. [231955]

**Ian Pearson:** The Smarta website is a private sector enterprise, of which the Department is aware but has no direct involvement in its day to day operations.

## JUSTICE

### Administration of Justice: Mental Health Services

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the implementation of the proposals on service users in the justice system made by Professor Michael Williams in his review of mental health services in Wales. [235989]

**Mr. Hanson:** No ministerial discussions were held between the Ministry of Justice and Welsh Ministers about Professor Williams's report: "Iechyd Meddwl Cymru—A Well Being and Mental Health Service Fit for Wales". The report was published in April 2008 and proposed a statutory body responsible for Mental Health and Well Being in Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government subsequently undertook a consultation on the proposal, which involved local partnerships whose shared responsibilities include those in the justice system. Welsh Ministers announced on 29 September that mental health services will become a fundamental part of the new integrated local NHS bodies, which was also subject of a consultation exercise, and not the responsibility of a separate statutory body.

### Civil Proceedings

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has carried out on the cost to the Courts Service of litigants in person. [235900]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Ministry of Justice has carried out no research on litigants in person.

The former Department of Constitutional Affairs published research on two projects in 2005 that are broadly relevant:

Richard Moorhead and Mark Sefton's 'Litigants in Person: Unrepresented litigants in first instance proceedings';

Joyce Plotnikoff and Richard Woolfson's 'Evaluation of appellant work in the High Court and the County Court' which has a small section on unrepresented litigants.

Both documents are available from:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/research/2005/res05fr.htm.

### Cremation

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many cremation certificates were issued in each of the last five years; [237074]

(2) what guidance he issues on good practice in issuing cremation certificates; [237075]

(3) what representations he has received on an unsatisfactory practice in the issuing of cremation certificates. [237076]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Cremation Society of Great Britain provides statistical information about the number of cremations authorised each year. In England and Wales the number of cremations for each of the last five years was as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 404,754 |
| 2004 | 388,336 |
| 2005 | 387,874 |
| 2006 | 380,663 |
| 2007 | 381,067 |

Each cremation requires three or four certificates depending on the circumstances of the death. These are completed by the applicant, two medical practitioners or the coroner, and the medical referee at the crematorium. Guidance on the completion of the medical certificates was published in 2002 and 2003. New cremation regulations come into effect on 1 January 2009 and new guidance has been issued to cremation authorities, medical referees, funeral directors, medical practitioners and applicants for cremation as well as being published on the Ministry of Justice website and elsewhere within the cremation industry. Representations about the poor completion of medical certificates are made very occasionally to this Department. In certain circumstances these may be referred to the prosecuting authorities for investigation.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans there are for each of the sites owned by HM Courts Service registered on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land; what construction projects are planned for each site; and when he expects each site to be returned to use. [236439]

**Bridget Prentice:** HM Courts Service has three sites listed on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land. There are two sites listed at New Mitts, High Peak which were to be used as part of the Derbyshire Magistrates' Court PFI scheme but we are no longer proceeding with a new courthouse at New Mills. HM Courts Service and New Mills Town Council (who own one of the areas of land) are now in the process of selling this land. We also own land at Ebbw Vale, Gwent that was acquired by the former Gwent Magistrates' Courts Committee for a possible new courthouse but. there are no plans in the current spending round to progress this project.

### Disability Living Allowance: Appeals

**Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many disability living allowance and incapacity for work cases his Department lost on appeal in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by category of reason. [234971]

**Bridget Prentice:** The total number of disability living allowance cases where the Department of Work and Pensions lost on appeal in the latest period for which figures are available was:

30,606 (50.5 per cent.) from a total of 60,600 cases cleared at hearing between October 2007 and October 2008.

The total number of incapacity benefits cases where the department for work and pensions lost on appeal in the latest period for which figures are available was:

25,970 (44.7 per cent.) from a total of 58,085 cases cleared at hearing between October 2007 and October 2008.

The tribunal only records the outcome of appeals and not the reason.

### Legal Advice and Assistance

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many individuals have been assisted using the Legal Help Scheme since the introduction of fixed fees; [235910]

(2) how many individuals have had more than one case prepared with assistance from the Legal Help Scheme since the introduction of fixed fees. [235911]

**Mr. Malik:** In the 12-month period from 1 October 2007 to October 2008, when the Legal Services Commission (LSC) introduced new fee schemes as part of the legal aid reform programme, the number of separate clients reported by providers in all Legal Help categories including immigration was 551,353. Of these, 77,514 received help on more than one occasion.

From 1 October 2007 to October 2008 legal aid providers started 625,670 Legal Help matters including immigration and excluding the Community Legal Advice telephone helpline. New matters started can help one or more people, and one individual can receive help on more than one matter in any given period.

From 1 October 2007 the LSC has required providers to record a Unique Client Number for each case they report. The client identifier means that the LSC can estimate how many individual clients legal aid providers have helped as well as the number of new matters started.

As the figures relate to cases closed, they may include more simple or general Legal Help cases than complex ones. The complex cases, which may involve multiple problems, tend to last longer and may not have closed yet. Research shows that clients often experience problems in clusters.

### Legal Representation: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent research his Department has carried out on the effect of fixed fees on the number of people who represent themselves in court proceedings. [235899]

**Mr. Malik:** The Government implemented new legal aid fixed payment schemes for solicitors and not-for-profit organisations in 2007. The impact of the fixed fee schemes is currently being reviewed by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) and relevant stakeholders. The LSC will consult on any improvements needed in January 2009, to take effect with new contracts in 2010.

The following figures from HM Court Service show that the number of litigants in person in the family courts have fallen slightly in the last four years.

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 52,905 |
| 2005 | 49,876 |
| 2006 | 49,410 |
| 2007 | 48,983 |
| 2008 | [1]31,979 |

[1] January to August.

*Note:*
The figures exclude adoption work and relate to the status of the petitioner/applicant in county court actions only.

### National Probation Service for England and Wales

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish the report his Department commissioned from KPMG on options for the future structure of the National Probation Service. [222301]

**Mr. Hanson:** A number of options for change to the National Probation Service structure have been considered by Ministers, based on the analysis provided by KPMG and other sources of information. On 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 12WS, I set out plans for the implementation of probation trusts. All probation boards will have the opportunity to apply to become a trust by 2010. A copy of the report has been placed in the House Library.

### Pleural Plaques

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many responses he has received from *(a)* trades unions, *(b)* insurers and *(c)* members of the public to his Department's consultation on pleural plaques; and if he will make a statement. [236534]

**Bridget Prentice:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 330W.

A total of 224 responses were received to the consultation paper. Of these, 125 responses were received from individuals and 30 from the legal profession. 18 responses were received from insurers and defendant organisations. There were 15 responses from trade union bodies, and 12 from Members of Parliament. Seven responses were received from employers and business organisations; four from medical professionals; four from organisations representing asbestos victims; and two from academics. In addition there were responses from a devolved administration; a non-departmental public body; a constituency political party; an actuarial body; a charity for education in health and safety; a statutory public body; and a consultancy firm specialising in occupational environmental and public health risks.

### Prisoners Transfers

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many requests were received from prisoners for transfer to a prison near their home in 2008; how many were approved; and if he will make a statement. [236839]

**Mr. Malik:** Prisoners' requests for transfer are only recorded on their individual files. To obtain this information would therefore require a manual examination of the paper files of all those who have been in prison during 2008. This would involve disproportionate cost.

The National Offender Management Service recognises the part family ties can play in reducing re-offending on release, and will facilitate transfers to maintain family ties whenever possible. However, the prisoner's security category must be the primary consideration in determining the appropriate location, along with the availability of programmes which address the individual's offending behaviour. The current high population levels also make it difficult to hold prisoners as close to home as we would otherwise wish.

### Prisoners: Employment

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what provision will be made in Titan prisons to enable prisoners to undertake skilled real work initiatives. [237297]

**Mr. Hanson:** Large prison complexes will offer prisoners the opportunity to engage in meaningful work or education. Work opportunities will lead to qualifications with a focus on NVQs. The work available will be focused on skills shortages in the areas in which these prisons are located, and so assist prisoners to find work on release.

### Prisons: Drugs

**Dr. Stoate:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what comparative assessment his Department has made of the effects of using *(a)* buprenorphine naloxone, *(b)* methadone and *(c)* buprenorphone alone in prisons. [236668]

**Mr. Hanson:** Suboxone, buphrenorphine and methadone are available on the national health service for the treatment of heroin addiction. The decision to use a specific drug is a clinical one, taken in the community or in prison following consultation with the patient about their clinical needs and priorities.

Suboxone has been available to doctors since August 2007—its superiority or otherwise over other licensed treatments, buprenorphine or methadone, has yet to be determined, as experience of the effectiveness of this drug in clinical settings such as prisons is relatively recent, and it will take time for a clear picture to emerge. Offender Health will continue to keep this, and all other drug treatments, under review.

### Rape: Sentencing

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people released from prison after serving a sentence for *(a)* rape and *(b)* sexual assault in England and Wales in each of the last five years have subsequently been convicted of another sexual offence. [236914]

**Mr. Hanson:** At present, figures on sexual reoffending post custody for a specific sexual offence are not available; extracting this information would be at disproportionate cost to the Ministry of Justice. However, published statistics on reoffending include information on the

reoffending rates of offenders who were released from custody following an offence classified as sexual or sexual (child). These are shown in the following table.

| | Number of releases from custody | Rate of reoffending (one year) (percentage) | Number of offences per 100 offenders (one year) | Number of severe offences per 100 offenders[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 347 | 14.1 | 43.5 | 0.6 |
| 2003 | 355 | 14.9 | 55.5 | 1.7 |
| 2004 | 456 | 13.4 | 44.5 | 1.1 |
| 2005 | 486 | 15.2 | 47.9 | 0.8 |
| 2006 | 583 | 11.7 | 39.5 | 0.0 |

[1] The number of severe offences committed by this group is very small and these numbers should therefore be treated with caution.

It is important to note that only a small proportion of offenders convicted of a sexual offence carry out a sexual reoffence on completion of their sentence. Therefore the 'Rate of reoffending (one year)' column in the table represents the percentage of sexual offenders who committed a further offence of any type, with only a small proportion of the offences committed being in the sexual/sexual(child) category. An indication of this can be seen from the number of severe offences committed by this group which on average shows that less than one severe offence is committed per 100 offenders in this group. In the most recent year for which data are available this was zero.

The latest reoffending statistics for adults, "Reoffending of adults: results from the 2006 cohort", were published on the same date and can be obtained from:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

### Shoplifting: Fixed Penalties

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of those issued with a fixed penalty notice for retail theft in the last three years have subsequently reoffended. [236851]

**Mr. Hanson:** A study of criminal histories and re-offending rates of PND recipients is under way and will be published in late 2009.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Carbon Sequestration

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of when carbon capture and storage technology would be commercially deployed following the establishment of a European carbon price through the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [234110]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The timing of the commercial deployment of CCS in the UK depends on several variables, including: how much demonstration projects succeed in confirming the technical performance of the technology; the scale of cost reductions gained from economies of scale and learning; the relative cost of fossil fuels; and the associated cost of carbon.

Modelling undertaken by DECC suggests CCS deployment at €40-60/tCO2, however the early stage of development of the technology and the variables outlined above that will affect this figure mean that there is significant uncertainty surrounding this range.

The Government do not comment on the future level of the carbon price.

### Departmental Energy

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to improve the energy performance of his Department's headquarters. [234108]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department intends to implement the guidance provided in Good Practice Guide 286—Energy Performance in the Government's Civil Estate. As well as considering ways to improve the building's energy efficiency, we are also looking for opportunities to reduce our carbon, energy and water consumption through changes to the way in which we work. 100 per cent. of the electricity supplied to 3-8 Whitehall Place is generated from renewable sources.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what financial contributions his Department is making to international bodies in 2008-09. [236407]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The final budget for DECC will be agreed once negotiations on the Machinery of Government changes with BERR and DEFRA are complete.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much surplus land his Department owns; and what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated monetary value of each site is. [236429]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** DECC owns no surplus land.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 441-42W, on departmental public expenditure, by what date he expects the negotiations on the machinery of government changes referred to in the Answer to be completed. [236580]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** There is no precise date but negotiations on the machinery of government changes, as they affect the Department of Energy and Climate Change, should be completed in time to allow the spring supplementary estimates to be completed.

### Electricity Generation: Wind Power

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the annual *(a)* percentage of active generating time

achieved and *(b)* total amount of electricity generated by micro-wind turbines allowed under the permitted development planning regime. [236328]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I have been asked to reply.

Micro-wind turbines do not currently have permitted development rights. We do not have the figures referred to. We are currently considering the appropriate limits and conditions that would enable permitted development rights for householders to be extended to micro-wind turbines. To achieve this we would need to amend secondary legislation. The amending order would be accompanied by an impact assessment that would quantify the main costs and benefits of the change.

**Energy Group**

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library the organisational chart for the Energy Group. [236749]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The detail of the future organisational structure of the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is currently being determined, following the creation of DECC on 3 October 2008.

**Energy Markets Unit**

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library the organisational chart for the Energy Markets Unit. [236750]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The detail of the future organisational structure of the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is currently being determined, following the creation of DECC on 3 October 2008.

**Energy Supply**

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress has been made towards the objective of ensuring the *(a)* reliable supply and *(b)* efficient use of secure, clean and affordable energy. [236400]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** For the period from 2000, reliability of the UK National Grid transmission network in England and Wales has been 99.99983 per cent. There are incentives on operators of electricity distribution networks in Great Britain to reduce the number and duration of interruptions to supply over their network.

Significant new electricity generating capacity and gas storage is being developed in the UK and, in future, the planning process for such infrastructure should be speeded up through the streamlining of consenting through the Energy and Planning Bills. Security of gas supply is also being improved through the development of three major liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals which will increase our options for importing gas from outside Europe. This week the UK received its largest ever LNG shipment as phase 2 of the Isle of Grain LNG terminal was commissioned.

DECC now publishes its views on longer term energy supply in its annual Energy Markets Outlook publication, which considers future security of supply options.

The Government have put in place a comprehensive framework of policies and measures to promote energy efficiency across all sectors of the economy, including the recent announcement by the Prime Minister of a new £1 billion package of measures to deliver lasting improvements in energy efficiency to help families permanently cut their energy bills.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to monitor the UK's electricity supply capacity margin. [236730]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** National Grid is responsible for monitoring the UK's electricity supply capacity margin on an operational basis. The Department publishes a longer term view of the capacity margin in its Energy Markets Outlook document, which can be viewed at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/energymarketsoutlook/page41839.html

DECC has also published information in the context of the 2007 Energy White Paper and the subsequent renewables consultation.

**Energy Supply: Africa**

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with his counterparts in African countries on the possibility of a high voltage direct current cable network connecting North Africa to Europe. [236654]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]*: None.

**Energy Supply: Europe**

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the possibility of an integrated high voltage direct current cable network in Europe. [236655]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]*: None.

**Fallow Initiative**

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps have been taken by the Fallow Initiative; what assessment he has made of its progress; and if he will make a statement. [236409]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Fallow Initiative has been extremely successful. Each year the Department identifies licences where there has been no drilling activity for three years or longer. The owners then have just one year in which to drill or hand the licence back. In January 2008, a further 58 newly fallow blocks and 11 newly fallow discoveries were identified and an additional tranche will be identified in the new year.

In addition to the 26 field developments that the process has delivered in existing licences, 72 of the 257 blocks that were offered last week in the 25th Licensing Round had been made available for re-licensing as a result of the Fallow Initiative.

### Franco-British Nuclear Forum

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) on how many occasions Ministers have attended meetings of the Franco-British Nuclear Forum since its creation; [236742]

(2) what role his Department has in arranging meetings of the Franco-British Nuclear Forum; [236743]

(3) who attended the most recent meeting of the Franco-British Nuclear Forum; [236744]

(4) when the most recent meeting of the Franco-British Nuclear Forum took place. [236745]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Franco-British Nuclear Forum has met twice: in November 2006 and March 2007. It was attended by my noble Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy on both occasions. Membership of the forum was made up from industry, policy makers, regulators and scientists. The forum was managed by BERR—now DECC—officials. Full information about the forum is available at:

http://www.francobritishnuclearforum.org.uk/.

### Natural Gas

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of days of gas supply held in UK gas storage facilities. [233929]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* The following table, from National Grid's Winter Outlook 2008 report, shows the assumed number of days of storage the UK has for 2008-09 at the maximum withdrawal rate.

| | *Space (GWh)* | *Deliverability (GWh/d)* | *Deliverability (mcm/d)* | *Days at full rate* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Short (LNG) | 2,202 | 526 | 49 | 4.2 |
| Medium (MRS) | 9,826 | 530 | 49 | 18.5 |
| Long (Rough) | 35,545 | 455 | 42 | 78.1 |
| Total | 47,573 | 1,511 | 140 | — |

The maximum deliverability of 140 mcm/day equates to around 28 per cent. of demand on a one-in-20 peak winter day. However, gas in storage is only one of the sources of supply which meet UK consumption, along with UK production not exported, and imported gas.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the total capacity of new gas storage facilities that will come onstream in 2009. [233930]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* The UK currently has 4,364 million cubic metres (mcm) of working storage capacity, with an additional 420 mcm of capacity expected to come online.

The Government are encouraging new investment in gas storage through the Energy and Planning Bill's reform of the planning and consents regulatory framework to ensure that is clear and consistent and reflects the national need for new infrastructure.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Public Participation

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how he intends to take into account the submissions made to the consultation on the strategic siting assessment of nuclear power plants; what criteria he will use to evaluate the responses; when he expects to publish the revised strategic siting assessment; if he will publish on his departmental website all responses; and what steps he plans to take following this consultation. [236366]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Consultation on the Strategic Siting Assessment Process and Siting Criteria for New Nuclear Power Stations in the UK closed on 11 November 2008.

The Government are currently analysing the responses to the consultation. After careful consideration of those responses, we will publish the Government's response to the consultation in the new year. The Government's response will contain the final SSA criteria and any updates to the Environmental Study. We will also be inviting nominations for sites which will then be assessed against the SSA criteria.

The consultation document set out details of the proposed SSA process and next steps. We will update the process and next steps in the light of consultation responses and include details in the Government response to the consultation next year. All responses to consultation will be published on the DECC website unless confidentiality was requested. The home addresses of respondents will not be published for reasons of privacy.

### PowerPerfector

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the rollout of PowerPerfector at Whitehall Place. [236394]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The PowerPerfector at Whitehall Place was installed on 8 March 2008. It is currently saving an average of 9 per cent. of pre installation consumption, and is predicted to result in annual savings of 167,000 kg $CO_2$.

### Renewable Energy

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which funding schemes operated by his Department support *(a)* renewable energy *(b)* technology development and *(c)* production. [236739]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** DECC provides capital grant and other funding for the demonstration and pre-commercial deployment of low carbon and renewable energy technologies under the Environmental Transformation Fund. This includes support for the Carbon Trust innovation portfolio. The Government also provide support for renewables through market drivers such as the Renewables Obligation, which is expected to be worth around a billion pounds a year by 2010.

### Renewable Energy: National Grid

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost which would be incurred by the National Grid if nuclear energy were used to meet the 2020 renewables target. [236314]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department has made no analysis of the impact of using nuclear energy to meet the 2020 renewables target because nuclear is not a renewable. Nuclear will of course help to reduce emissions.

### Renewables Advisory Board

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what future work programme has been set for the Renewables Advisory Board; and if he will make a statement. [236723]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Renewables Advisory Board sets its work programme in January of each year. The work plan is available at:

http://www.renewables-advisoryboard.org.uk/about.htm

and the 2009 programme will be published in the new year.

### Renewables Advisory Board: Finance

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding the Government has provided for the Renewables Advisory Board in each financial year since its creation. [234646]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Renewables Advisory Board (RAB) was created in 2002.

The Government have provided the following funding to support the activities of the advisory non-departmental public body, RAB:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 190,144 |
| 2006-07 | 310,785 |
| 2007-08 | 260,315 |
| 2008-09 | 252,145 |

### West of Shetland Taskforce Steering Group

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps have been taken by the West of Shetland Taskforce Steering Group; what assessment of its progress he has made; and if he will make a statement. [236398]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The west of Shetlands and west of Scotland represents a potential 17 per cent. of the UK's remaining oil and gas reserves. Getting the right infrastructure in place to capitalise on this area is of growing significance as we continue to meet the challenge of a secure and diverse energy supply.

No one company or single field is sufficient to drive the building of this infrastructure and my Department established a Government/Industry Taskforce to seek a collective solution. The task force identified a number of options for new infrastructure and agreed an industry sponsored process to test the appetite for third party investment.

An independent broker was contracted to approach a range of potential investors including UK Continental Shelf licensees with interests to the west of Shetland, utility companies and financial organisations. The process closed at the end of October. I understand that there has been interest expressed by a number of licensees beyond the co-sponsors of the third party process (the Laggan/Tormore field and Rosebank field partners.)

It is now a matter for these interested licence groups to consider the options and establish the commercial arrangements necessary to bring forward development proposals for consideration by my Department. I am hopeful that we will see further technical work begin early in the new year that will lead to a development decision during 2009.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 24 November 2008*

## SCOTLAND

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in the last 12 months. [237480]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office did not incur any expenditure in relation to Christmas parties or Christmas cards within the last 12 months. £262.33 plus VAT was spent on Christmas decorations.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on external consultancy in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [239060]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office was established in its present form on 1 July 1999. Since that date expenditure on external consultancy has been as follows:

| | *Expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 0 |
| 2000-01 | 0 |
| 2001-02 | 23,329 |
| 2002-03 | 10,720 |
| 2003-04 | 10,044 |
| 2004-05 | 2,817 |
| 2005-06 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 0 |

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237446]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office expenditure on flat screen televisions, DVD players and stereo equipment in each of the last three years is listed as follows:

| | | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| Flat screen televisions | 0 | 0 | 2,076 |
| DVD players | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stereo equipment | 0 | 0 | 0 |

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Departmental Internet

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland for which Government websites his Department is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [235029]

**Ann McKechin:** Between April 2007 and March 2008, the Scotland Office web-site received 94,714 visitors. During this period, the cost of hosting the site was £550 and the cost of routine maintenance was £2,440.

The Scotland Office sponsors the Boundary Commission for Scotland which runs its own website. Between April 2007 and March 2008, that website received 686,342 page hits. The number of visitors is not separately recorded. During this period, the cost of running the site was £1,320. Routine maintenance is carried out internally, and associated staff costs are not collected separately.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much surplus land his Department owns; and what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated monetary value of each site is. [236417]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office does not own any land.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [237467]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office did not employ any staff to undertake branding activities in 2007-08.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on *(a)* publicity and *(b)* advertising in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238951]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office was established in its present form on 1 July 1999. Since that date expenditure on publicity and advertising has been as follows:

| | *Expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 26,861 |
| 2000-01 | 270,494 |
| 2001-02 | 186,564 |
| 2002-03 | 10,390 |
| 2003-04 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 17,510 |
| 2007-08 | 0 |

Most of the expenditure in 2000-01 and 2001-02 relates to electoral registration matters. Since 2001, this has been the responsibility of the Electoral Commission.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237500]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office does not maintain records of the administrative time provided to special advisers and therefore is unable to identify the full time equivalent figure. However no staff, in the three years to 30 March 2008, were dedicated to supporting special advisers.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 251-2W, on departmental written questions, what the cost of providing the answer was. [236853]

**Ann McKechin:** The cost of providing the answer to the Member was minimal and well within the disproportionate cost limit.

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236904]

**Ann McKechin:** There have been no complaints of racial abuse in the Scotland Office in the last 12 months.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 102-5WS, on tackling alcohol-related problems, when the summit of police and local authorities to discuss proposals to tackle alcohol-related problems was convened; and what the outcome of the discussion was. [234277]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The Home Office and Department for Culture Media and Sports jointly held a summit with senior police officers and local authority chief executives on 5 June to discuss how the powers in the Licensing Act 2003 and other interventions can be used most effectively to control problem premises which sell alcohol. Following the successful summit, the Department for Culture Media and Sports has issued guidance on a range of innovative and tough conditions as well as on the introduction of the 'yellow card/red card' scheme to encourage earlier and stronger intervention to tackle problem premises. The Home Office has recently rolled out bespoke, regional workshops to help frontline practitioners to better understand and encourage them in the use of the general alcohol-related tools and powers and specifically Licensing Act 2003 offences.

We will be augmenting these workshops with a comprehensive support package including updated tools and powers guidance, video training modules and reference materials.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* cautions and *(b)* arrests for alcohol-related offences there were in (i) Ashford constituency and (ii) Kent in the last eight quarters for which records are available. [237011]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information requested in respect of cautions covering offences of (a) drunkenness, (b) drunkenness with aggravation, (c) offences against the licensing acts, (d) other offences against intoxicating liquor laws, and (e) elected motoring offences, is provided in the following table. The Office for Criminal Justice Reform is unable to provide data for Ashford constituency as data are not collected at the level required.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. The alcohol related offences presented in the table are not notifiable offences and do not form part of the arrests collection.

From data reported to the Ministry of Justice, with the exception of these offences, it is not possible to separately identify whether arrests and cautions for other offences were alcohol related.

*Number of offenders cautioned[1] for alcohol related offences[2] and issued with penalty notices for disorder (PNDs)[1] in the Kent police force area, broken down by quarter, 2005 to 2006[3]*

| | 2005 | | | | 2006 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Q1* | *Q2* | *Q3* | *Q4* | *Q1* | *Q2* | *Q3* | *Q4* |
| Cautions | 55 | 34 | 25 | 27 | 20 | 37 | 28 | 31 |
| PNDs | 312 | 424 | 434 | 463 | 408 | 524 | 514 | 509 |

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[2] Includes offences of:
(a) Drunkenness simple.

(b) Drunkenness with aggravation simple.
(c) Offences by licensed person.
(e) Driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs.
(d) Other offences against intoxicating liquor laws.
[3] Includes all alcohol related penalty notices for disorder:
Drunk and disorderly
Selling alcohol to person under 18
Selling alcohol to a person who is drunk
Supplying alcohol to a person under 18
Purchasing alcohol for person under 18 in licensed premises
Purchasing alcohol for person under 18 for consumption in a bar in licensed premises
Delivering alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery
Being drunk in a highway, other public place or licensed premises
Consuming alcohol in designated public place
Consuming alcohol by person under 18 in licensed premises
Allowing consumption of alcohol by person under 18 in licensed premises
Purchase of alcohol by a person under 18
[4] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the costs of alcohol-related crime in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* the UK since the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. [237210]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Home Office has estimated that in 2006-07 the cost of alcohol related crime in relation to England and Wales was £9 billion-15 billion. We are not able to break down the figures to local authority area. This estimate is based on the crime figures from 2006-07, and the Home Office is not able to compare the costs before and after the Licensing Act 2003 came into force. The estimate was published in the impact assessment which accompanied the Department of Health's consultation on the next steps in the Alcohol Strategy. This can be found at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_086412.

The 2008 review of the Licensing Act found that since the new legislation came into effect, serious violent crime at night was down 5per cent. and less serious wounding at night was down 3 per cent.

However, between October 2005 and September 2006 there was a small increase in offences reported between 3 am and 6 am (these represent only 4 per cent. of night-time offences).

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much of her Department's funding will be allocated to alcohol arrest referral pilots in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the next three years. [234290]

**Jacqui Smith:** In the current financial year, the Home Office expects to spend £1.275 million on the alcohol arrest referral pilots. This includes the grants paid to the pilot areas, as well as the costs of evaluating the pilots. The Home Office expects that in 2009-10, the amount spent on the alcohol arrest referral pilots will be £1.795 million. The funding allocation for the alcohol arrest referral pilots has not yet been agreed for 2010-11 or beyond.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders: West Midlands

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many breaches of anti-social behaviour orders have been recorded in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* the west midlands in each year since the inception of such orders; [237335]

(2) how many breaches of anti-social behaviour orders have resulted in a criminal conviction in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* the west midlands in each year since the inception of such orders. [237336]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available in April 1999. Information collected centrally on the number of breaches of ASBOs counts only those instances where the breach of the ASBO was proven in court.

ASBO breach data are available for ASBOs issued between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2006 (latest available) and are not compiled below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

The number of occasions in each year on which ASBOs were proven in court to have been breached in the Staffordshire and the west midlands CJS areas is shown in the following table:

*Number of occasions in the Staffordshire and west midlands CJS areas[1] in each year between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2006 where persons were proven in court to have breached their ASBO*

*Number*

| | *Staffordshire* | *West midlands* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-02[2] | 10 | 112 |
| 2003 | 19 | 137 |
| 2004 | 40 | 344 |
| 2005 | 62 | 488 |
| 2006 | 68 | 408 |
| 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2006 | 199 | 1,489 |

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table by area of breach.
[2] From 1 June 2000.
*Note:*
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Sources:*
1. OCJR Court Proceedings Database.
2. Prepared by OCJR Evidence and Analysis Unit.

### Antisocial Behaviour: Greater London

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce alcohol misuse and anti-social behaviour in London, with specific reference to south-west London. [236942]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Home Office work in relation to tackling alcohol misuse is focused on areas prioritised on the basis of perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour and police-recorded crime statistics for less serious wounding. However, the Home Office is taking a number of steps to tackle alcohol misuse and ASB in London.

For example, in relation to tackling alcohol misuse, we are rolling out bespoke media campaigns in seven priority areas. These 'Know Your Limits'-based local media campaigns will take place from December 2008 to March 2009. These campaigns will communicate the national responsible drinking 'Know Your Limits' messages using a tailored approach for each local area. The areas where this will take place are Stoke-On-Trent, Stevenage, Southampton, North East Lincs, Weymouth, Durham and Barking and Dagenham.

Additionally, we are holding a series of two-day bespoke regional practitioner training workshops (the first of which took place in London on 28 to 29 October) on the application of the Licensing Act 2003 and practical enforcement of offences under it; and the use and enforcement of other alcohol-related tools and powers, including designated public places orders (DPPOs) and alcohol disorder zones (ADZs). The second event, in Cambridge, was held on the 18 to 19 November. These workshops will be accompanied by the publication of a comprehensive digital support package early in 2009.

Also, in October 2007, four Home Office-funded alcohol arrest referral (AAR) projects began operating, one of which was in Ealing in south-west London. Alcohol arrest referral schemes aim to reduce offending among people arrested for alcohol related offences by providing them with advice on the links between unsafe drinking levels and offending. It is hoped that if the AAR schemes, such as Ealing in south-west London, demonstrate a reduction in the level of re-offending, local authorities will be persuaded, due to the savings to the CJS, to re-prioritise funding in order to pay for future provisions. A further nine pilots, funded by the Home Office started in November 2008; of which one, Islington, is in London.

Further, five London boroughs are benefiting from the Tackling Violent Crime Programme: Barking and Dagenham, Westminster, Greenwich, Southwark and Newham. This funding is aimed at the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership's work in aiming to reduce alcohol related violent crime and domestic violence.

In relation to antisocial behaviour, the Home Office have provided practitioners with a toolkit to tackle antisocial behaviour, which they operate according to local priorities as well as a practitioner website and advice line. In south-west London, a multidisciplinary antisocial behaviour team operates many initiatives, based on prevention and enforcement that engage, educate and promote awareness among young people, engage with residents and tackle antisocial behaviour in families.

Additionally, in autumn 2007, antisocial behaviour practitioners in London suggested that assistance in using ASB preventative tools and powers to combat alcohol-related disorder would be useful. Government Office for London was successful in drawing down £25,000 from the Home Office to fund a research project examining this very issue and a well-received guide—'What Works to Tackle Alcohol-related Disorder?: An Examination of the Use of ASB Tools and Powers in London'—was completed by London South Bank university earlier this year. The final report contains a number of observations and recommendations that will lead to real improvements in tackling alcohol related antisocial behaviour and disorder in London.

### Asylum

**Patrick Hall:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many and what proportion of asylum seekers who were detained during 2007 were subsequently released on temporary admission and then rearrested and detained; [237042]

(2) how many and what proportion of asylum seekers detained during 2007 were released on temporary admission. [237121]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is not available.

Following a change in the computer system in which information is collected, summary statistics on all persons recorded as leaving detention in the UK solely under Immigration Act powers by reason for leaving detention are not available after September 2006. Information for 2005 and January to September 2006 is available from the Library of the House and in Table 9.3 of each year's Asylum Statistics United Kingdom publication published each August

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1407.pdf.

### Counter Terrorism Command

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of Special Branch SO12 transferred to Counter Terrorism Command (SO15) *(a)* at the time SO15 was set up and *(b)* since that time. [223708]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Metropolitan Police Service's Counter Terrorism Command was formed in October 2006 through a merger of both the resources and the personnel of the anti-terrorist branch and special branch. The total number of staff in this newly formed branch is in excess of 1,500.

### Crime: Diplomatic Service

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the adequacy of the procedures in place to investigate cases involving alleged criminality by holders of diplomatic passports, with particular reference to the cases of *(a)* Mr Ananias Tumukunde and *(b)* Ms Rose Birungi; and if she will make a statement. [229820]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Diplomatic passports do not automatically provide immunity from criminal jurisdiction in the UK. In each case the investigating authority will need to determine whether the individual is entitled to

immunity from criminal jurisdiction under the relevant UK law, primarily the Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964 or the State Immunity Act 1978. However, it is ultimately for the courts to decide questions of immunity.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237419]

**Mr. Woolas:** A cash subsidy is paid to support *(a)* one staff restaurant in the Department and *(b)* catering and vending at one agency site. These subsidies total £67,300 per year. Otherwise cash subsidies are not paid.

### Departmental Computers

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many documents there were on laptops stolen from her Department in each year since 2001. [232968]

**Jacqui Smith:** I am unable to answer this question as to do so would incur disproportionate costs.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237448]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Department's accounts system does not hold the information at the requested level of detail. An answer could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost to her Department was of employing a press and media officer in 2007-08. [215187]

**Mr. Woolas:** Press and media officers in the Home Office are employed at the senior information officer (SIO) and information officer (IO) grades. The following tables provide information on the salary scales for both grades (minimum to maximum and the allowances payable for out of hours working.

*Salary Scales*

| *Grade* | *Gross Pay (includes RRA)* | *ERNIC* | *Superannuation* | £ *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SIO (Max scale) | 44,829 | 5,738 | 7,397 | 57,964 |
| SIO (Min scale) | 38,563 | 4,936 | 6,363 | 49,862 |
| IO (Max scale) | 37,149 | 4,755 | 6,130 | 48,034 |
| IO (Min scale) | 32,034 | 2,980 | 4,324 | 39,338 |

*Allowances*

| | *Allowances* | *On call (Radio Pager)* | *On call (Home)* | £ *Stand by (Office)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SIO and IO | More than 12 hrs-weekdays | 5.47 | 6.87 | 12.98 |
| SIO and IO | Sat/Sunday full 24 hrs | 15.62 | 19.53 | 37.24 |
| SIO and IO | Public/Bank Holidays full 24 hrs | 19.77 | 24.66 | 46.74 |

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by her Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236925]

**Mr. Woolas:** Non-departmental public bodies for which the Home Office has lead responsibility are set out in the Department's 2007-08 Resource Accounts which can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/resource-accounts-07-08

Wider details on Home Office executive NDPBs are published through the annual public bodies exercise that is owned by Cabinet Office. The Home Office contribution to public bodies 2008 can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/Public-bodies-2008

Details of funding for 2008-09 can be found in the Home Office 2008-09 Main Estimate (HC 479) and on HM Treasury's website available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/mainest08_11_ho.pdf

Indicative figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 can be found in Table 5.1 of the 2008 Departmental Report in Cm 7396 and on the Home Office website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-08

The advisory NDPBs sponsored by the Department incur little or no expenditure and are resourced from within the Department. As a result, information on budgets for 2008-11 is not available.

### Departmental Pilot Schemes

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which pilot projects initiated by her Department in the last two years have not proceeded to further roll-out. [211844]

**Mr. Woolas:** Trialling or piloting systems and processes, or their component parts, is normal practice throughout the lifecycle of projects large and small. Records of such trials and pilots are not held centrally. Details of their status and rollout could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on Departmental procurement, what payments her Department made to Heathrow Gymnastics Club in 2007-08; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [233443]

**Jacqui Smith:** Pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, based on the purchase order data held in the Home Department's financial database, the details of the payments made to Heathrow Gymnastics Club in 2007-08 are as follows:

| | *Description of purchase* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 4 May 2007 | Rental of gym for personal safety training of Home Office UK Border Agency staff | 1,300.00 |
| 2 November 2007 | Rental of gym for personal safety training of Home Office UK Border Agency staff | 1,560.00 |
| 7 April 2008 | Rental of gym for personal safety training of Home office UK Border Agency staff | 1,300.00 |

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which companies her Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent in respect of each such company. [234454]

**Mr. Woolas:** I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 794W.

### Deportation

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations have been made to the Special Immigration Appeals Commission on cases of deportation on the grounds of threat to national security; how many cases there are where individuals are awaiting deportation; how many applications have been rejected in the last *(a)* year and *(b)* five years; how many cases are awaiting tribunal decisions; what the average length of time taken to process a tribunal case has been since the Commission's inception; and in how many cases individuals are under watch on bail after a successful appeal against their deportation. [237099]

**Mr. Woolas:** There are 12 cases where individuals are subject to deportation on national security grounds and 11 of these are at various stages of the appeals process. In the past year, one national security deportation case has been determined by the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC). That appeal was dismissed. In the past five years, a further 12 national security deportation appeals have been determined by SIAC; three were allowed, and the other nine were dismissed. Two national security deportation cases are currently awaiting hearings before SIAC.

The Home Office does not collect information about the length of time taken between an appeal being lodged with SIAC and a determination issuing.

As a matter of policy, we do not comment on operational matters affecting national security. I therefore cannot say whether or not any of those who have had their appeals allowed (or where the notice of intention to deport has been withdrawn) are subject to surveillance.

### Detention Centres: Children

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many minors have been held in detention centres for the purposes of immigration control in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex. [227896]

**Mr. Woolas:** The requested information is not available; the Home Office published the number of persons recorded as leaving detention in the UK solely under Immigration Act powers between January 2005 and September 2006. The accompanying table shows the number of children who left detention by age and sex for this period. Information outside this time period is not available.

National Statistics on detention are published annually and quarterly in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin Control of Immigration. Information on the number of persons detained, as at the last Saturday of the quarter, broken down by sex and those who are under 18 years of age, are published in table 10 of the Quarterly Asylum Bulletin, which is available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

*Children[1] recorded as leaving detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, January 2005 to September 2006, by age[2,3,4] (excluding Oakington and Harwich).*

*Number of children*

| | *2005* | | | *January to September 2006* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Under 5 years | 405 | 390 | 795 | 280 | 245 | 530 |
| 5 to 11 | 305 | 280 | 585 | 240 | 185 | 425 |
| 12 to 16 | 210 | 185 | 395 | 120 | 105 | 230 |

*Children[1] recorded as leaving detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, January 2005 to September 2006, by age[2,3,4] (excluding Oakington and Harwich)*

*Number of children*

| | 2005 | | | January to September 2006 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| 17 | 40 | 40 | 85 | 35 | 20 | 50 |
| Total children | 960 | 900 | 1,860 | 675 | 560 | 1,235 |

[1] Persons recorded as under the age of 18 at the end of their period of detention.
[2] Recorded age at the end of their period of detention.
[3] Figures rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding. Figures exclude persons recorded as detained in police cells and Prison Service establishments, those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers at time of removal/release and their children.
[4] Some detainees may be recorded more than once if, for example, the person has been detained on more than one separate occasion in the time period shown.

## Drinking Banning Orders

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* departmental officials have had with Ministerial colleagues and officials in the Ministry of Justice on the (i) introduction and (ii) enforcement of drinking banning orders. [232899]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Home Office Ministers and officials continue to have discussions with their counterparts in the Ministry of Justice about the introduction of legislation, including Drinking Banning Orders (DBOs). However, a decision has been taken not to commence these powers in the light of recent developments; an improvement in alcohol-related disorder problems and the Government's Alcohol Strategy which sets out the way forward for tackling alcohol misuse. We will continue to monitor the situation and take stock at a later date on whether, in the light of this, there is a need to commence DBOs.

## Driving Offences: Fixed Penalties

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices for speeding were issued to drivers in each year since 1997 for which records are available. [237932]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information requested on fixed penalty notices covering the period from 1997 to 2006 (latest available) is provided in the following table.

Information for 2007 is due to be published in early 2009.

*Number of fixed penalty notices issued[1] for speed limit offences[2], England and Wales 1997-2006*

| | Number issued |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 712,753 |
| 1998 | 781,016 |
| 1999[3] | 805,484 |
| 2000[3] | 941,676 |
| 2001[3] | 1,151,108 |
| 2002[3] | 1,407,266 |
| 2003[3] | 1,894,750 |
| 2004 | 1,924,384 |
| 2005 | 1,919,565 |
| 2006 | 1,773,412 |

[1] Includes fixed penalties paid where there is no further action
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.
[3] Revised since original publication following amendments received from forces.
*Note:*
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

## Driving Under Influence: Drugs

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what work her Department has carried out since December 2005 on a detailed specification for a device to facilitate roadside testing for the presence of illegal drugs. [237183]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* The Department's advisers in the Forensic Science Service and HO Scientific Development Branch have been working together, with outside experts and in consultation with manufacturers, to prepare such a specification. This work is continuing.

## Drug Seizures

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to increase awareness in local communities of seizures of assets from drug dealers. [234560]

**Jacqui Smith:** Police forces are encouraged to consider adopting campaigns like "Payback" and "Rat on a Rat" to increase awareness in local communities. In addition we issue quarterly data to the media on amounts of money paid back to local police forces, under the asset recovery incentive scheme, from assets seized from drug dealers and other criminals.

## Drugs: Crime

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funds her Department has allocated to the Street Level Up initiative for tackling drug dealers *(a)* in each of the last two years and *(b)* for the next two years. [234553]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Home Office allocated a grant payment of £75,000 to the Street Level Up initiative in 2007. A further grant payment of £50,000 has been agreed for 2008.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criminal asset sharing agreements are in place between the UK and other countries under the Drugs Action Plan 2008 to 2011. [234556]

**Jacqui Smith:** There are currently six Asset Sharing Agreements already in place between the UK and the following countries; Canada, USA, Jamaica, Colombia, the Netherlands and UAE. The UK can also enter into ad hoc agreements.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance has been issued to police on the powers and sanctions available to them to tackle the supply of illegal drugs on streets in the last 12 months. [234557]

**Jacqui Smith:** The National Police Improvement Agency published Practice Advice on the Investigation of drug offences (Level 1) in 2008.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces *(a)* are participating and *(b)* are planned to participate in the Street Level Up initiative for tackling drug dealers. [234558]

**Jacqui Smith:** There are seven police forces currently participating in the Street Level Up initiative, in addition to the Serious Organised Crime Agency. They are:

Avon and Somerset
Devon and Cornwall
Dorset
South Wales
Sussex
Greater Manchester
Merseyside.

The initiative is work in progress and aims to encourage additional forces to participate over time.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the national drug intervention programme regional representative group proposed in the Drugs Action Plan 2008 to 2011 was established; how many times it has met; who the members of the group are; and what the running costs of the group will be in 2008-09. [234563]

**Jacqui Smith:** The first Drug Interventions Programme regional representatives group, known as the Drug Interventions Programme Regional Operational Group (DIPROG), was held on the 21 May 2008. It has since met on 9 September 2008 and its next meeting will take place on 9 December 2008.

Membership consists of representatives from the Home Office Drug Interventions Programme and Prolific and Priority Offenders teams, the National Treatment Agency, Ministry of Justice (National Offender Management Service and HM Court Services), Crown Prosecution Service, Welsh Assembly Government, Association of Chief Police Officers, regional Government Offices and National Treatment Agency teams.

The group's members attend meetings as part of their role, and cover their own travel and other expenses. The Home Office provides the venue for meetings either using Government buildings or, where it is unavoidable, bought conference facilities. Final costs for 2008-09 are not yet available.

### Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when pilots to extend integrated offender management models for drug misusing offenders will be introduced; in which areas they will be introduced; and what their cost will be. [234562]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Government announced on 16 July this year that the Integrated Offender Management pioneer areas would be based in Nottinghamshire, Lancashire, London, west Yorkshire and the west midlands, to strengthen and extend existing partnership work to reduce crime and re-offending in those areas, including drug-related crime. £1.65 million has been made available by the Home Office and Ministry of Justice jointly so far this year to assist development and monitoring of the approach. All the areas except west midlands, which is expected to start in the new year, are already operational.

### Extradition

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* extradited from the UK under European arrest warrant, *(b)* extradited to the UK under European arrest warrant, *(c)* extradited to the US under the UK/US extradition treaty and *(d)* extradited to the UK under the UK/US extradition treaty; and if she will make a statement. [231874]

**Meg Hillier:** Extradition is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Home Affairs. The Extradition Act 2003, which gave effect to the provisions of the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) in the UK, came into force on 1 January 2004. Since that date and up to 30 September 2008, 920 people had been extradited from the UK under the EAW, and 335 people had been extradited to the UK under the EAW.

In the same period, 55 people have been extradited to the US from the UK; and 23 people have been extradited to the UK from the US. A new UK/US extradition treaty came into force on 26 April 2007; prior to that, requests were made and received under the 1972 extradition treaty.

### Football: Arrests

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason the annual Football Arrest Statistics document was not published in October 2008; and when she expects it to be published. [239032]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Football Banning Orders Authority, who manage football banning orders and collate police information in respect of every football match in England and Wales, moved offices in August. Consequently the relevant IT system was unavailable for a short time. This led to a delay in processing detailed information on arrests for football related offences. The statistics will be published on 25 November.

### Forced Marriage

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the incidence of forced marriage in the UK. [229294]

**Gillian Merron:** I have been asked to reply.

It is not possible to give an estimate of the number of cases of forced marriage in the UK, due to the underground nature of the abuse, as well as issues around recording of forced marriages by agencies, and the sharing of recorded information. The joint Foreign and Commonwealth

Office, Home Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) has been involved in 1,308 incidences of forced marriage or potential forced marriage in the first three quarters of 2008. As well as cases where the FMU has directly intervened, this statistic also includes incidences where the unit has provided support to an individual facing potential forced marriage who has made an anonymous call for advice to the public helpline and incidences where the FMU has provided referral support and guidance to agencies handling a case locally. We believe that this figure represents only a fraction of the total number of incidences of forced marriage in the UK, with many more being handled by local statutory or voluntary sector agencies without referral to the FMU and a far greater number going unreported.

### Genetics: Databases

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 165W, on genetics: databases; if she will place in the Library a copy of the equality impact assessment conducted by the National Policing Improvement Agency relating to the national DNA database. [212372]

**Meg Hillier:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) on 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1217W.

### Human Trafficking: London

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the percentage of people trafficked into the United Kingdom who entered via or who pass through London. [237854]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** There is no estimate of the percentage of people trafficked through London.

However, we continue to improve our knowledge of the nature and scale of human trafficking through the work of the UK Human Trafficking Centre and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). This is being done both through analysis of intelligence gained during frontline agency operations and through research.

### Identity Cards: Foreigners

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason 10 fingerprints will be collected from foreign nationals applying for identity cards instead of the two fingerprints required under EC Regulation No. 380/2008. [226409]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* Capturing and enrolling all 10 fingerprints onto our system will allow us to search other biometric databases providing a more robust approach to confirming identity. In the unlikely event we are unable to make a match against the two fingerprints held on the identity card for foreign nationals, we can make a further check against the applicant's other fingerprints.

In addition, we can verify identity with other fingerprint records we hold. As such, we are able to tie a person to a single identity which will help tackle immigration abuses and identity fraud.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which of the separate pieces of information set out in Schedule 1 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 will be retained from foreign nationals applying for identity cards from November 2008. [235513]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* Identity cards for foreign nationals will be introduced on 25 November under the UK Borders Act 2007. The UKBA is not bound by schedule 1 of the Identity Cards Act 2006, however, the same information set out in schedule 1 of the Identity Cards Act will be collected under the UK Borders Act and will be retained by the Secretary of State as long as retention of the data is necessary for the specified functions e.g. functions under the Immigration Acts or for the prevention or detection of an offence.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which database will store the personal data from foreign nationals applying for identity cards from November 2008. [235514]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* Biometric and biographical data from foreign nationals applying for identity cards from November 2008 will be securely and safely stored on the UKBA's central databases. It will also be stored on the national identity register, once it is up and running and the identity card for foreign nationals has been designated as a document under section 4 of the Identity Cards Act 2006.

### Illegal Immigrants: Prisoners

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time is that each immigration offender detained in the immigration estate has been detained. [234732]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is currently not available.

Following a change in the computer system in which information is collected; summary statistics on all persons recorded as leaving detention in the UK solely under Immigration Act powers by length of detention are not available after September 2006. Information up to that date for each year is available from the Library of the House and in Table 9.4 of each year's Asylum Statistics United Kingdom publication published each August

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1407.pdf.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been detained in the immigration estate in each of the last five years. [234734]

**Jacqui Smith:** The requested information is not available; the Home Office published the number of children recorded as leaving detention in the UK solely under

Immigration Act powers between January 2005 and September 2006. Information outside this time period is not available.

National Statistics on how many children are detained on a quarterly snapshot basis is available from the Library of the House and in Table 9.2 of the Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2007 bulletin:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1108.pdf

Children are detained in four limited circumstances: first, as part of a family group whose detention is considered appropriate; second, when unaccompanied, while alternative care arrangements are made (and normally only overnight); third, in the case of a former FNP under the age of 18 where it can be shown that they pose a serious risk to the public; and fourth, unaccompanied children escorted from their normal place of residence to a port for the purpose of removal.

While the detention of families with children is very regrettable, it nevertheless remains necessary in appropriate cases in order to maintain an effective immigration control and to tackle abuses of the asylum and immigration system.

### Immigrants: Children

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timescale she has set for actions and decisions concerning children subject to immigration control to be taken in compliance with the full obligations and rights set out within the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. [237060]

**Mr. Woolas:** The UK Border Agency's treatment of children must be as sensitive as possible.

Withdrawing the reservation was made possible largely because of the way we have transformed our child protection arrangements since 1991. This includes legislating to impose a duty on UKBA to abide by a code of practice.

This code is designed to ensure that while exercising its functions in the UK, UKBA takes appropriate steps to ensure that while children are in the UK they are safe from harm. No additional changes to legislation, guidance or practice are currently envisaged.

### Immobilisation of Vehicles: Licensing

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* companies and *(b)* individuals have been investigated by the Security Industry Authority for an alleged breach of licensing rules relating to vehicle immobilisation in each year since 2002. [236482]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information on the number of investigations relating to vehicle immobilisation carried out by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) is not available. The SIA does record details of written warnings and improvement notices on its website for all licensable sectors, but not by individual sector, such as the vehicle immobilisation sector.

A written warning may be issued to an individual or a company found to be in breach of the Private Security Industry Act 2001. Similarly an improvement notice may be issued to an individual or a company found to be in breach of the Act.

The SIA introduced licensing of the private security industry on a phased basis from 2004. It issued the first improvement notices to companies in 2006. 79 companies had been issued with improvement notices as at 31 October 2008. The first written warnings were issued to individuals in 2005 and 981 had been issued by 31 October 2008.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will answer the letter of 4 August 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mrs Anila Zaidi. [224116]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 12 September 2008]:* I replied to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 25 September 2008 with full details of the case.

### PA Consulting

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the review of all Home Office contracts with PA Consulting has been concluded; and when she will make public the outcome of the review. [225219]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* The review of contracts between the Home Office and PA Consulting Group has been completed, as we committed to do so, by the end of September 2008. The Home Office Departmental Security Unit (DSU) engaged independent experts from the Security Specialist Squadron of the RAF Police, to carry out this review, under the leadership of the Home Office Commercial Director.

This work was carried out over the period 15 to 30 September and comprised a detailed review of existing policy and applied procedures in support of each of the nine contracts in place.

The review concluded that each contract meets or exceeds the minimum requirements from a security and data handling perspective, as set out by OGC and Cabinet Office. The review recommended a small number of areas that could be further strengthened on one of the contracts, which PA Consulting have agreed to and already implemented.

The detailed report will not be made public, given commercial sensitivities and confidentialities.

### Passports

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Identity Card Scheme Cost Report of May 2008, how the estimates of the volume of passports and identity cards to be issued over the next 10 years have been calculated. [226404]

**Jacqui Smith:** Estimates of the volume of passports and identity cards to be issued over the next 10 years are derived by modelling both existing trends of passport issuance among British citizens and the strategy underpinning the roll-out of the national identity scheme, informed by market research as to likely customer behaviour at each stage of the roll-out.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports have been issued in each of the last eight years; and what estimate has been made of the number of passports that will be issued in each of the next eight years. [235512]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]*: The following table shows how many passports were issued in each financial year for the 2000-01 to 2007-08 periods.

| *Financial year* | *Actual output* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 5,509,704 |
| 2001-02 | 5,588,550 |
| 2002-03 | 5,354,348 |
| 2003-04 | 5,723,471 |
| 2004-05 | 6,031,325 |
| 2005-06 | 6,453,095 |
| 2006-07 | 6,212,339 |
| 2007-08 | 5,683,445 |

The Identity Cards Scheme Cost Report published in November 2008 sets out the estimated product volumes over the next 10 years, combining the total volume of identity cards and passports issued by IPS to United Kingdom citizens resident in the UK. The figures for issuing both products were combined as, in many cases, the same application would result in the issue of both a passport and an identity card.

This is the most recently published information on product volumes that is currently available. Previous estimates of product volumes are included in National Identity Scheme Cost Reports that may be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/publications-legislature.asp

The Identity and Passport Service is currently developing the product choice offered to customers, as indicated in the national identity scheme delivery plan published in March 2008, figures for the projected product volumes will be published in due course.

### Passports: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the fee revenue from passports has been in each of the last eight years. [235515]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]*: The fee revenue received by IPS over the last eight financial years has been as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 134.3 |
| 2001-02 | 138.5 |
| 2002-03 | 153.0 |
| 2003-04 | 197.5 |
| 2004-05 | 242.1 |
| 2005-06 | 277.7 |
| 2006-07 | 345.6 |
| 2007-08 | 375.7 |

### Police: Pay

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many temporary advances issued to police officers in England and Wales *(a)* attending courses outside their area is and *(b)* performing duty outside their area are outstanding; and what the monetary value of those advances is. [237395]

**Mr. Coaker:** This information is not held centrally.

### Police: Pensions

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of members of the police pension scheme joined on or after 6 April 2006; and what projections she has made of changes to this figure over time. [233129]

**Mr. Coaker:** Information on the number of members of the police pension schemes is not held centrally. However, virtually all serving officers are members of either the Police Pension Scheme 1987 (PPS) or the New Police Pension Scheme 2006 (NPPS), which was introduced for new entrants on 6 April 2006. Figures in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales"—available in the Library and at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

suggest that at 31 March 2008 there were 129,593 officers (91.4 per cent. of the total) eligible for membership of PPS and 12,266 officers (8.6 per cent. of the total) able to be members only of NPPS. No projections have been made of the changes over time to the proportion of officers who joined on or after 6 April 2006, but the proportion of officers who are members of the closed PPS is expected to reduce to zero by about 2036.

### Police: Staffordshire

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there are in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire. [237338]

**Mr. Coaker:** There were 2,269 full-time equivalent officers in Staffordshire police and 410 full-time equivalent officers in the basic command unit of Trent Valley as at 31 March 2008. These figures are calculated on a full-time equivalent basis and include officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Police personnel data are not collected by parliamentary constituency.

### Prisoners

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the size of the prison population was at the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by ethnic group. [236838]

**Mr. Hanson:** I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the prison population of England and Wales at June 30th 2007, broken down by ethnicity:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| All nationalities | 79,734 |
| White | 58,251 |
| Mixed | 2,441 |
| Asian or Asian British | 5,288 |
| Black or Black British | 12,016 |

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Chinese or Other ethnic group | 1,154 |
| Not Stated | 279 |
| Unrecorded | 56 |
| 1991 Census ethnic codes | 249 |

This table is taken from table 7.21 in the recently published Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2007, a copy of which has been placed in the House of Commons Library. This table can also be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Protection: Religious Freedom

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces in England and Wales are providing police protection for individuals who have converted from Islam to other faiths. [173946]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Serious and Organised Crime Agency: ICT

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the capability of computer systems used by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency to share data with other agencies; and if she will make a statement. [236261]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* SOCA has well-developed processes for exchanging information, set out in its publicly-available Statement of Information Management Practice. These ensure information exchange with partners is timely, risk-assessed, and accords with legal and other standards.

SOCA has secure electronic links to the police service and major Government partners for the transmission of sensitive material. Further exchange of information is achieved through direct access by partners to SOCA-managed information systems and SOCA uploading information to shared law enforcement systems, as well as via SOCA liaison staff and the operation of inquiry services.

### Small Businesses: Crime

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition she uses of crime against business. [234870]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Various definitions of 'business crime' are in use by police forces to reflect local concerns and circumstances. The Government do not specify a particular definition of business crime, but is looking with the National Retail Crime Steering Group, at how a fuller picture of the scale and nature of the crime problems that affect businesses nationally might be obtained.

### Telecommunications: Surveillance

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library copies of the information which was presented to internet service providers on 3 November 2008 by her Department on the issues and technology surrounding the Government's Interception Modernisation Programme. [235526]

**Mr. Coaker:** We have been considering how we can continue to protect the public by utilising communications data in the light of changing technology and have created the cross-Government Interception Modernisation Programme (IMP) to analyse the available options. Since 2006 there has been ongoing work with intelligence agencies, SOCA, police, HMRC and the telecommunications industry to analyse the size of the problem and to investigate possible solutions to help maintain this essential capability, including relevant safeguards.

I recognise there is a difficult balance between public safety and public rights to privacy so I recently announced my intention to launch a public consultation on the Interception Modernisation Programme. As part of the ongoing engagements with communications service providers, and to raise awareness of the forthcoming consultation, the Interception Modernisation Programme recently presented at the Internet Services Providers' Association conference, outlining the importance of communications data to public safety and the problems that the move to internet technologies will cause. The consultation document also will set out the range of background issues including the vital requirement of communications data in protecting the UK from serious crime and terrorism, the need for a solution to maintain our capability and the need to provide adequate safeguards as part of any solution.

This will be published in January 2009 and as a matter of course be placed in the Library. The results of the public consultation will be used to inform any decisions on the programme's preferred solution and safeguards and to determine whether future legislation is needed.

### Terrorism

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions there were for criminal activity connected to (i) eco-terrorism and (ii) environmental activism in each year since 2001. [235997]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

Activities relating to "Eco-terrorism" and "environmental activism" are not covered by specific legislation, as such ecological and environmental activists involved in consequential criminal behaviour are likely to be arrested or charged with an offence appropriate to the circumstances (such as criminal damage, common assault etc).

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person, burglary, robbery and drug offences. Information on the individual circumstances of arrests is not reported to the Home Office.

The particulars surrounding prosecutions, other than the offence and outcome, are not collected centrally.

### UK Border Agency

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials of the UK Border Agency were stationed outside the UK in each of the last five years. [234737]

**Jacqui Smith:** The UK Border Agency came into existence on 1 April 2008, in the last machinery of government changes. It presently has the following staff located abroad:

*Staff as at 31 August 2008*

| | *UKBA immigration staff*[1] | *UK Visas*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| Former BIA staff | 87.25 | 280 |
| Former FCO staff | — | 255 |

### UK Border Agency: Expenditure

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency and its predecessors spent on hotel and other accommodation for its staff *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* abroad in each of the last five years. [234738]

**Jacqui Smith:** The financial record system in use at that time called BASS did not have a category to record hotel payments alone. This figure includes hotels and all subsistence, such as allowances for meals. There was no separate category for UK or overseas accommodation at that time. The total differs slightly due to rounding up from decimal points of the original sums.

£

| | *2007-08* | *2006-07* | *2005-06* | *2004-05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* UK hotel accommodation | 4,393,418 | 5,690,737 | 1,991,529 | 0 |
| *(b)* Overseas hotel accommodation | 205,856 | 187,653 | 444,733 | 1,611,415 |
| Total hotel accommodation | 4,599,275 | 5,878,389 | 2,436,262 | [1]1,611,415 |

[1] The financial record system in use at that time called BASS did not have a category to record hotel payments alone. This figure includes hotels and all subsistence, such as allowances for meals. There was no separate category for UK or overseas accommodation at that time. The total differs slightly due to rounding up from decimal points of the original sums.

### Vetting

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guidelines her Department has issued for those undertaking Criminal Records Bureau checks; [232945]

(2) what reviews her Department plans to undertake of procedures for those undertaking Criminal Records Bureau checks. [233428]

**Meg Hillier:** There are a number of published guidelines issued to organisations and applicants undertaking Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks, all of which are available on the CRB website at:

www.crb.gov.uk

There are no plans to review the procedures for the undertaking of CRB checks. However, the CRB regularly provide advice and guidance to registered organisations relating to best practice through its customer newsletter and the website.

Any reviews of procedures affecting those organisations undertaking CRB checks are done so in full consultation with major stakeholders.

As for the disclosures themselves, standard and enhanced disclosures must contain 'every relevant matter' recorded in 'central records'. This means all convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings held on the Police National Computer (PNC), including spent convictions. Enhanced disclosures must also include any local police force information which, in the chief officer's opinion, might be relevant to the application and ought to be included in the disclosure or exceptionally ought not to be included in the disclosure, in the interests of the prevention or detection of crime, but can without harming those interests, be disclosed to the registered body. It is a matter for each chief officer to decide what additional information might be relevant and should be included in an enhanced disclosure.

Home Office Circular 5/2005 provides guidance to the police on how forces should approach the task of determining what information is relevant and should be provided to the Criminal Records Bureau as part of the enhanced criminal record certificates. This guidance is available on the Home Office website and this Circular is currently under review.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Criminal Records Bureau checks were found to have been incorrect in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; how many individuals were affected in each year; and what estimate she has made of the (i) number and (ii) percentage of individuals in respect of whom the Criminal Records Bureau holds incorrect information. [234660]

**Meg Hillier:** The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) do not hold criminal records but does release information held on police records and other data sources.

The total number of disclosures where the details released by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) were successfully challenged by the applicant in the last three years are detailed in the following table.

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total number of disclosures issued | 2,770,265 | 3,277,957 | 3,323,251 |
| Total number of disputes upheld | 2,669 | 2,797 | 2,785 |
| Percentage of disputes upheld | 0.0963 | 0.0853 | 0.0838 |

Information released on a disclosure can be disputed for a number of reasons including the inclusion of locally held non-conviction information which the applicant believes to be inaccurate or misleading; situations where an applicant has had their identity stolen; or the inclusion of data which an applicant was unaware would appear on the disclosure.

The CRB cannot provide a figure to determine how many individuals have been affected by records that were found to be incorrect because an applicant may apply for several disclosures in a year and the CRB only records the number of disputes that were raised.

The CRB is committed to ensure that it maintains high levels of accuracy and the aforementioned table shows that the proportion of upheld disputes has reduced year on year.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer question 214526, tabled by the hon. Member for Lewes on 24 June 2008, on US personnel. [226561]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I replied to the hon. Gentleman on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 783W.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what administration costs were incurred in respect of processing claims made under the Rural Payments Agency in each of the last three years. [236613]

**Jane [illegible]** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The Rural Payments Agency administers a wide range of Common Agricultural Policy schemes including the Single Payment Scheme, internal market schemes, external trade measures, milk quotas and the Older Cattle Disposal Scheme. The following table sets out the cost for administering these CAP schemes for the last three years.

| Financial year | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 239.2 |
| 2006-07 | 228.3 |
| 2007-08 | 241.7 |

Financial years cover the period 1 April to 31 March.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Government has allocated in national aid for nut growers in each of the last five years, broken down by type of nut. [238095]

**Jane Kennedy:** No national aid has been given to nut growers in the past five years.

### Air Pollution: EU Law

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the provisions of the EU Air Quality Directive to be implemented; and if he will make a statement. [228798]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe, came into force on 11 June and must be transposed into national legislation by 10 June 2010. DEFRA will work with the devolved administrations to achieve this.

Over the past 10 years the quality of our air has improved and apart from some hotspots alongside busy roads in major cities we are meeting our current objectives for all pollutants in 99 per cent. of the UK.

The UK is likely—along with a number of other European countries—to use new provisions in the directive to apply for more time to meet the requirements in respect of particulate matter ($PM_{10}$) and nitrogen dioxide. This is because, despite the improvement we have seen in recent years, we are unlikely to meet the current 2010 deadline for nitrogen dioxide. For $PM_{10}$—where the problem is confined chiefly to London—the deadline has already passed and we are still exceeding the limits in some areas. The problem with nitrogen dioxide is mainly about existing pollution from traffic in London and in other major cities across the UK.

Subject to public consultation, we expect to submit an application to the European Commission for flexibility in the compliance date in respect of $PM_{10}$ early in 2009. The due date for compliance with the limit value for nitrogen dioxide is 2010 and we expect to submit an application for this pollutant in 2010, again after a period of consultation. If applications were granted by the Commission, the maximum period of 'extra time' for implementation would be an extension to 2011 for $PM_{10}$ and until 2015 for nitrogen dioxide.

We are determined to take action to tackle the remaining exceedences of the limit values alongside busy roads in some cities particularly London. Following publication of the revised UK Air Quality Strategy in July 2007, we are continuing to make progress on implementing new measures. Budget 2008 includes an incentive through vehicle excise duty of £120 (a saving of £60) for Euro V compliant vans registered between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2010 remaining in place for the lifespan of these vehicles.

### Angling

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* people employed in the recreational sea angling sector and *(b)* businesses serving the recreational sea angling sector. [236623]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** A DEFRA-funded study carried out by Drew Associates into the economic impact of the recreational sea angling sector in England and Wales was published in 2004. This study estimated that 18,889 people were employed in the sector, of which

5,652 resulted from shore angling, 3,092 from charter boats and 10,145 from private boat angling. We do not have an estimate of the number of businesses serving the recreational sea angling sector but the same report found that sea anglers generated some £71 million net income in England and Wales for suppliers of services to the sector. Suppliers included tackle and food retailers and accommodation-related businesses.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many meetings he has had with *(a)* representatives of the commercial fishing sector and *(b)* representatives of the recreational sea angling sector since January 2008. [236624]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Since my appointment, I have met representatives of the commercial fishing sector and the recreational sea angling sector on 22 October at a meeting with UK marine fisheries stakeholders to discuss priorities for the annual end of year European negotiations over fishing opportunities. I subsequently met representatives of the commercial fishing sector ahead of the November EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council, and I have recently accepted an invitation to meet recreational sea angling representatives to discuss issues of concern to them.

### Animal Welfare

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will hold discussions with his EU counterparts with a view to minimising the number of tests on animals within the EU. [229826]

**Jane Kennedy:** The European Regulation 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) requires all sectors of industry across the EU to assemble data about the properties and potential human health and environmental impacts of the substances they manufacture in, or import into, the EU and market. Industry will need to carry out more tests in order to fulfil this obligation, but this is balanced by provisions which prohibit duplication of any tests involving animals and promote the use wherever possible of alternative, non-animal, methods for assessing hazards.

The United Kingdom will continue to play an active role within the European Union and in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to maintain the drive towards new non-animal alternative test methods leading to regulatory approval for their use. We expect the first amendments to the European Test Methods Regulation under REACH to be put to member states for approval early in the new year.

### Animal Welfare: Codes of Practice

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost has been to his Department of producing the new draft codes of practice for *(a)* cats, *(b)* dogs and *(c)* equines. [237405]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 19 November 2008]:* The cost of the consultation exercise on the draft codes of practice, excluding staff costs, was around £1,000.

### Animals: Infectious Diseases

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to introduce a comprehensive surveillance of infection in imported pet animals. [236357]

**Jane Kennedy:** The current DACTARI (Dog and Cat Travel And Risk Information) system has been designed to provide a surveillance system for all exotic diseases, although its primary focus is on Leishmaniasis, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis and Dirofilariasis. The DACTARI system is for the voluntary reporting of such diseases by veterinary surgeons.

All the diseases reported through the scheme are transmitted by vectors such as insects (e.g. leishmaniasis is transmitted by a sandfly) and not from direct contact with an infected dog or cat. Leishmaniasis is one of the more serious diseases as it can also affect humans. The Health Protection Agency monitors information on human cases diagnosed through their laboratory services.

### Birds: Conservation

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of robins living in England in each of the last five years. [237238]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The population of robins in England is not estimated annually. The last estimate was made by Brown and Grice (2005), covering the period 1990-2000. This estimated that the average annual breeding population during that period was 2,969,000 pairs.

The British Trust for Ornithology's Breeding Bird Survey is based on recording birds in randomly selected 1 km squares every year. While it does not provide estimates of total abundance, it does provide an index of population trends for common and widespread birds. The index for the robin in England has shown an increase of 26 per cent. in the period 1994-2007.

### Bluetongue Disease

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what systems exist to monitor the prevalence of blue tongue disease throughout the UK. [237134]

**Jane Kennedy:** DEFRA has a number of scanning and targeted surveillance measures in place to monitor bluetongue in England, as detailed in the UK-wide Bluetongue Control Strategy.

This includes specific surveillance work targeted at higher risk areas, and a requirement on anyone who suspects the presence of bluetongue disease to report this to DEFRA (through Animal Health, who then follow up with a veterinary investigation).

DEFRA also conducts post-import tests on all susceptible animals imported from continental Europe, for all bluetongue serotypes, and urges industry to consider the risks and check the health and vaccination status of any animals sourced from within the UK or abroad.

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what systems are in place to establish *(a)* how many doses of BtV8 vaccine have been purchased by farmers from vets and *(b)* what proportion of them have been administered. [237133]

**Jane Kennedy:** Vaccination against bluetongue in England and Wales is voluntary. Vaccine is delivered through existing veterinary medicine supply chains, an approach agreed with the livestock industry to ensure the simple, rapid roll-out of vaccine to protect animals earlier this year. Because the approach to vaccination is voluntary, no definitive figures can be provided on the numbers of sales from veterinary practices to farmers, or the number of livestock actually vaccinated.

However, to date, sales data from the supply chain suggest enough vaccine has been sold to vaccinate around 60 per cent. of the susceptible livestock population in England.

### British Waterways: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments British Waterways *(a)* has made in the last 12 months and *(b)* is contracted to make to Cavendish Public Affairs; and for what purposes. [238467]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** British Waterways has paid £58,309.28 + VAT to Cavendish in the last 12 months. Future payments to Cavendish are dependent on levels of support required, and this is due for consideration by British Waterways in early 2009.

Cavendish has provided a range of support services to British Waterways over the last 12 months including Select Committee preparation, parliamentary events management, and advising on building links with local authorities.

### Climate Change

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff were employed in his Department's climate change group on 1 October 2008. [236736]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** As at 1 October 2008, 510 full-time equivalents were employed in DEFRA's Climate Change Group.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many external consultants are undertaking work for his Department. [233254]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Departmental Report, published annually, contains much helpful information on DEFRA's expenditure and I refer the hon. Member in particular to Chapter 9 of the 2008 Report: Better Regulation and Corporate Services.

### Departmental Contracts

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which organisations provided goods and services for his Department in relation to *(a)* hospitality and entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion, *(c)* consultants, *(d)* photography, *(e)* media training, *(f)* media monitoring, *(g)* foreign language tuition, *(h)* hotel accommodation, *(i)* external legal advice, *(j)* recruitment and *(k)* public affairs in each of the last 10 years; and what the 10 most valuable contracts were in each case. [233424]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA came into being in June 2001. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The departmental report, published annually, contains much helpful information on DEFRA's expenditure and I refer the hon. Member in particular to chapter 9: Better Regulation and Corporate Services and chapter 10: Defra's Delivery Partners, of the 2008 report. Copies of previous departmental reports are held in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's expenditure was on *(a)* hospitality and entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion, *(c)* consultants, *(d)* photography, *(e)* media training, *(f)* media monitoring, *(g)* foreign language services, *(h)* hotel accommodation, *(i)* external legal advice, *(j)* recruitment and *(k)* public affairs in each year since 2001. [233592]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA came into being in June 2001. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The departmental report, published annually, contains much helpful information on DEFRA's expenditure and I refer the hon. Member in particular to Chapter 9: Better Regulation and Corporate Services and Chapter 10: Defra's Delivery Partners, of the 2008 report. Copies of previous departmental reports are held in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Internet

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on maintaining his Departmental website in the latest year for which figures are available. [231941]

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of maintaining his Department's website was in 2007-08; and what the forecast costs for maintaining his Department's websites are in 2008-09. [233249]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Direct operating costs—the staff costs for the central team with lead responsibility for updating and maintaining websites—are estimated to be around £330,000 for the financial year 2007-08 and about £340,000 for the current financial year. Additional costs arise from the activities of staff in business units across the Department, contributing to the content of websites, but the cost for this could not be readily calculated. Website hosting services—as well as a range

of IT applications—are provided as part of DEFRA's overall IT service provision and the costs could not be readily disaggregated.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data was lost by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231444]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs has recorded 15 personal data related incidents in its 2007-08 Departmental Report published on 19 May 2008. All involved the loss of laptop computers.

Since then, a number of initiatives have been—and will continue to be—introduced, aimed at improving the safety of data assets and raise security awareness. This includes encryption rolled out as part of an IT Renew programme, guidance about protecting data (in on-line and paper form) and a project to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Review of Data Handling Procedures in Government.

### Departmental Offices

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on office removal contracts in each of the last three years. [236747]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* DEFRA office removal contract expenditure covering the last three financial years:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 299,000 |
| 2007-08 | 613,000 |
| 2006-07 | 237,000 |

### Departmental Older Workers

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people recruited by his Department in 2007-08 were aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years; and what percentage this represented of the number of new recruits in each case. [235246]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** In 2007-08, DEFRA (excluding the Executive Agencies) recruited eight staff who were over 55 years of age and fewer than five staff who were over 60 years of age, which represented 2.8 per cent. and 0. per cent. respectively of all new recruits in the period.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Devizes of 21 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 162W, on departmental public participation, what outcomes resulted from the citizens' jury meeting held with 15 people from Devon in November 2007; and if he will make a statement on the Department's plans for citizens' juries. [231323]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* A Citizen's jury was formed as part of a three-year research and development project funded under the Rural Economy and Land Use Programme, lead by the research councils and with supporting funds from DEFRA.

The project was aimed at determining risks associated with pollution of water courses in the Taw river catchment, Devon, from microbes arising from livestock farming.

With the specific scientific aim of gaining insight into the public's attitudes and responses to the risks posed to water quality by these microbes, the jury was made up of 15 people from Devon. It was constituted to address:

- defining and attributing responsibilities for water course pollution from the livestock farming sector;
- assigning responsibilities to specific stakeholders on reducing the risk of microbial pollution from livestock farming; and
- the efficacy of specific policy measures to reduce the risk of pollution from livestock farming.

Within the context of a much wider programme of research, the jury's findings contributed to informing scientific recommendations supporting potential policy options in reducing water course pollution, compatible with current farming practices.

Citizen juries are one of the research tools available to scientists seeking to gain further insight into the behavioural responses to proposed policy measures, in this instance into potential options to reduce water course pollution. They provide valuable scientific information into the efficacy of proposed options in advance of formulation and implementation. As such they provide an option, of many, for engaging public perceptions of science across research and development programmes. Within the framework of well-defined scientific programmes, they will continue to be convened on a specific needs basis only.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 17 September 2008, *Official Report,* column 2231W, on departmental public participation, what the timetable is for the Navigator study to be completed. [235047]

**Jane Kennedy:** It is anticipated that the executive summary of the Navigator study will be completed early next year.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy to his Department in 2007-08. [228152]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The core Department holds no information centrally on the expenditure categories of *(a)* entertainment *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy. It could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Surveillance

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent inspection report of his Department by the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner. [234988]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The last report on DEFRA by the Office of Surveillance Commissioner (OSC) was in May 2008. As the report includes sensitive information on the areas and use of covert investigation techniques under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA), including the resources available, it would be inappropriate to place the report in the Library.

The Interception of Communications Commissioner, the Chief Surveillance Commissioner and the Intelligence Service Commissioner, who each have particular inspection and oversight responsibilities under RIPA, publish annual reports. The latest reports were laid before Parliament and copies placed in the House Library on 22 July. The figures provided in the reports for use of specific covert techniques are not broken down by individual public authority. The question of further disclosure for any particular public authority is a matter for the relevant Commissioner.

### Departmental Television

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the television licence fee in his official Ministerial residence is paid for from public funds. [233243]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) does not have an official ministerial residence.

### Departmental Temporary Employment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which companies were used by his Department for providing temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [229085]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The totality of this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department publishes in its annual departmental report information on its expenditure for consultancy and professional services, which includes temporary staff. I refer the hon. Member to Chapter 9 of the 2008 Report: 'Better Regulation and Corporate Services'.

### Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities have introduced weekly organic waste collections for households *(a)* across their locality and *(b)* as pilot schemes. [235061]

**Jane Kennedy:** This information is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average cost per household to local waste collection authorities of domestic waste collection with *(a)* a weekly and *(b)* an alternate weekly frequency. [235091]

**Jane Kennedy:** No such estimate has been made.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 654-56W, on domestic waste, what *(a)* financial incentives will be available to and *(b)* financial penalties will be imposed on local authorities if they meet or fail to meet the targets for reducing residual household waste. [236036]

**Jane Kennedy:** There are no financial incentives available to, or financial penalties imposed on, local authorities if they meet or fail to meet their agreed targets for reducing residual household waste.

Many local areas have adopted their own targets around waste management, recycling and street cleanliness. Details of individual agreements are available publicly from the CLG website, IDeA website or from local authorities.

### Domestic Wastes

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 743-45, on the Waste and Resources Action Programme, which of the authorities and partnerships listed in the Answer have been allocated funding to assist with the introduction or implementation of alternate weekly collections. [232588]

**Jane Kennedy:** None of the authorities and partnerships listed have been allocated funding specifically for the introduction or implementation of alternate weekly collections. The Waste and Resources Action Programme's funding for local authorities was designed to help them improve the performance of, and increase levels of public participation in, their recycling and composting services. Funding has been awarded to a large number of local authorities, running a variety of waste collection schemes. In each case, the purpose was to support the local authority's delivery and communication of its strategy for improving recycling rates. What this strategy was in each case, and whether or not it involved the introduction of alternate weekly collection of residual waste, was a matter for the local authority to decide.

### Domestic Wastes: Contracts

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1487W, on domestic wastes: contracts, what the timetable is for the peer review of WR0106 and for the completion of WR0506. [235005]

**Jane Kennedy:** The peer review for WR0106: Achieving Household Waste Prevention Through Service Systems, is now complete. The final report for WR0506: Benefits of Third Sector Involvement in Waste Management, is due to be submitted to DEFRA by the end of November 2008.

### Dorneywood

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the

Answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use his Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [221931]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 90-91W, by my hon. Friend the Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson).

### Fishing Catches

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the fish catch in EU waters was discarded in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [234367]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Information on the scale of such discards is not currently available.

Since 2002 all EU countries have been required to collect data on discarding under Council Regulation 1543/2000, but the information is not yet compiled systematically. Quantities of discards are estimated quarterly using data collected by scientific observers aboard commercial fishing vessels. They are required to record the quantity landed and discarded, and the species and size composition of the discards each time the fishing gear is hauled. Deploying scientific observers in this manner is expensive and time consuming, with the result that it is usually only possible to sample a small proportion of the overall fishing trips in a given area. As a result, it is necessary to extrapolate from the limited sampling to provide estimates for the entire fleet. Although the sampling is intended to cover a representative sample of the fleet, this does mean that the estimates of total discards are subject to uncertainty.

However, it is clear that in order to more effectively manage discard activity, it is essential that full and accurate data is available for all fisheries, and we continue to press the Commission to ensure this is delivered by member states.

### Flood Control

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many miles of flood defences will be abandoned if the proposed catchment management plans proceed. [235104]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Environment Agency have now completed 55 out of 68 Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) for England. Within each CFMP, long term flood risk policies have been assigned to geographical areas.

Each geographical area is referred to as a policy unit and across England and Wales there are approximately 860. In 38 of these, the flood risk management policy option will be to provide no active intervention. In practice this means that the Environment Agency will continue to monitor flood risk, but will not carry out maintenance on watercourses and defences. Flood risk in these areas is relatively low and the policy reflects the current practice of low intervention to manage risk.

This policy option will be progressively managed in the long term. Therefore at this stage CFMPs do not identify the length of flood defence where no active intervention will take place.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the proposed catchment flood management plans. [235105]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Environment Agency is responsible for preparing catchment flood management plans in accordance with agreed guidance and they are signed off by the regional director. DEFRA reviews a sample of the plans through its post-approval evaluation process. DEFRA has received a number of representations on this issue from members of the public and MPs over the last six months.

### Flowers: Conservation

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding has been provided by his Department for the protection of native species of wild flowering vegetation in each region in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [238204]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** This information is not held centrally and could be gathered only at a disproportionate cost.

### Fly Tipping

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidents of fly-tipping in *(a)* Ashford constituency and *(b)* Kent were reported in the last five years; and how many people were prosecuted for such offences in each year. [236875]

**Jane Kennedy:** The number of fly-tipping incidents and enforcement actions taken are recorded by local authorities. Data are available for the last four years. Ashford borough council recorded the following figures:

| | *Incidents* | *Prosecutions* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 950 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 1,177 | 2 |
| 2006-07 | 1,450 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 1,177 | 0 |

The total figures recorded by the 12 district and borough councils and one unitary council within Kent are as follows:

| | *Incidents* | *Prosecutions* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 29,210 | 8 |
| 2005-06 | 33,774 | 22 |
| 2006-07 | 32,778 | 29 |
| 2007-08 | 22,588 | 23 |

Prosecution is just one of a range of enforcement actions which may be taken by a local authority. Other actions for which separate figures are recorded include warning letters, serving of statutory notices, fixed penalty notices and formal cautions.

### Fly Tipping: Rural Areas

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to reduce fly-tipping in rural areas. [236306]

**Jane Kennedy:** Fly-tipping occurs in both urban and rural areas. The Government, working with local authorities and the Environment Agency, aim to reduce fly-tipping through better prevention, detection and risk-based enforcement. As members of the National Fly-tipping Prevention Group, DEFRA works closely on this issue with large, private landowner organisations, many of whom have strong rural interests. We are funding the Environment Agency to undertake some specific work this year with these organisations, including the National Farmers Union and Country Land and Business Association, to quantify the extent of fly-tipping on private land and identify best practice to tackle the illegal dumping of waste in these areas.

### Food Supply: Competition

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of the Competition Commission's proposed establishment of a new grocery supply code of practice, with particular reference to whether it will provide *(a)* clarity and *(b)* protection for primary food producers. [238501]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Competition Commission recommended that DEFRA and BERR should consider the introduction of appropriate measures, including the extension of the Grocery Supply Code of Practice (GSCOP) and the role of the ombudsman or the introduction of a similar, complementary code and arrangements to cover the intermediaries and primary producers. The Government response to chapter 11 was clear in that they would want to see how any change impacts on the operation of the supply chain before considering whether any further action might be necessary.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has assessed the merits of the proposal in chapter 11 of the Competition Commission's supply of groceries in the UK report in respect of giving primary food producers the right to initiate complaints about the conduct of grocery retailers. [238502]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government response to the chapter 11 proposals noted that the Competition Commission would engage with large grocery retailers to implement an ombudsman that could, among other things, consider complaints from primary food producers. If it cannot get agreement the Government will consider establishing the ombudsman itself. The Government would make any assessment based primarily on what would be in consumers' best interests.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the Competition Commission's proposed remedies for primary producers following its report into the grocery sector. [238503]

**Jane Kennedy:** There have been no such discussions.

### Forestry Commission: Property

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Forestry Commission has spent on maintaining its domestic properties in each of the last five years. [238734]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The estimated costs of maintaining the Forestry Commission's domestic properties over the last five years are:

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 289 |
| 2004-05 | 202 |
| 2005-06 | 237 |
| 2006-07 | 299 |
| 2007-08 | 247 |

### Growing Sector Investigation

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the Competition Commission's Growing Sector Investigation report published in April. [237793]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government response to the Competition Commission's inquiry into the UK grocery market was published on 29 July by BERR.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of Chapter 11 of the Competition Commission's Growing Sector Inquiry report in respect of primary producers. [237863]

**Jane Kennedy:** With respect to primary producers, the CC recommended that DEFRA and BERR should consider the introduction of appropriate measures, including the extension of the Groceries Supply Code of Practice (GSCOP) and the role of the ombudsman or the introduction of a similar, complementary code and arrangements to cover the intermediaries and primary producers. The Government response was clear in that it would want to see how any change impacts on the operation of the supply chain before considering whether any further action might be necessary.

### Gypsum

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential risk to *(a)* human health and *(b)* the environment from hydrogen sulphide gases created when gypsum is mixed with biodegradable wastes in landfills. [236590]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The risk to health and the environment from the mixing of gypsum waste in landfills containing biodegradable landfill is well known and should be avoided to minimise the production of hydrogen sulphide gas which is toxic and odorous. The Landfill Directive implemented in 2005 requires gypsum to be landfilled in separate areas from biodegradable waste.

The Environment Agency is currently undertaking projects looking at the health effects of landfilling and the quantities of hydrogen sulphide produced at landfills.

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will publish new guidance on the acceptance of waste gypsum to landfill; and when he expects the new guidance to come into force. [236591]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The Environment Agency is due to publish revised guidance by the end of November 2008.

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how new guidance on the acceptance of waste gypsum to landfill will be disseminated to private sector operators within the waste sector; and by what means he will ensure that the new guidance will be enforced. [236592]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The Environment Agency will issue a press release to accompany its revised regulatory position statement. This will be available to industry (including the construction and demolition industry) and waste managers, through their trade associations, and published in the relevant journals. The position statement will be placed on the Environment Agency website.

The Environment Agency will e-mail approximately 7,000 businesses, academic institutions and other interested parties advising them of the revised position.

The Environment Agency will also develop guidance for its staff describing how they should approach compliance assessment over the next few months. This will include awareness raising at relevant sites (landfill and waste transfer stations) leading up to the adoption of its tougher enforcement position from 1 April 2009.

### Horses: Conservation

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1293W, on horses: conservation, for what reason the Dartmoor Pony Society has temporarily suspended the issuing of Heritage Trust passports; and what advice the Society has sought from his Department. [237790]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Dartmoor Pony Society (DPS) informed DEFRA that they had ceased to produce Heritage Trust passports as of 19 October 2008, as they believed that a number of applications they had received were for ponies that had been presented for sale at the Dartmoor sale in Chagford, Devon and for which passports had already been applied for from a different organisation.

DEFRA have been in contact with the DPS to help resolve this issue and the Society have informed us that they are now issuing Heritage Trust Passports again.

### Incinerators

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what methodology his Department uses to assess the environmental impacts of proposed incineration facilities. [237749]

**Jane Kennedy:** Under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007, operators of proposed incineration installations are required to apply for an operating permit from the regulator (the Environment Agency or, for smaller installations, the local authority). The application must include information relating to the impact of the proposed installation upon the environment, and the regulator will determine the application on that basis using its own methodology.

### Inspections

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its predecessor has spent on inspections in each of the last 10 years. [237193]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* DEFRA, through agencies such as Animal Health, the Marine and Fisheries Agency, the Horticultural Marketing Inspectorate and the Rural Payments Agency carries out a wide range of inspections throughout the course of a year.

These range from the inspection of fishing vessels at sea, to cattle identification, the inspection of animal by-product sites and horticultural marketing standards. The information you request could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Littering: Young Offenders

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Environment Agency on the issuing of fixed penalty notices for waste offences to juveniles. [235068]

**Jane Kennedy:** DEFRA published general guidance on issuing fixed penalty notices to juveniles in 2006. This document, 'Fixed Penalty Notices to Juveniles' is available on the DEFRA website.

The Environment Agency have not issued any specific guidance on this issue. However, the Environment Agency's enforcement and prosecution policy and functional guidance provide general guidance on the enforcement of environmental offences, including enforcement in respect of juveniles and the elderly.

### National Farmers Retail and Markets Association

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the National Farmers Retail and Markets Association. [236220]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have not had any discussions with the National Farmers' Retail and Markets Association (FARMA). However, in recent years both DEFRA Ministers and officials have met with representatives of FARMA to explore how we can work together on our common goals of reconnecting farmers to their markets and helping them to add value. FARMA have also previously presented to our Regional Food Cross-Cutting Group which includes representatives from all the regional development agencies.

This year, DEFRA officials have been in regular contact with FARMA to ensure they are aware of the documentation required to enable draw down of the first instalment of their Agriculture Development Scheme grant award.

I attended the Parliamentary All Party Markets Group meeting on 20 November 2008, at which the FARMA were present.

### Pesticides: Environment Protection

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will assess the effect on the landscape, with particular reference to *(a)* railway embankments, *(b)* waterway verges, *(c)* public parks and *(d)* other public areas of the changes to the availability of pesticides proposed in the draft EU Regulation on plant protection products; if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of manual weed control in such areas; and if he will make a statement; [236973]

(2) if he will undertake research to assess the effect on physical exercise levels of those who undertake gardening *(a)* at home and *(b)* on allotments as a result of any changes to patterns of gardening activity resulting from the proposed EU Regulation on placing of plant protection products on the market; if he will also undertake research to assess effects of such changes on people with disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [237092]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The majority of pesticides are used in agriculture. Pesticides Safety Directorate's impact assessment, which was published in May 2008, therefore focused on the agronomic impacts of changes to pesticide availability arising from these proposals. It recognised that there could be wider implications, but did not analyse them in detail, as the agronomic assessment provided sufficient indication of the potential impacts to determine our response. On 5 November the European Parliament Environment Committee voted on a range of amendments that reduce the potential impact of the new regulation on the availability of pesticides.

### Plastic Bags

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has a target for a reduction in the use of disposable bags. [235070]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government's Waste Strategy 2007 set the objective of making the free single-use carrier bag a thing of the past. We are working with retailers who are making good progress towards reducing the numbers of bags they distribute, setting themselves ambitious individual targets.

The powers we have introduced into the Climate Change Bill, enable the Government to require retailers to charge for single use carrier bags as a fallback should retailers fail to make significant reductions on a voluntary basis.

### Plastics: Recycling

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities do not carry out doorstep collections of mixed plastics for recycling. [238640]

**Jane Kennedy:** DEFRA does not collect data from English local authorities on whether they carry out kerbside collection of particular materials.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average number of types of plastic recycled by local authorities. [238641]

**Jane Kennedy:** DEFRA collects data through WasteDataFlow from English local authorities on the tonnage of plastic sent for recycling, but does not differentiate between different types of plastics.

### Pollution: EU Law

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to apply for a derogation from the EU Air Quality directive. [234345]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The UK is working to meet ambient air quality limit values in the shortest time possible. The UK Air Quality Strategy that was published in 2007 provides full details, and can be found on the DEFRA website. Over the past 10 years the quality of our air has improved and apart from some hotspots alongside busy roads in major cities we are meeting our current objectives for all pollutants in 99 per cent. of the UK.

In response to difficulties faced across Europe, the new ambient air quality directive (2008/50/EC), which replaces the earlier 1996 directive and three other related directives, provides in Article 22 for a notification procedure for member states to be able to seek authorisation from the EU Commission for additional time to meet the limit values for particulate matter ($PM_{10}$) and nitrogen dioxide ($NO_2$).

On $PM_{10}$ limit values, in September the Government made the European Commission aware that, subject to public consultation, the UK intends to submit an Article 22 application for an exemption for those few parts of the UK where there have been breaches, including London, from the obligation to apply the limit value until 2011. Most other member states will also be submitting applications. We expect to consult early in 2009.

On nitrogen dioxide, the limit values are extremely challenging and despite efforts to date, the UK, like most other member states, expects to report breaches beyond the 2010 compliance deadline. The problem is mainly concerned with existing pollution from road traffic both in London and in other major cities across the UK. Again, subject to public consultation, the Government expect to submit in 2010 an application to the Commission which would give the possibility of a further five years to meet the limit values for nitrogen dioxide.

For both these pollutants, securing such postponement of attainment deadlines is subject to submission of detailed plans that will need to satisfy the Commission that the limit values can be achieved by the extended deadlines. We are determined to tackle remaining hotspots of pollution and to meet our EU obligations.

### Pollution: Heathrow Airport

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he proposes to respond to the letter to him dated 23 October 2008 from solicitors Harrison Grant, acting on behalf of the 2M Group, on pollution levels around Heathrow. [237770]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** My officials sent a response to solicitors Harrison Grant's letter on 14 November.

### Recycling

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme keeps on which waste collection authorities have adopted compulsory recycling collection policies. [235063]

**Jane Kennedy:** None.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of recycled waste of *(a)* paper and *(b)* plastics in the last period for which figures are available; what proposals he has for their disposal and in what timeframe; and how many energy-from-waste plants have been built in each of the last three years. [236792]

**Jane Kennedy:** In the UK, an estimated 8.6 million tonnes of paper and board and 545,000 tonnes of plastic were collected for recycling in 2007.

The disposal of recycled materials is a matter for local authorities and their business partners.

Two energy-from-waste plants have been constructed since 2006, at Allington, Kent and Lakeside, and Heathrow.

### Recycling: Fees and Charges

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet representatives of the UK Youth Parliament to discuss charges to schools for recycling. [235319]

**Jane Kennedy:** I would welcome a meeting with the UK Youth Parliament.

### Recycling: Hampshire

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much waste was recycled by each local authority in the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years. [235951]

**Jane Kennedy:** The following table shows the amount of municipal waste sent to be recycled, composted or reused by each authority in the ceremonial county of Hampshire in the financial years 2003-04 through to 2007-08.

Some data for 2004-05 are unavailable due to authorities not providing complete data returns.

*Municipal waste sent for recycling*

*Tonnes*

| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Southampton city council | 14,935 | .. | 30,936 | 31,129 | 32,184 |
| Portsmouth city council | 15,510 | 18,230 | 20,405 | 21,479 | 22,624 |
| Winchester city council | 8,271 | 8,618 | 8,402 | 10,394 | 14,892 |
| Test Valley borough council | 7,258 | .. | 9,656 | 11,961 | 15,160 |
| Rushmoor borough council | 5,439 | 6,250 | 6,927 | 7,385 | 8,455 |
| New Forest district council | 16,941 | 16,559 | 17,017 | 19,085 | 20,996 |
| Havant borough council | 8,153 | .. | 9,672 | 11,676 | 12,495 |
| Hart district council | 6,311 | 7,937 | 7,342 | 10,062 | 12,756 |
| Gosport borough council | 4,036 | .. | 6,278 | 6,412 | 6,909 |
| Fareham borough council | 11,568 | .. | 11,755 | 16,607 | 16,906 |
| Eastleigh borough council | 11,877 | .. | 14,015 | 15,315 | 15,987 |
| East Hampshire district council | 12,320 | .. | 12,569 | 13,450 | 14,713 |
| Basingstoke and Deane borough council | 10,586 | 11,382 | 11,128 | 12,830 | 14,526 |
| Isle of Wight council | 21,641 | .. | 23,411 | 25,174 | 28,728 |
| Hampshire county council | 209,024 | .. | 120,082 | 134,102 | 135,241 |

*Source:*
DEFRA municipal waste management survey and WasteDataFlow.

### Recycling: Landfill

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume and proportion of household recycling was deposited in landfill in the latest year for which figures are available. [235841]

**Jane Kennedy:** Based on responses from local authorities in England to WasteDataFlow for the financial year 2007-08, the tonnage of municipal waste collected for recycling, but subsequently rejected to landfill was 90,000 tonnes. This represents 0.9 per cent. of municipal waste sent for recycling in that period.

### Shellfish: Colchester

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1013W, on shellfish: Colchester, what the membership

of the applicant group is; and on what dates his officials have sent reminders to the applicant group since May 2007. [237198]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]*: The membership of the applicant group consists of three producers and three producer/processors, of which Richard Haward of Richard Haward Oysters and Christopher Kerrison of the Colchester Oyster Fishery Ltd. are the main contact points.

Officials last met the representatives of the applicant group to discuss the application to protect Colchester Oysters under the EU-protected food name (PFN) scheme as a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) on 1 May 2007. Following that meeting a revised application highlighting the additional information required was passed to the applicants for their comments on 15 May 2007. Since then reminders have been sent by officials on the following dates:

16 July 2007—email
5 September 2007—telephone
Mid-September 2007—telephone
12 October 2007—email
8 November 2007—email
10 January 2008—telephone
29 April 2008—email
8 October 2008—email

### Tesco

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will discuss with Tesco the outcome of its recent negotiations with its supply chain companies. [235652]

**Jane Kennedy:** We do not discuss the specifics of negotiations between individual companies as they are for the market to determine within the constraints of competition law. The Department, at both official and ministerial level hold frequent discussions with different sectors of the industry on a range of issues that concern them, including the encouragement of long term sustainable relationships between suppliers and retailers.

### Waste Disposal

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much and what percentage of *(a)* retail and *(b)* wholesale waste in the UK was re-used or recycled in each of the last three years. [234664]

**Jane Kennedy:** The most recent figures for retail and wholesale waste arisings and re-use/recycling in England are derived from the Environment Agency's National Waste Production Survey for 2002-03. The total estimated waste for this sector was 12.8 million tonnes and 6.6 million tonnes, or 52 per cent of this was re-used/recycled.

### Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 747-8W, on waste disposal: fees and charges, how the organisations which attended the launch were selected. [232591]

**Jane Kennedy:** Organisations known to have an interest in this area of policy were selected from DEFRA's Shared Stakeholders Database. Respondents to the Consultation on the Incentives for Recycling by Households in May 2007, were also invited.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether the new schemes for charging for the collection of household waste will allow local authorities to charge Schedule 2 waste producers for the disposal of their waste; [234989]

(2) whether Schedule 2 waste producers will be liable for waste incentive charges where such schemes are in operation. [235011]

**Jane Kennedy:** Waste incentives pilots will apply to domestic premises, as defined in the Climate Change Bill. They could therefore include households which produce Schedule 2 waste. However, they will not apply to other 'Schedule 2 producers' such as schools and hospitals.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which local authorities responded to consultation on technical guidance on the pilots of charges for the collection of household waste; [235062]

(2) what organisations and individuals responded to the consultation on the guidance on the waste incentive pilots; [235067]

(3) if he will place in the Library copies of each individual response to his Department's most recent consultation on guidance on pilot waste incentive schemes for the collection of household rubbish. [235142]

**Jane Kennedy:** Six guidance documents have been drafted to provide information for local authorities on the issues they may wish to consider when designing and running a pilot incentive scheme. Comments were invited on draft guidance during the summer. In addition, the guidance documents were made available for comment on the DEFRA website. Details of the responses received will be published alongside the final guidance documents.

We have consulted formally on one of the six pieces of draft guidance—the guidance on the kerbside recycling service which should be in place before a local authority may introduce a pilot scheme. This consultation closed on 14 November and responses will be published, and placed in the Library, in due course.

### Waste Management

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme keeps of which waste collection authorities have adopted closed lid collection policies. [234987]

**Jane Kennedy:** None.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has produced on the provision of bins in public places; [234990]

(2) what guidance (*a*) his Department, (*b*) the regional improvement efficiency partnerships and (*c*) the Waste and Resources Action Programme has provided to local authorities on provision of communal bins in urban areas. [235130]

**Jane Kennedy:** DEFRA launched 'Recycle on the Go' on 2 June 2008 which aims to put accessible recycling bins in public places. A good practice guide and a voluntary code of practice will help those responsible for public places to make recycling easy and accessible and includes guidance on providing recycling opportunities along with provisions for the correct disposal of non-recyclable waste. The materials, which were developed in collaboration with the Waste and Resources Action programme and ENCAMS, are available on the DEFRA website or at the Recycle Now website:

http://www.recyclenowpartners.org.uk/

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether private waste contractors will have voting rights on joint waste authorities. [235012]

**Jane Kennedy:** Private waste contractors will not have voting rights on joint waste authorities. Only elected members of constituent authorities of joint waste authorities will be eligible for voting rights.

### Waste Management: Economic Situation

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the economic downturn on the recycling and waste industry. [233873]

**Jane Kennedy:** On 11 November DEFRA, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the Environment Agency issued a joint statement about the approach being taken to address the fall in prices for some recyclable materials. This made clear that our priorities are:

to further promote waste minimisation;

to maintain public confidence that recycling is worthwhile to ensure continuity of collection systems for recyclables;

to focus on producing high quality marketable recyclables;

to ensure any storage of recyclables doesn't undermine the environment or public health or the recyclability of those materials;

where the traditional markets for recyclables have contracted, to encourage recovery and disposal options towards the top of the waste hierarchy—i.e. landfill as a last resort; and

to avoid actions which exacerbate the situation while markets stabilise.

The Environment Agency, with Government support, has issued guidance on the circumstances in which it will allow extra storage of recyclable materials in the short term. WRAP will continue to monitor markets and prices and make information regularly available. The Government will keep the situation under review to assess what further action may be necessary.

### Waste Management: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the household recycling rate was in the City of York Council area in 1996-97 and each year since then; what percentage of waste collected by City of York Council was sent to landfill in 1996-97 and each year since then; and how much City of York Council has paid in landfill tax in each year since the tax was introduced. [237014]

**Jane Kennedy:** The following table shows the percentage of household waste sent to be recycled or composted and the percentage sent to landfill by the City of York council up to the financial year 2007-08.

These figures were reported to the Audit Commission by local authorities under the best value performance regime. Prior to 2000-01 there was no indicator for waste sent to landfill.

| | *Household recycling and composting rate* | *Percentage Household waste sent to landfill* |
|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 5.30 | — |
| 1997-98 | 5.24 | — |
| 1998-99 | 5.85 | — |
| 1999-2000 | 9.69 | — |
| 2000-01 | 9.81 | 90.19 |
| 2001-02 | 10.66 | 89.34 |
| 2002-03 | 12.32 | 87.68 |
| 2003-04 | 15.43 | 84.57 |
| 2004-05 | 17.77 | 82.23 |
| 2005-06 | 24.08 | 75.92 |
| 2006-07 | 39.93 | 60.07 |
| 2007-08 | 43.37 | 56.63 |

*Source:*
WasteDataFlow, best value performance indicators

Local authorities do not record separately the amount spent on landfill tax in the returns which councils submit to the Government.

### Water Charges: Religious Buildings

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which sewerage companies charge for surface water drainage; and which of these exempt churches from these charges. [235188]

**Jane Kennedy:** All sewerage companies charge for surface water drainage. Charging schemes are approved by Ofwat, the independent economic regulator.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the proposed new water charges on places of worship and premises operated by voluntary groups; what assessment he has made of the effects of these new changes on such groups; and what discussions he has had with these groups on the effects of the proposed new changes. [232995]

**Jane Kennedy:** DEFRA has received a range of representations on water charges for places of worship and other voluntary organisations.

Ofwat, the independent economic regulator of the water industry, is responsible for approving water companies' charging schemes. Where a company makes a change to the way it charges for water or sewerage services, Ofwat challenges the company's proposals to make sure charges are not unduly preferential to one

customer group over another. Groups of customers are defined by the costs they are likely to impose and are independent of the financial or charitable status of individual non-household customers.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment (Hilary Benn) has not held any discussions with places of worship or voluntary groups on the effects of the proposed changes to water charges.

### Water: Meters

**Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to encourage the introduction of smart water meters. [237308]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 19 November 2008]:* An independent review of charging and metering for water and sewerage services is currently under way. It will look in particular at social, economic and environmental concerns, including the costs and benefits of metering and smart metering. The interim conclusions are expected in spring 2009.

### White Fish: Conservation

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will review the decision not to increase the minimum landing size of bass; and if he will make a statement; [236595]

(2) what consideration he has given to the introduction of a system of carcass tagging for bass; [236596]

(3) whether he intends implementing further measures to develop the recreational bass fishery. [236621]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in 2004, and subsequent advice to DEFRA from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, suggests that the bass stock is fished sustainably. In addition to being a prime sports fish for the sea angling sector, bass is a particularly important stock for the inshore fishing fleet. Given the pressures faced by this fleet and the relatively healthy state of the stock, I have no plans to increase the minimum landing size of bass. For the same reasons, I currently have no plans to introduce a system of carcass tagging as a means of controlling exploitation of the bass stock.

However, we announced last year a package of new measures that will provide increased protection for stocks of bass and more widely benefits for anglers. This includes a review of inshore netting restrictions and of 30 restricted areas around the English coast for the protection of juvenile bass. This may result in new protected areas, increased restrictions or extensions to current areas around the coast. We will consult on any proposals relating to these restricted areas in the new year. In addition, we are also funding research exploring the use of restricted areas to benefit recreational bass anglers.

Alongside this work, we are continuing to monitor the state of the bass stock and I do not rule out returning to an increase in the minimum landing size of bass once the effectiveness of these new measures has been assessed.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in relation to Article 17 of Council Regulation 2371/2002, if he will institute measures governing pair-trawling for bass within 12 nautical miles applicable to foreign vessels fishing with grandfather rights. [236622]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** In 2004 we banned pelagic pair trawling for bass by UK vessels within 12 miles of the south-west coast of England (within the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) area VIIe) as this fishery was shown to have relatively high levels of cetacean by-catch. The UK asked that the ban on pelagic pair trawling for bass be extended (under Article 9 of Council Regulation EC No 2371/2002) to the vessels of other member states, who are currently permitted to fish between six and 12 miles off the south-west English coast. However, as this request was rejected by the European Commission, we could only take unilateral action in relation to our own vessels out to 12 miles.

The UK report on 2006-07 observed cetacean by-catch levels, as required by Council Regulation (EC) 812/2004, has been submitted to the European Commission, and is available on our website

www.defra.gov.uk.

It is important for us to consider reports provided by those member states which have vessels permitted to fish in our waters in order to understand the overall level of cetacean bycatch. Once we have done this we will consider whether to make further representations to the Commission.

Scientific advice from ICES in 2004, and subsequent advice to DEFRA from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), suggests that the bass stock is fished sustainably. Given this assessment, I currently have no plans to institute any measures governing pair trawling for bass for the purposes of stock conservation.

### Wood: Smuggling

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many seizures of illegal timber imports have been made in each year since 1997. [233423]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Under current UK law it is not illegal to import timber which was illegally felled, processed or transported in another country provided the actual importation is legal. The UK Government cannot institute legal proceedings in the UK relating to a breach or breaches of sovereign laws in another country, with one exception.

The exception is CITES—the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. As a CITES signatory, the UK Government have the legal powers to seize timber or timber products containing a CITES—listed species imported without the correct CITES paperwork. Information on any such seizures is not held by core-DEFRA and should be obtained from HMRC as the relevant central Government Department.

## JUSTICE

### Appeals Service: Standards

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what national targets have been set for the Appeals Service; and what the performance of the relevant offices in South Devon was against those targets in 2007-08. [237938]

**Bridget Prentice:** The social security and child support performance data is collected on a Tribunals Service regional only basis with South Devon falling under the Wales and South Western Region. Data is not recorded by venue and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In 2007-08, the following national targets, and the Wales and South Western Region performance against the target, are as follows:

75 per cent. of hearings to take place within 14 weeks of receipt; 'overall performance 88 per cent.'

85 per cent. of rehearings returned from the Social Security Commissioner following the appeal against the original tribunal to be heard within eight weeks; 'overall performance 85 per cent.'

10 per cent. average of 'live load' that will be over 20 weeks; 'overall average 8 per cent.'

### Approved Premises

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many child sex offenders are currently managed in one of the 101 probation approved premises. [237728]

**Mr. Hanson:** The number of child sex offenders accommodated in the 101 approved premises in England and Wales will vary at any one time. Statistical information about the type of offences committed by offenders residing in approved premises at any one time is not collected centrally, although the offenders' assessed level of risk of harm at the point of admission is.

Approved premises provide for enhanced and effective supervision of certain offenders which would be much more difficult to achieve if such offenders were dispersed into less suitable accommodation in the community.

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many classified dangerous or very dangerous offenders are currently managed in one of the 101 probation approved premises. [237729]

**Mr. Hanson:** The terms "dangerous" or "very dangerous" are not designated terms for the description of offenders admitted to and supervised in approved premises. At the end of September 2008, 66 AP residents (3.6 per cent.) were assessed as presenting a very high risk of serious harm and 1,348 (73.5 per cent.) were assessed as presenting a high risk of serious harm.

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many child sex offenders have been managed in one of the 101 probation-approved premises in each of the last three years. [237730]

**Mr. Hanson:** The number of child sex offenders accommodated in approved premises will vary at any one time. Statistical information about the type of offences committed by offenders residing in approved premises at any one time is not collected centrally, although offenders' assessed level of risk of harm at the point of admission is.

Approved premises provide for enhanced and effective supervision of certain offenders which would be much more difficult to achieve if such offenders were dispersed into less suitable accommodation in the community.

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many child sex offenders living in approved premises committed further sex offences whilst a resident in each of the last three years. [237731]

**Mr. Hanson:** The National Offender Management Service collects data about serious further offences committed by offenders who are under any form of supervision by the Probation Service. The available data covers all AP residents whose index offence was of a sexual nature but does not specify whether that index offence was a sexual offence against a child. Figures for the number of sex offenders convicted of a serious further offence of a sexual nature while residing in an approved premises are as follows:

| | *Number of sex offenders convicted* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 5 |
| 2007-08 | [1]6 |
| 2008-09 | [2]1 |

[1] With one offender charged with an offence of a sexual nature and still awaiting trial.
[2] As of 22 November 2008.

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the minimum level of training is that a probation area requires of staff working in approved premises. [238057]

**Mr. Hanson:** The minimum level of training for probation area staff working in approved premises will vary according to grade, role, responsibility, and also from area to area. Probation officers are trained to degree level and probation support officers to NVQ or equivalent level.

All staff working in approved premises are required to be competent for their duties, and the majority of staff will therefore be trained in some or all of the following subjects: risk of harm assessment; pro-social modelling; motivational interviewing; 'living here moving on' (LiHMO); health, safety (including fire training) and first aid; mental health issues; suicide and self-harm prevention; diversity and equality; drug and alcohol awareness; dealing with violence and aggression (including physical 'breakaway' techniques); working with sex offenders; domestic violence awareness; group work; enhanced regimes; teamworking; keyworking; and management and leadership.

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many deaths of residents in approved premises have been recorded in each of the last five years. [238058]

**Mr. Hanson:** The number of residents of approved premises who have died in each year for the last five years are:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 11 |
| 2004 | 20 |
| 2005 | 17 |
| 2006 | 10 |
| 2006-07 | 13 |
| 2007-08 | 17 |

Up to 2006, the figures were collated by calendar year; since April 2006 they have been collated on a financial year basis instead.

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many approved premises have not introduced double working night levels. [238059]

**Mr. Hanson:** Double waking night cover was introduced in approved premises in 2006. Eight out of 101 APs are not currently operating double waking night cover. These eight operate a system of single waking night cover with another member of staff sleeping on the premises, who may be called to duty, should the need arise.

Double waking night cover is the expected norm, although there are justifiable exceptions. We will shortly be issuing new instructions that will allow alternative arrangements to be used, provided they have been risk-assessed, provide equivalent levels of staff safety and public protection and have involved consultation with local staff representatives, directors of offender management and ministers.

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether a national record is kept of violent incidents against staff working in approved premises. [238060]

**Mr. Hanson:** Incidents of violence and abusive behaviour against probation staff are recorded locally but not collated nationally. However, we are considering introducing a national reporting requirement in conjunction with the safer custody initiative.

### Cemeteries

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the recommendations made by the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee in its Eighth Report of Session 2000-01, HC 91, on cemeteries, have been implemented; and what progress has been made on implementing the other recommendations accepted by the Government. [237551]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Government Response (Cm 5281) made clear that the great majority of the Select Committee's 41 recommendations had or would be implemented. In particular, an advisory stakeholder group has been established, and we have published the results of a survey of burial grounds, the Government response to public consultation on burial law reform, and guidance for burial ground managers. I intend to publish guidance on the management of memorial safety shortly and expect to make an announcement early next year about the provision and maintenance of burial grounds and proposals for amendments to existing burial legislation. I will write to my hon. Friend with details of the progress made on each recommendation.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (a) cards, (b) parties and (c) decorations in the last 12 months. [237483]

**Maria Eagle:** The first year that a Ministry of Justice Christmas card was produced was 2007 and 6,000 cards were ordered at a cost of 34p each, totalling £2,040. These cards were produced internally and were not centrally funded. Each business area covered the costs of the cards they ordered from their stationery budgets.

The order for cards for 2008 has not yet commenced.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 742-43W, to the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr. Prisk), which provides information on the spend on Christmas functions in 2007-08.

The cost of trees and decorations for the central London HQ buildings for 2007 is as follows:

Trees—£460.40 + VAT

Decorations—£325.90 + VAT

An order has not yet been placed for 2008 and wherever possible, last year's decorations will be reused.

The information for agencies can be gathered only at a disproportionate cost, as each individual building would order their own trees and decorations.

### Courts: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely cost to local authorities resulting from *(a)* the increase in public law family fees and *(b)* making those changes retrospective over the next two years. [237596]

**Bridget Prentice:** Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) calculated the cost of public law family proceedings, was £40 million. The increased fees were set on this basis, and an additional £40 million was built into the local authority settlement for England and Wales. This figure applies to all three years of the settlement and will form part of the baseline for future spending reviews. It is likely to exceed the actual expenditure on court fees for local authorities as it assumes that the maximum fee is payable in each case. It does not allow for any savings arising from early resolution or fast track procedures recently introduced under the revised Public Law Outline.

Fees have not been charged retrospectively.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many external consultants work for his Department. [235302]

**Maria Eagle:** In the financial year 2007-08, the Ministry of Justice let contracts for consultancy services with 244 suppliers. The number of individual consultants involved in the delivery of those contracts is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental ICT

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's total IT budget was in the last year. [228863]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice's IT expenditure in 2007-08 was £660 million. This includes the cost of running the live operational services across the Ministry, the costs of new IT developments and the transition costs to new IT suppliers for the former Department for Constitutional Affairs.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what IT projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [229159]

**Maria Eagle:** Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. These will be subject to a further budget review in December 2008, as part of the Ministry's wider review of all areas of expenditure, including IT projects.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [237470]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice has no staff solely responsible for branding activity in the Department this year. It is not possible to separate out branding activity from other communications and marketing duties undertaken by staff.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237503]

**Mr. Straw:** In each of the last three years, the Ministry of Justice and the former Department for Constitutional Affairs has employed the services of two special advisers. Each special adviser has the support of one member of administrative grade staff. The cost of these two members of staff was £64,923 in 2005-06; £63,866 in 2006-07; and £45,308 in 2007-08.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [238173]

**Mr. Straw:** There is no provision for Government cars for special advisers in the Ministry of Justice. There has therefore been no cost to the Department.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on entertainment by his Department in 2007-08; and how much of that sum is accounted for by *(a)* food, *(b)* alcohol, *(c)* staff and *(d)* accommodation. [235303]

**Maria Eagle:** This information could be provided across the Ministry only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure on entertainment should be incurred in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety that are based on the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Departmental Pensions

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many civil servants working in his Department and its agencies have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229547]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice has information in respect of cash equivalent transfer values (CETVs) for civil servants that are Board members only. These are disclosed in the Remuneration Report in the Annual Ministry of Justice Resource Accounts (of which a copy for the financial year 2007-08 can be found in the Library of the House and on the Ministry of Justice website). There are seven Board Members with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million.

The Department does not hold information on CETVs for all its civil servants. This information can be obtained only by writing to the individual's Authorised Pension Administration Centre and obtaining this would involve disproportionate cost.

### Driving Offences: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people imprisoned on conviction for a drink-driving offence have been released because the blood taken to assess the blood-alcohol level was taken by a nurse rather than a police officer in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [237279]

**Maria Eagle:** Information is not held centrally on the number of drivers imprisoned for driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs who elect to challenge the court's decision and the outcome of the challenge.

### Entry Clearances: Pakistan

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal notified the Home Department of the decision of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal in the case of Mrs E.K., wife of Mr S.Z. of Aylesbury and the Entry Clearance Officer, Islamabad (reference OA 52562/2007). [236205]

**Bridget Prentice:** Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) records show that the original appeal decision was heard on 13 May 2008. The tribunal sent the decision to UK Border Agency on 22 May 2008.

A further hearing by AIT to reconsider the initial decision was held on 24 July 2008. A decision was sent to UK Border Agency on 1 October 2008.

### HM Courts Service: Finance

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made (1) of the likely effect of reductions in the budget of Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) on *(a)* the number of courts, *(b)* the number of courts staff, *(c)* the number of consultants, *(d)* the number of agency staff and *(e)* the level of service to the public provided by HMCS in each of the years of the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review; [232501]

(2) of the effect on the budget of HM Courts Service of *(a)* recent increases in family court fees, *(b)* recent reductions in the number of tax prosecutions and *(c)* the Service's modernising money programme. [233002]

**Mr. Straw:** It has been clear since the publication of MOJ's CSR07 settlement that the Department and its constituent bodies, including HMCS, would have to reduce previously planned budgets. The efficiency savings plan for MOJ for 2008-09 is underway and HMCS is committed to delivering their contribution to the MOJ savings plan.

We are developing over the next few months the performance and efficiency plan for MOJ and its constituent bodies, including HMCS, to cover 2009-10 and 2010-11. When that plan is agreed for 2009-10 and 2010-11, we will be in a position to inform Parliament of the impact on MOJ, including HMCS.

The judiciary are engaged in discussion of HMCS resources under the terms of the HMCS framework and the concordat between the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice.

We expect there to be a reduction in headcount in HMCS parts of MOJ but we expect a large part of that to come from reductions in agency staff and contractors. Exact numbers will be available only once we have completed our planning exercise. We have started discussions with the trade unions on this and will continue to involve them as our plans develop.

We will aim better to match courts work to the changing pattern of demand and do not have any current plans to close courts.

The HMCS budget includes an estimate of £28 million as additional income expected as a result of the increases in family court fees on 1 May 2008.

HMRC have changed the focus of their enforcement activity and are targeting higher value cases. This has resulted in a reduction in the expected volume of claims from that source. It is not possible to quantify the exact impact this will have on HMCS at this stage.

The Modernising Money Handling project is currently piloting its processes within six court areas. Benefits targeted include reduced headcount for processing payments, economies of scale arising from implementing national supply agreements and further reductions in cash collection costs. The financial impact of these benefits will be measured once the pilots are completed.

### Legal Systems: Islam

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 562W, on matrimonial proceedings: religion, what comparative research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the role of Sharia councils in (i) the UK and (ii) other jurisdictions; [236852]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the role of female Muslim scholars in the process of Islamic religious arbitration, in respect of those tribunals which may act as arbitrators within the meaning of the Arbitration Act 1996; [236853]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 562W, on matrimonial proceedings: religion, how many draft consent orders embodying the terms of an agreement reached by the use of a Sharia council have *(a)* been enforced within the meaning of the Arbitration Act 1996 and *(b)* been held not to comply with English legal tenets. [236854]

**Mr. Straw:** In the past year the Ministry of Justice has received a number of requests for information and details of policy relating to Sharia law and Sharia councils and their position on family issues. Earlier this year this Department conducted an initial review of the research into Sharia councils in England and Wales and we intend to commission further research in the form of a scoping study. We hope that the scoping study will assess the feasibility of identifying Sharia councils, their members and users; explore the feasibility of obtaining data to establish the number, scope and clientele of Sharia councils in relation to Sharia family law and determine how Sharia councils, members and users can best be engaged in future research.

Arbitration is not a system of dispute resolution that may be used in family cases. Therefore no draft consent orders embodying the terms of an agreement reached by the use of a Sharia council have been enforced within the meaning of the Arbitration Act 1996 in matrimonial proceedings.

The issue of enforcement of an arbitrated decision only arises in civil disputes. At present there is no mechanism in civil proceedings to record how many draft consent orders embodying the terms of an agreement reached by the use of a Sharia council have been enforced within the meaning of the Arbitration Act 1996 or those that have been held not to comply with English legal tenets. Judges in England and Wales will only know that the consent order they are scrutinising comes from a Sharia council if this is made known to them by the parties.

### National Offender Management Service: Finance

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his estimate is of the change to the budget of the National Offenders Management Service headquarters under the Ministry of Justice Financial Plan for the Comprehensive Spending Review for 2008-11. [235912]

**Mr. Straw:** Under the agreement reached in the last comprehensive spending review, the Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

We are currently working up the savings from the budget that can be achieved from the restructure of the National Offender Management Service's headquarters

structures (both nationally and regionally). Our aim is to create a lean and focused agency headquarters which will enable offender management to be delivered more effectively and will strengthen and streamline commissioning to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The detail of the final headquarters structure has yet to be determined but will focus on reducing overheads, removing duplication and increasing efficiency in order to prioritise frontline services for offenders both in the community and in custody.

### Operation Safeguard

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans there are to review the operation of Operation Safeguard. [237007]

**Mr. Straw:** A review of Operation Safeguard was commissioned by the National Offender Management Service in February 2008. A further review of the operating procedures laid out in Prison Service Instruction 30/2006 "Operation Safeguard" was commissioned in September 2008.

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how inappropriate prisoners as identified by Prison Service Instruction (PSI 30/2006) and Integrated Drug Treatment Systems Continuity of Care guidance have been identified so as to ensure that they are not in police cells overnight since the reactivation of Operation Safeguard in January 2007. [237008]

**Mr. Straw:** All prisoners are risk assessed before being held in police cells under Operation Safeguard. This risk assessment takes place against the criteria laid out in Prison Service Instruction (PSI 30/2006) "Operation Safeguard".

Prisoners are screened on leaving prison reception, at court and on reception to police custody.

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inappropriate prisoners as identified by Prison Service Instruction (PSI 30/2006) and the Integrated Drug Treatment Systems Continuity of Care guidance have been held in police cells overnight since the reactivation of Operation Safeguard in January 2007. [237009]

**Mr. Straw:** All prisoners are risk assessed following the criteria laid out in Prison Service Instruction 30/2006 "Operation Safeguard" before being held in police cells under Operation Safeguard.

Every effort is made to avoid the use of police cells for various categories of prisoners and if a prisoner is deemed unsuitable to be held in police cells, they will be returned to an appropriate local prison.

Information on the number of prisoners who have been deemed unsuitable to be held in police cells is not recorded centrally.

### Performance Appraisal

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235218]

**Mr. Wills:** In the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) for the reporting year 2007-08 the number of staff who did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade (or equivalent marking) is detailed as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Former DCA, including HMCS, OPG, Tribunals Service, Wales Office, Scottish Office, and the MOJ headquarters | 95 |
| Prison Service and the former Prison Service headquarters | 77 |
| Former Home Office staff now within the MOJ | 3 |

### Plain English

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many documents produced by his Department have been submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [230508]

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many documents produced by his Department and its predecessor were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231114]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice does submit documents to the Plain English Campaign for Crystal Mark accreditation and we apply Plain English principles and best practice to all our documents. However the information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Police Custody

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1240W, on police custody, how many prisoners have been held in police cells overnight in each month since the reactivation of Operation Safeguard in January 2007; and if he will make a statement. [236872]

**Mr. Straw:** It is not possible to ascertain how many individual prisoners were held under Operation Safeguard since it was reactivated in January 2007. The following table covers the period from January 2007 up to the night of 31 October 2008 and gives the aggregate total of the number of prisoner nights in which a police cell was used during each month shown.

*The totals of Safeguard usage broken down by month since January 2007 to 31 October 2008*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *2007* | |
| January | 1,955 |
| February | 1,286 |
| March | 6,693 |
| April | 4,542 |
| May | 9777 |
| June | 10,195 |
| July | 810 |
| August | 4,950 |
| September | 7,840 |

*The totals of Safeguard usage broken down by month since January 2007 to 31 October 2008*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| October | 9,565 |
| November | 7,693 |
| December | 1,960 |
| *2008* | |
| January | 1,766 |
| February | 9,720 |
| March | 2,004 |
| April | 290 |
| May | 120 |
| June | 630 |
| July | 2,182 |
| August | 1,7[illegible] |
| September | 211 |
| October | 1 |

## Prisoners: Employment

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with which businesses HMP Coldingley has contracts for work for prisoners; and what the *(a)* value of, *(b)* nature of work specified under and *(c)* payment to prisoners specified under each contract is. [237294]

**Mr. Hanson:** A number of external customers have placed business with HM Prison Coldingley since April 2008: These are summarised in the following table. Contracts are restricted—commercial, and to release the names of customers may prejudice our continued and future trading relationship. The work areas also undertake production for the internal market providing employment for prisoners and helping to reduce the cost of imprisonment.

Prison Service Order 4460, a copy of which has been placed in the House Library, sets out minimum rates of pay for prisoners who participate in purposeful activity. The order requires governors and directors of contracted prisons to devise local pay schemes that reflect regime priorities of their establishment.

In addition prisoners are employed in a number of other activities, including information and communication technology, kitchen, cleaning (including accredited training), learning and skills, physical education, land-based activities, recycling and other regime places that provide opportunities to learn new skills and accredited learning. The prison also has a partnership agreement with the Howard League who run a small design shop in the prison. We are not aware of the contract details this workshop has with customers.

*HMP Coldingley external/commercial sales for the period 1 April 2008 to 18 November 2008*[1]

| *Nature of work* | *Number of external customers* | *Approx. external sales value (£000)* |
|---|---|---|
| Laundry services | 4 | 201 |
| Sign manufacture | 26 | 69 |
| Engineering | 2 | 4 |

[1] As recorded on the Prison Service Phoenix Finance system.

## Prisoners: Ex-servicemen

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many ex-service personnel there were in prison who had *(a)* post-combat stress, *(b)* alcoholism and *(c)* substance abuse problems in (i) 2001, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2003, (iv) 2004, (v) 2005, (vi) 2006 and (vii) 2007; and if he will make a statement. [237283]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information requested is not available. Although data from nationally representative surveys of some 2,000 sentenced prisoners near release conducted in 2001, 2003 and 2004 showed the proportion of prisoners who had previously served in the armed forces in those years as 6 per cent., 4 per cent., and 5 per cent. respectively, no research was done on the particular problems raised in the question.

We are currently working with the Ministry of Defence to help better identify the number of veterans currently serving prison sentences. Part of the process is likely to involve surveying a proportion of the prison population.

## Prisoners: Females

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what offences for women from Wales who were held in prison on 1 April *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2004 were imprisoned. [237691]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the number of women who were tried in courts in Wales and detained in prison establishments in England and Wales under custodial sentence as at 31 March each year 2004-08 by offence group.

| | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All | 145 | 143 | 135 | 137 | 159 |
| Violence against the person | 43 | 37 | 42 | 48 | 48 |
| Sexual offences | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Robbery | 20 | 10 | 7 | 12 | 14 |
| Burglary | 11 | 13 | 15 | 11 | 18 |
| Theft and handling | 20 | 14 | 20 | 14 | 21 |
| Fraud and forgery | 3 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Drug offences | 29 | 43 | 26 | 25 | 30 |
| Motoring offences | 2 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 2 |
| Other offences | 14 | 7 | 12 | 16 | 20 |
| Offence not recorded | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

These figures are based on the court from which the prisoner was received.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the women from Wales who were held in prison on 1 April *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2004 were held on remand. [237692]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the number of women prisoners held on remand by a court in Wales at 31 March in each year from 2004 to 2008.

| *Females as at 31 March* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 49 |
| 2005 | 39 |
| 2006 | 34 |
| 2007 | 39 |
| 2008 | 37 |

These figures are based on the court from which the prisoner was received.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Prisoners: Foreigners

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign prisoners were held at *(a)* HMP Peterborough, *(b)* HMP Whitemoor and *(c)* HMP Littlehey on 31 October (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008; and if he will make a statement. [237855]

**Mr. Hanson:** Information on the number of foreign national prisoners in each prison establishment in England and Wales is published quarterly on the Ministry of Justice website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm.

The following table shows the number of foreign national prisoners held in the three requested establishments as at 30 September in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

| | *September 2006* | *September 2007* | *September 2008* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Peterborough | 119 | 176 | 161 |
| Whitemoor | 65 | 66 | 66 |
| Littlehey | 106 | 100 | 119 |

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Prisoners: Mentally Ill

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the number of prisoners with severe psychiatric disorders. [237176]

**Phil Hope:** I have been asked to reply.

No recent assessment has been made. In 1997, the Office for National Statistics survey indicated that as many as 58 per cent. of male and 75 per cent. of female remand prisoners, and 39 per cent. of male and 62 per cent. of female sentenced prisoners met criteria for a diagnosis of anxiety and/or depression. Rates of psychotic illness were also higher than in the general population.

### Prisoners: Mothers

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many mothers held in prison had their babies with them on 1 April *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2004. [237688]

**Mr. Hanson:** The numbers of mothers held in prison who had their babies with them from 1 April 2004 to 1 April 2008, are as follows:

| *As at 1 April:* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2008 | 50 |
| 2007 | 48 |
| 2006 | 49 |
| 2005 | 45 |
| 2004 | 46 |

Where a custodial sentence has been given, specific provision is made for those women who are pregnant or have babies with them in prison.

### Prisoners: Voting Rights

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps he plans to take to give effect in UK law to the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Kirit *v.* the UK; [236965]

(2) when he plans to publish the results of his Department's March 2007 consultation on the voting rights of sentenced prisoners; [236966]

(3) what recent assessments his Department has carried out on the effect of extending the franchise to sentenced prisoners; [236968]

(4) what consultations his Department has undertaken with prison governors on the effect of extending the franchise to sentenced prisoners; [236969]

(5) what information his Department has collected for comparative purposes on the voting rights of convicted prisoners in other states party to the European Convention on Human Rights. [236970]

**Mr. Wills:** I have been advised that in the first question the hon. Gentleman is referring to the European Court of Human Rights' judgment in the case of Hirst *v.* UK, rather than Kirit *v.* UK as the question has been typed.

In response to that judgment, we announced we would undertake a two-stage public consultation, the first stage of which concluded in March 2007. The Government have been studying its findings carefully and are mindful of the implications that any course of action may have with reference to the rights and responsibilities of all its citizens. This is a sensitive and complex issue, involving not only human rights considerations with regard to offenders, but also the victims of crime and public confidence in the criminal justice system overall.

The Government intend to publish the results of the first stage of the consultation on prisoners' voting rights in tandem with the launching of the second stage consultation paper. I can confirm that the Government remain committed to carrying out this second, more detailed public consultation, to which people holding all shades of opinion, including those who work with offenders on a professional basis, are invited to respond.

Following the closure of this stage, the Government will make their final recommendations that will be reflected in legislation.

As part of consideration as to the options bringing into effect the judgment there has been consideration of the effect of extending the franchise to sentenced prisoners. This will form part of the second stage consultation paper.

Similarly in looking to understand the impact of implementing the judgment on the Prison Service, operational aspects of prisoner enfranchisement have been the subject of discussions with the Prison Service and the Prison Governors' Association responded to the first stage consultation paper. We will ensure that the Prison Governors' Association will be engaged, along with other relevant bodies, when the second stage consultation paper is launched.

In respect of comparative studies of policies within states party to the ECHR, the first stage consultation paper acknowledged that out of the 41 Council of Europe countries, 18 states allow prisoners to vote without any restriction whereas 13, including the UK, do not. Among the remainder, enfranchisement of prisoners varies depending the nature of offence committed by, or length of the sentence imposed on, prisoners, while in some countries the decision as to whether an individual prisoner is permitted to vote remains at the discretion of the sentencing court. Whatever policy is pursued by other states, Government have a duty to select the right course for the United Kingdom.

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals to amend the Human Rights Act 1998 to provide for a universal franchise. [236967]

**Mr. Wills:** The Human Rights Act 1998 contains the right (set out in Article 3 of the First Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights) to free elections by secret ballot to ensure the free expression of the people in the choice of the legislature. The Government have no plans to amend the Act in respect of free elections.

### Prisons: Complaints

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints by prison officers have been made against fellow officers on the grounds of *(a)* sexual discrimination, *(b)* sexual harassment, *(c)* homophobic behaviour and *(d)* racial discrimination in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these complaints were upheld; what proportion of those making such complaints received compensation payments; and how much each received. [237049]

**Mr. Malik:** According to the information held centrally by the National Offender Management Service, in the period from 1 January 2005 to 31 October 2008, at least 82 formal investigations were commissioned into allegations of a sexual or sexist nature and at least 151 formal investigations were commissioned into allegations of a racial or racist nature. Over that same period, there were at least 34 proven cases of sexual harassment and at least 79 proven cases of racial harassment.

However, the information available centrally is not complete. It does not distinguish between types of sexual, sexist, racial or racist behaviour, nor identify homophobic behaviour. Nor does the available information identify how many of these cases resulted from complaints by prison officers against other prison officers.

In order to provide the complete and specific information requested and for the period before 2005, it would be necessary to carry out comprehensive data gathering and analysis across the prison estate. This would incur disproportionate cost through contacting and scrutinising case files with each of the 138 prisons across the Service.

Prison Service Order 8460 (Conduct and Discipline) does not provide a facility for compensation awards to be made to complainants whose allegations have been substantiated as a result of internal disciplinary proceedings.

### Prisons: Methadone

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the prescribing of methadone in prisons in England and Wales. [237680]

**Mr. Hanson:** Methadone is one of a number of drugs licensed for the clinical management of substance misuse. The prescribing of methadone in prisons in England is, as with any treatment intervention in NHS, based on individual clinical need following an assessment by a registered health care practitioner.

Guidance on the treatment of drug misuse in the UK is provided by the 2007 Department of Health Clinical Guidelines. They are based on current evidence and professional consensus on how to provide drug treatment for the majority of patients, in most instances. The guidelines have a specific chapter which includes additional advice specific to criminal justice setting, including prisons

The policy for all Welsh prisons and those not currently part of the Integrated Drug Treatment System, is set out in Prison Service Order 3550 Clinical Services for Substance Misusers. For prisons funded as part of the prisons Integrated Drug Treatment System, policy is set out in the Department of Health guidance "Clinical management of drug dependence in the adult prison setting".

### Prisons: Overcrowding

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government is taking to reduce prison overcrowding; and if he will make a statement. [237010]

**Mr. Hanson:** The prison capacity programme has delivered over 4,000 new prison places since 2007 and will provide nearly 200 further places before the end of the year. It is anticipated this programme will also deliver over 2,000 further places in 2009.

The programme will provide an additional 20,000 prison places and an increased overall capacity to just over 96,000 by 2014.

### Probation: Manpower

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many job reductions there will be from natural wastage in the Probation Service under his Department's Financial Plan for the Comprehensive Spending Review for 2008 to 2011. [236245]

**Mr. Straw:** Under the agreement reached in the last comprehensive spending review, the Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

We will be working with the 42 probation areas and trusts, the employers of staff in the National Probation Service (NPS), to achieve the necessary efficiency savings. Our aim is to create a front line focused NPS that will enable offender management in the community to be delivered more efficiently and effectively by reducing overheads, duplications of work and seeking economies of scale. Ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

## Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236900]

**Mr. Wills:** In the Ministry of Justice there have been six complaints brought on the grounds of race in the 12 months ending July 2008. Of those, four cited actual racial abuse, and of those, two were upheld.

For NOMS and OCJR, no complaints of racial abuse have been recorded.

The prison service does not hold the information centrally in the format requested. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Rape: Sentencing

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average sentence handed down by courts in England and Wales for convictions for rape was in each of the last three years. [236912]

**Maria Eagle:** The requested information is contained in the following tables.

2006 is the latest year for which annually published statistics are available. Data for 2007 will be published on 27 November.

*Number of persons sentenced[1] by result and average length of immediate custodial sentence[2] for offences of rape, all courts, England and Wales, 2004-06*

*Number of persons and average length of sentence (months)*

| | | | *Result* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence description* | *Year* | *Total number sentenced* | *Absolute discharge* | *Conditional discharge* | *Fine* | *Community sentence* | *Fully suspended sentence* | *Immediate custody* | *Otherwise dealt with* |
| Rape[4] | | 742 | 2 | 2 | – | 16 | – | 713 | 9 |
| Rape of a female | 2004 | 693 | 1 | 2 | – | 8 | – | 673 | 9 |
| Rape of a male | | 49 | 1 | – | – | 8 | – | 40 | – |
| Rape[4] | | 794 | – | 1 | 1 | 32 | 2 | 746 | 12 |
| Rape of a female | 2005 | 726 | – | 1 | 1 | 21 | 2 | 690 | 11 |
| Rape of a male | | 68 | – | – | – | 11 | – | 56 | 1 |
| Rape[4] | | 862 | 1 | 1 | – | 40 | – | 803 | 17 |
| Rape of a female | 2006 | 787 | 1 | 1 | – | 25 | – | 746 | 14 |
| Rape of a male | | 75 | – | – | – | 15 | – | 57 | 3 |

*Number of persons and average length of sentence (months)*

| *Offence description* | *Average custodial sentence length[2]* | *Indeterminate sentence[3]* |
|---|---|---|
| Rape[4] | 85.1 | – |
| Rape of a female | 85.2 | – |
| Rape of a male | 82.5 | – |
| Rape[4] | 81.8 | 15 |
| Rape of a female | 82.5 | 13 |
| Rape of a male | 74.0 | 2 |
| Rape[4] | 81.2 | 131 |
| Rape of a female | 82.0 | 120 |
| Rape of a male | 68.0 | 11 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Months. Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.
[3] Sentences of imprisonment for public protection introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 on 4 April 2005.
[4] Includes rape of a male and a female.

*Notes:*
1. Persons receiving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection for a serious offence would previously have received a lengthy determinate sentence that would have been included in the calculation of average custodial sentence length. These longer sentences are now effectively excluded from the calculation. This may account for the observed decrease in average custodial sentence lengths since 2004-05.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

*Source:*
OMS Analytical Services

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness as a deterrent of sentences handed down by courts in England and Wales for convictions relating to rape. [236913]

**Maria Eagle:** No specific research has been done into the deterrent effect of sentences imposed for rape. For certain types of crime such as rape custody will almost always represent the most appropriate sentencing option as a means of punishment and as a means of protecting the public.

### Reoffenders

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the reconviction rates of prisoners released from each prison in England and Wales in the last 10 years. [238281]

**Mr. Straw:** At present, data are not available for the reconviction rates of prisoners released from each prison in England and Wales in the last 10 years. The Ministry of Justice is currently undertaking a programme of work to look at how best to produce these data (accounting for the different types of prisons and movement of offenders between prisons). This work should be completed by the end of the financial year 2008-09.

However, information on the rate of reoffending for custodial prisoners is available covering 2000 to 2006, as shown in the following table. The current data demonstrate that the adult reoffending rate for offenders with previous custodial sentences has fallen since 2000 by 15 per cent.

| *Q1* | *Number of offenders* | *Number of offences per 100 offenders* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 15,727 | 245.5 |
| 2002 | 15,578 | 288.2 |
| 2003 | 14,358 | 279.1 |
| 2004 | 15,761 | 253.1 |
| 2005 | 14,595 | 228.5 |
| 2006 | 14,380 | 208.4 |

The latest reoffending statistics for adults, 'Reoffending of adults: results from the 2006 cohort', were published in September 2008 and can be obtained from:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

### UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what response he plans to make to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief's report of her mission to the UK (A/HRC/7/10/Add.3). [190523]

**Gillian Merron:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government welcome the publication of the report on the United Kingdom by the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. The Government have noted the contents of her report and welcomed the positive statements about freedom of religion or belief in the United Kingdom as well as her recognition of the great wealth of experience we have on this issue. We expect to make a statement at the Human Rights Council in March 2009 in response to the Special Rapporteur's presentation of her report there.

The Government were pleased that, during her visit to the UK in June 2007, the Special Rapporteur was able to meet a wide range of government officials, political leaders, legal professionals, academics and representatives of religious communities and civil society.

The Government, and the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, are firmly committed to upholding the right to freedom of religion or belief, including through legislation and policies which address discrimination, intolerance and violence.

The Government's aim is cohesive communities in which every individual, regardless of ethnic origin or religion or belief (or lack of it) is able to fulfil his or her potential through the enjoyment of equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities.

I apologise for the delay in replying to your question.

### Unpaid Fines: Sentencing

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women from Wales were held in prison for non-payment of fines on 1 April *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2004. [237690]

**Mr. Hanson:** Figures showing the number of women who were held in custody at 31 March 2004-2008 whose sentencing court was in Wales can be found in the following table.

| *As at 31 March* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 0 |
| 2005 | 1 |
| 2006 | 2 |
| 2007 | 0 |
| 2008 | 1 |

These figures are based on the court from which the prisoner was received.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Whitemoor Prison

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officer staff have contested dismissal through tribunal from HMP Whitemoor in each of the last 10 years; and what the outcome was in each case. [237050]

**Mr. Malik:** In 2007, the number of prison officer staff contesting their dismissal through an employment tribunal was five. Three of the cases are continuing. In one case the claim was unsuccessful and the other was settled. There have been no cases in 2008. Details in respect of earlier years are not available.

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officer staff have been dismissed from the service from HMP Whitemoor in each of the last 10 years, broken down by grounds for dismissal. [237051]

**Mr. Malik:** Records are available only for 2007 and 2008. In 2007, the number of prison officer staff dismissed was 20. Of that number 13 were dismissed for medical inefficiency with seven dismissed for misconduct. For 2008, as at 18 November; three prison officer staff have been dismissed, all for medical inefficiency. Information on earlier years is not readily available.

### Young Offenders: Education

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether education or training is compulsory for young offenders aged *(a)* between 15 and 17 and *(b)* between 18 and 21 years in young offender institutions. [238289]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Young Offender Institution Rules and Prison Rules provide that, in the case of a young person of compulsory school age, arrangements shall be made for his participation in education or training courses for at least 15 hours a week within the normal week.

The Youth Justice Board require that 90 per cent. of young people in juvenile accommodation (including those aged 15-17) in YOIs receive 25 hours of education, training and personal development activity per week.

Neither education nor training is compulsory for young offenders aged between 18 and 21 years in young offender institutions.

### Young People: Remand in Custody

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many supported accommodation beds are available for juveniles on remand, broken down by youth offending team area; [236829]

(2) how many remand foster beds are available for juveniles, broken down by youth offending team area; [236830]

(3) how many beds are available for juveniles detained overnight pending court appearances under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, broken down by youth offending team area. [236831]

**Mr. Hanson:** This information is not collected centrally and to do so could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

Local authorities have responsibility for placement of juveniles on non-secure remand in a range of accommodation based on their needs. The accommodation may be supported, placement in foster care, in a children's home or in the family home. The provision of these places is a matter for the local authority to meet local need.

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of juveniles who have been remanded in custody or under court ordered secure remand pending trial were *(a)* acquitted and *(b)* received a non-custodial sentence upon conviction in each of the last five years; [236832]

(2) how many *(a)* remands in custody and *(b)* court ordered secure remands were made in respect of those under 18 years old in (i) youth courts, (ii) adult magistrates courts and (iii) Crown courts in each of the last five years; [236833]

(3) what the average length of custodial remands for children tried in *(a)* youth courts, *(b)* adult magistrates courts and *(c)* the Crown court is; and what the average was in each case in each of the last five years; [236834]

(4) how many juveniles were *(a)* detained by the police overnight, *(b)* placed in local authority accommodation and *(c)* bailed pending a first court appearance in each of the last five years; [236835]

(5) what proportion of juveniles charged with an offence were remanded in custody in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by offence. [237745]

**Maria Eagle:** With regards to the proportion of juveniles who have been remanded in custody or under court ordered secure remand pending trial and the proportion of juveniles charged with an offence were remanded in custody broken down by offence, I will write to the hon. Member within two weeks when it is anticipated that the data to address those juveniles who have been acquitted and received a non-custodial sentence upon conviction will be available.

These data are not routinely collated and require five years of data from large administrative datasets to be analysed which is a resource intensive and time-consuming process. It is planned to review the remands data collection during 2009.

The information to answer the remainder of the questions is not readily available and would require individual court files to be examined which could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Abortion

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the Northern Ireland Assembly will take on responsibility for the criminal law in Northern Ireland, with particular reference to abortion; what recent discussions he has had on the issue; what recent representations he has received on the issue; what response he gave; and if he will make a statement. [237713]

**Mr. Woodward:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 23WS.

I have received a number of representations from interested parties on all sides of the debate on the abortion law in Northern Ireland. The Government's position remains that the best forum for discussion of these matters is the Northern Ireland Assembly when it assumes responsibility for the criminal law. While the precise timing of the devolution of policing and justice is a matter for the Assembly, an agreed process is under way that will end in the transfer of policing and justice powers, including responsibility for the criminal law relating to abortion.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of arrests in Northern Ireland were for drunken and disorderly behaviour in each council area in each of the last five years. [239271]

**Paul Goggins:** That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 85-86W, on departmental buildings, what the cost of each refurbishment was. [233392]

**Paul Goggins:** The information provided in the answer of 6 October related solely to offices that were newly opened and requiring fit-out works before occupation. None of these premises required refurbishment.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many external consultants work for his Department. [236653]

**Mr. Woodward:** 25 external consultants work for the Northern Ireland Office.

### Departmental Hospitality

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* hosting events and *(b)* bottled water in the last 12 months. [234239]

**Mr. Woodward:** The amount spent by the Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, on hosting events in 2007-08 was £318,176.

The amount spent on bottled water which includes water provided for water coolers for the 2007-08 financial year was £25,777. The NIO has recently reviewed its drinking water policy and decided that where staff have access to tap water which is of drinking water quality, bottled water should no longer be purchased.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work and *(b)* provide assistance for his Department. [236654]

**Mr. Woodward:** 13 full-time press officers and one part-time press officer work for my Department.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many page hits from and visitors his departmental website received for the 2007-08 financial year. [236655]

**Mr. Woodward:** During the financial year 2007-08, my departmental website (nio.gov.uk) had 263,214 visitors and 11,356,942 page hits.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of maintaining his departmental website *(a)* was in 2007-08 and *(b)* are expected to be in 2008-09. [236656]

**Mr. Woodward:** The cost of maintaining my departmental website (nio.gov.uk) in 2007-08 was £4,308. It is expected to remain the same in 2008-09.

### Departmental Manpower

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people who are not civil servants his Department employs; and how many civil servants it employs. [234230]

**Paul Goggins:** Within the Northern Ireland Office, its agencies and legal offices, 16.5 people are employed who are not civil servants.

The numbers of civil servants employed by the Northern Ireland Office, its agencies and legal offices are as follows:

2,052 administrative grade civil service staff;

1,939 uniformed grades and civilian support staff in the Northern Ireland Prison Service; and

312 teachers, social workers and ancillary staff in the Youth Justice Agency.

### Departmental Pensions

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of pension contributions incurred by his Department was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure on pension contributions is for 2008-09. [234233]

**Paul Goggins:** The cost of pension contributions incurred by the Northern Ireland Office Core Department in the last three financial years are £4,379,000 (2005-06), £5,073,000 (2006-07) and £5,422,000 (2007-08). The estimate for expenditure for 2008-09 is £5,612,000. That estimate assumes a 3.5 per cent. inflationary rise on the 2007-08 position.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how much was spent on his Department's staff's travel within the UK in the last 12 months; [234243]

(2) how much was spent on his Department's staff's international travel in the last 12 months. [234244]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, spent £3,187,123 on travel costs during 2007-08. It is possible to separate domestic and international travel only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Vehicles

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department *(a)* has spent on maintaining vehicles in the last five financial years and *(b)* expects to spend on maintaining vehicles in the financial year 2008-09. [234246]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* The following table provides details of the Northern Ireland Office's expenditure on vehicle maintenance and running costs (excluding agencies and executive NDPBs) since 2003-04.

| | *Expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 12,534 |
| 2004-05 | 8,947 |
| 2005-06 | 31,184 |
| 2006-07 | 17,218 |
| 2007-08 | 14,901 |

*(b)* Expenditure budgets are not held at this level but £18,322 has been spent on vehicle maintenance and running costs up to 31 October 2008 in the 2008-09 financial year.

### Economic and Monetary Union

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 537W, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's Euro Changeover Plan with the confidential information redacted. [227543]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office has now placed a copy of the Euro Changeover Plan in the Library. All confidential information has been redacted.

### Fire Services: Death

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many firefighters in Northern Ireland have lost their lives in the course of their duties in each of the last five years. [238394]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office does not hold this information. The Fire Service is devolved and is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

### Hotels

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on hotel bills by his Department in 2007-08. [236652]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, spent £200,601 on overnight accommodation during 2007-08.

Other miscellaneous expenditure which may have been incurred during hotel stays, such as business related telephone calls, are reclaimed as expenses and costs could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Inquiries: Expenditure

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost has been of *(a)* each public inquiry under way and *(b)* each historic inquiries team investigation under way in Northern Ireland. [238403]

**Mr. Woodward:** The costs to the end of October 2008 for each public inquiry under way in Northern Ireland are as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Robert Hamill Inquiry | 18.20 |
| Rosemary Nelson Inquiry | 33.42 |
| Billy Wright Inquiry | 20.21 |
| Bloody Sunday Inquiry | 184.9 |

I cannot provide the cost of each HET investigation under way. I can confirm that the annual expenditure on HET investigations has been as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 4.33 |
| 2006-07 | 6.04 |
| 2007-08 | 7.33 |
| 2008-09 | [1]5.12 |

[1] To the end of October 2008.

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of each *(a)* public inquiry, apart from the Saville Inquiry, and *(b)* historic inquires team investigation under way in Northern Ireland has been in each of the last six months. [238404]

**Mr. Woodward:** The costs for each of the last six months for the inquiries, apart from the Saville Inquiry, and the HET are shown in the following tables.

*Independent public inquiries*

| *2008* | *Robert Hamill Inquiry* | *Rosemary Nelson Inquiry* | *Billy Wright Inquiry* | *£000 Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| May | 783 | 2,368 | 1,303 | 4,374 |
| June | 540 | 1,125 | 776 | 2,441 |
| July | 688 | 1,271 | 845 | 2,804 |
| August | 495 | 858 | 770 | 2,123 |
| September | 268 | 1,054 | 265 | 1,567 |
| October | 623 | 1,722 | 810 | 3,147 |
| Total | 3,397 | 8,734 | 4,546 | 16,987 |

*The Historical Enquiries Team*

| *2008* | *PSNI HET spend* | *FSNI HET spend* | *OPONI HET spend* | *£000 Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| April | 657 | 62 | 70 | 789 |

*The Historical Enquiries Team*

| 2008 | PSNI HET spend | FSNI HET spend | OPONI HET spend | £000 Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| May | 540 | 28 | 70 | 638 |
| June | 605 | 35 | 75 | 715 |
| July | 924 | 34 | 70 | 1,028 |
| August | 284 | 33 | 77 | 394 |
| September | 726 | 21 | 79 | 826 |
| October | 617 | 33 | 79 | 729 |
| Total | 4,353 | 246 | 520 | 5,119 |

*Note:*
Figures are available only to the end of September 2008.

### Police: Pay

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many temporary advances issued to police officers in Northern Ireland *(a)* attending courses outside Northern Ireland and *(b)* performing duty outside Northern Ireland are outstanding; and what the monetary value of those advances is. [237394]

**Paul Goggins:** That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236902]

**Mr. Woodward:** During the last 12 months, the Northern Ireland Office has not received any official complaints of racial abuse. An equal opportunities and diversity course, which was introduced in the summer of 2007, is currently being rolled out to all staff in the Department. It highlights the importance of treating others with dignity and includes guidance on appropriate behaviour in the workplace.

### Saville Inquiry

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much of the cost of the Saville Inquiry has been spent on legal fees to date. [234176]

**Mr. Woodward:** I am advised that legal costs currently total £98.4 million to the end of October 2008. This comprises £65.9 million incurred by the inquiry and £32.5 million incurred by the Ministry of Defence.

### Television

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* televisions and *(b)* receiving digital television in the last 12 months. [234240]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, spent £2,415 on televisions in the 2007-08 financial year.

A total of £7,418 was paid to companies who provide digital television services during the 2007-08 financial year. This total includes licensing, subscription and instalment costs.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Prime Minister how much his Office has spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in the last 12 months. [237481]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns) on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 126W and to the answer I gave him on 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2178-79W.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Prime Minister what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Office has been in the last 12 months. [238175]

**The Prime Minister:** Special advisers are temporary civil servants. They have no entitlement to an allocated Government car. Special advisers' travel arrangements are made in accordance with the rules and guidance set out in the 'Civil Service Management Code' and departmental staff handbooks.

### Intelligence and Security Committee

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Prime Minister when the annual report of the Intelligence and Security Committee for the year 2007-08 will be published. [238429]

**The Prime Minister:** The Committee is due to submit its Annual Report for 2007-08 to me by the end of the year. Once the report is received I will make the necessary arrangements for it to be published and laid before the House in the usual way.

### Retail Trade: Competition

**Andrew George:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) what meetings at which the Competition Commission market investigation into the supply of groceries in the UK was discussed he has had since 1 May 2008; [237214]

(2) what meetings he has had with representatives of UK grocery retailers since 1 May 2008. [237215]

**The Prime Minister:** My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Armed Forces

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what resources the Government have provided for the training of local militias in Afghanistan. [238210]

**Mr. Hutton:** The UK Government are not involved in the training of local militias in Afghanistan. We do however provide personnel (both military and civilian) and funding to train and mentor the Afghan National Security Forces.

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contacts there have been between British forces and the Taliban in Helmand province in each of the last 12 months. [230161]

**Mr. Hutton:** The number of direct engagements (regardless of the instigator) involving the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and insurgents in Helmand province in each of the last 12 complete months are as follows:

| | *Number of attacks involving coalition forces* |
|---|---|
| November 2007 | 168 |
| December 2007 | 207 |
| January 2008 | 114 |
| February 2008 | 102 |
| March 2008 | 127 |
| April 2008 | 92 |
| May 2008 | 107 |
| June 2008 | 135 |
| July 2008 | 182 |
| August 2008 | 277 |
| September 2008 | 247 |
| October 2008 | 219 |

ISAF forces operating in Helmand come from a number of different nations which often operate closely alongside each other. These forces also operate very closely alongside Afghan army and police units. Without undertaking a detailed assessment of each engagement, it is not possible precisely to define in every case whether an attack was aimed at UK forces, at our ISAF partners, or against Afghan units. Data are therefore collected on the number of incidents involving ISAF forces in Helmand without attempting to identify the nationality of the forces actually being attacked. The environment also makes it extremely difficult precisely to distinguish between incidents initiated by insurgent forces and those initiated by ISAF.

These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment.

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how UK armed forces plan to contribute to NATO's anti-narcotics strategy in Helmand province. [236112]

**Mr. Hutton:** UK forces in Afghanistan, as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force mission, will support Afghan National Security Forces in targeting those parts of the illegal narcotics trade with a proven link to the insurgency. This support will continue to be provided in response to direct requests from the Government of Afghanistan and within existing means and capabilities.

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of the 13 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 *(a)* have received no compensation, *(b)* are awaiting a decision on their compensation claim and *(c)* have already received compensation; [236625]

(2) how many of the 40 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2007 *(a)* have received no compensation, *(b)* are awaiting a decision on their compensation claim and *(c)* have already received compensation; [236634]

(3) how many of the 23 personnel who were very seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2007 *(a)* have received no compensation, *(b)* are still awaiting a decision on their compensation claim and *(c)* have received compensation. [236638]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Of the 13 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan during 2006, nine personnel have made a claim for compensation under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS).

Of the 40 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan during 2007, 33 personnel have made a claim for compensation under the AFCS.

Of the 23 personnel who were very seriously injured (VSI) in Afghanistan during 2007, 22 personnel have made a claim for compensation under the AFCS.

Welfare staff at Headley Court, Selly Oak hospital and other units offer advice to our injured personnel on the most appropriate time to apply for compensation.

Table 1, as follows, presents the number of individuals that *(a)* have made no claim under the AFCS, *(b)* are awaiting a decision on their compensation claim under the AFCS and *(c)* have already received compensation under the AFCS. Figures are presented by severity and year of injury in Afghanistan. Figures presented are as at 13 November 2008.

*Table 1: Number of claims registered, claims awarded and registered claims pending a decision, by severity and year of injury in Afghanistan*

| | *Total* | *No claim registered* | *Claim pending* | *Claim awarded* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2006* | | | | |
| Seriously Injured[1] | 13 | 4 | 1 | 8 |

*Table 1: Number of claims registered, claims awarded and registered claims pending a decision, by severity and year of injury in Afghanistan*

| | Total | No claim registered | Claim pending | Claim awarded |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2007* | | | | |
| Seriously Injured | 40 | 7 | 2 | 31 |
| Very Seriously Injured | 23 | 1 | 1 | 21 |

[1] The claim with a pending decision from a 2006 serious injury was not made until October 2008.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are to change overall UK troop numbers in Afghanistan in the next 12 months. [238457]

**Mr. Hutton:** On 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 675-79, we announced an uplift in force levels in Afghanistan to bring our commitment to around 8,000. We do not comment on future troop deployments but our force levels are kept under regular review by Chiefs and Ministers as part of routine defence business.

### Africa: Piracy

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to counteract piracy off the coast of Africa. [238141]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Government's stance on piracy has been reviewed. This has resulted in a move to a more proactive posture whereby Royal Navy units in the region will actively seek out pirates, and we have issued them with more robust guidance to deal with any pirates encountered. The Royal Navy contributes to counter-piracy operations through three international efforts:

The UK is already engaged in efforts to combat acts of piracy off Somalia, through the Combined Task Force (CTF) 150, which has established a Maritime Security Patrol Area in the Gulf of Aden. CTF 150 units in this area, including Royal Navy vessels, are actively conducting operations to counter destabilising activities primarily aimed at deterring and disrupting acts of piracy.

Standing NATO Maritime Group 2, including attached Royal Navy units, has also deployed to the region with a mandate which includes counter-piracy. Last week HMS Cumberland, currently deployed with NATO, deterred several suspected pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden and the Royal Navy subsequently captured and handed over eight suspected pirates to Kenyan authorities.

We have also supported EU planning for a counter-piracy naval operation off the coast of Somalia, and on 14 October the EU Political and Security Committee decided to accept the offer made by the UK to provide the operation commander and the operation HQ (the Multinational Headquarters at Northwood). On 10 November EU Foreign and Defence Ministers met at the General Affairs and External Relations Council and agreed the joint action to set up the EU mission. A further joint action to launch the mission is expected in early December. The UK offer is subject to sufficient forces being generated for an operation likely to begin in December.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what UK forces are stationed off the east African coast to deal with piracy in the area. [238142]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The UK is currently supporting two international efforts to counter piracy off the Horn of Africa and is involved in planning a third. Currently HMS Cumberland is deployed as part of Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 which has a mandate that includes counter-piracy operations and World Food Programme escort. HMS Kent and RFA Wave Knight are deployed with Combined Task Force 150 which is conducting operations to counter destabilising activity in the Gulf of Aden. HMS Northumberland is currently attached to CTF 150 pending attachment to the planned EU counter-piracy mission which is anticipated to start in December.

### Armed Conflict: Monuments

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and *(b)* another organisation maintains a list of the names of fallen service personnel recorded on major war memorials; whether the names of those on the plaques removed by thieves from the Plymouth Royal Naval Memorial in 2008 were independently recorded; whether the stolen plaques have been (i) recovered and (ii) replaced; and if he will make a statement. [238290]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I can confirm that, under the terms of its Royal Charter, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) maintains the official lists of all Commonwealth Service personnel who died in the two World Wars and associated conflicts, covering the periods from 4 August 1914 to 31 August 1921 and 3 September 1939 to 31 December 1947. Outside of this, responsibility for commemoration rests with the relevant Commonwealth Government. The Ministry of Defence maintains the official list of names of those members of the UK armed forces who have died since 1 January 1948.

Records of the names on the Plymouth Royal Naval Memorial of Naval personnel who died in the two World Wars are held by the CWGC. The CWGC confirm that four bronze plaques were recently stolen from the memorial but have all been recovered by the police. Unfortunately two of the plaques were damaged beyond repair and replacements are being manufactured; these are expected to be available for installation by spring 2009. The two undamaged plaques are scheduled to be reinstalled on the memorial in the week beginning 24 November and alterations are being made to the installation arrangements to reduce the risk of future theft. The CWGC understand several arrests have been made in connection with the case.

There are also many war memorials in the UK and more widely around the world for those killed in the service of HM armed forces which are not official commemorations. The UK National Inventory of War Memorials—a joint initiative between the Imperial War Museum and English Heritage—lists a large number of

these but does not record the names of all those listed on them. Responsibility for these memorials lies with their owners.

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to support the establishment of a national memorial to Bomber Command. [238572]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my noble Friend, the then Minister for Defence, Equipment and Support, Baroness Taylor, on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 249, in the other place.

The nation can be justly proud of the bravery and dedication of those who served in Bomber Command during World War II and of the contribution they made to the Allied victory. The Government welcome the appeal launched by the Bomber Command Association to fund a memorial in London and the Ministry of Defence is providing support by helping to ensure effective co-ordination of the various stakeholders.

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason his Department has not established a memorial to Bomber Command in London. [238573]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my noble Friend, the then Minister for Defence, Equipment and Support, Baroness Taylor, on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 249, in the other place.

### Armed Forces: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the *(a)* armed forces, *(b)* Army, *(c)* Navy and *(d)* Air Force are currently engaged in (i) operations and (ii) other military tasks. [237806]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The following table shows the requested percentage of UK Service personnel deployed on operations as at 7 September 2008. The total trained strength figures that were used to calculate the percentage are for 1 September 2008. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

*Percentage of trained armed forces in operations*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Total armed forces | 8.2 |
| Army | 10.7 |
| Navy | 4.1 |
| RAF | 5.8 |

*Source:*
DASA (Quad-Service)

Other military tasks encompass a wide spectrum of military duties. In its broadest sense this includes all duties carried out by Service personnel.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military personnel are based in Pakistan. [238273]

**Mr. Hutton:** There are currently 25 UK military personnel based in Pakistan.

### Armed Forces: Health Services

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with Help for Heroes on funding for rehabilitation for military casualties from *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [238258]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Secretary of State and I have had several recent meetings and discussions with the chief executive of Help for Heroes about the range and quality of rehabilitation support available to our military casualties.

We continue to invest in facilities and staff at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court, as well as the Regional Rehabilitation Units, to ensure that the treatment provided to military personnel is second to none. When Help for Heroes was established last year, it announced that it intended to raise the necessary funds for a swimming pool at Headley Court. While the unit already has a hydrotherapy pool and several gyms, the new pool will be a welcome enhancement to the excellent facilities that the unit already has. Furthermore, the campaign to raise funds has offered another very real opportunity for the public to demonstrate support for our armed forces. For these reasons we warmly welcome the efforts of Help for Heroes and of the other charities that do so much in support of our servicemen and women.

We are now working closely with Help for Heroes on a project to build a new rehabilitation complex at the unit, including a pool and gym. Ministerial discussions with the charity have covered that project and related issues.

### Armed Forces: Suicide

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many episodes of *(a)* suicide, *(b)* attempted suicide and *(c)* self-harm have been recorded and subject to significant event analysis in primary care since the circulation of Policy Letter 62/03 by the Director General of Army Medical Services, broken down by episodes recorded (i) in the UK, (ii) in Iraq, (iii) in Afghanistan and (iv) elsewhere overseas. [236162]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Since 2003 there have been 36 coroner-confirmed suicides in the regular Army. Of these, 26 occurred in the United Kingdom, three in Iraq, one in Afghanistan and six in other overseas locations.

Between 2003 and 2005 (the latest data compiled), during which time there were on average 111,000 serving in the Army, there have been 626 cases of deliberate self-harm by Army personnel investigated by the Royal Military Police. Of the 626 cases investigated, 426 occurred within the UK, 12 were in Iraq, two were in Afghanistan and 186 occurred in other overseas locations. The information held does not include any clinical information, thus it is not possible to differentiate between acts of deliberate self harm and attempted suicide.

The MOD plans to update the data it holds on deliberate self-harm in the first part of 2009 to include data for 2006 and 2007.

## Armed Forces: Training

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the wastage rates from *(a)* phase 1 and *(b)* phase 2 training were in (i) each year since 2001 and (ii) each month since January 2008; and how many people left each category of training in each period. [235426]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information is as follows:

*Wastage rates during new entry (phase 1 and 2) training*

The following table details the outflow from the untrained strength to civilian life for each financial year:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| FY 2001-02 | 6,780 |
| FY 2002-03 | 7,250 |
| FY 2003-04 | 6,940 |
| FY 2004-05 | 5,830 |
| FY 2005-06 | 5,120 |
| FY 2006-07 | [1]6,290 |
| FY 2007-08 | [1]6,850 |

[1] Provisional

The following table details the outflow from the untrained strength to civilian life for each month:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| January 2008 | [1]400 |
| February 2008 | [1]530 |
| March 2008 | [1]620 |
| April 2008 | [1]600 |
| May 2008 | [1]540 |
| June 2008 | [1]610 |
| July 2008 | [1]500 |
| August 2008 | [1]560 |
| September 2008 | [1]360 |

[1] Provisional

For numerous reasons, including instances where there is no distinction between the types of training, it is not possible to specify the separate outflow from phase 1 and phase 2 training.

The wastage rates are constantly under review and a number of initiatives are under consideration, to lower these rates without compromising the quality of outcome. Initiatives include ways to better prepare potential recruits for selection and initial training, and increasing applicants' understanding of the military's expectations of trainees, and the unique aspects of a service life.

## Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the technical specifications and photographs of the Alvis Vickers Scarab vehicle as evaluated by his Department in the assessment phase of the future command and liaison vehicle competition. [237622]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Alvis Vickers Scarab was a contender vehicle for the future command and liaison Vehicle (FCLV), now known as PANTHER. Scarab was withdrawn from the procurement competition by Alvis Vickers and consequently the MOD does not hold technical specifications or photographs resulting from its evaluation.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the technical specifications and photographs of the Glover Webb armoured patrol vehicle; [237623]

(2) how many Glover Webb armoured patrol vehicles were initially purchased; when they were purchased; when they were sold; and to whom they were sold. [237624]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Glover Webb armoured patrol vehicle (APV Mk 1) went out of service prior to the introduction of Snatch 1 in 1992. The requested information has not been retained by the Department due to the time elapsed since the APV Mk 1 left service.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many equipment failure reports there have been for Snatch Land Rovers in each year since 2005. [237805]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** There has been a total of 758 equipment failure reports (EFRs) submitted on Snatch Land Rovers since 2005 as follows:

| | *Number of EFRs* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 297 |
| 2006 | 382 |
| 2007 | 62 |
| 2008[1] | 17 |
| Total | 758 |

[1] To 18 November.

The equipment failure reporting system (EFRS) is the mandated system for equipment users to report failures, such as accidental damage, maintenance-related failures and breakdowns, or the failure of an item fitted to the vehicle. It does not incorporate the results of subsequent investigations and therefore does not differentiate between what might later prove to have been a problem caused by operator error or damage sustained as a result of operations. Nor do these data record the severity of a failure which might have no discernible impact on operational capability or safety.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what effect the procurement of new utility vehicles announced on 29 October 2008 will have on the Future Rapid Effect System programme. [238752]

**Mr. Hutton:** The announcement on 29 October 2008 of our plans to provide additional protected vehicles for Afghanistan will have no effect on the requirement for the Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) programme. The protected vehicles are specifically procured for use on current operations, in particular in logistics and other supporting roles. FRES is intended to replace legacy armoured fighting vehicles and to meet the Army's wider requirements for medium-weight capability able to operate across the whole spectrum of operations.

## Army: Conditions of Employment

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what regulations there are on the compatibility of membership of the British National Party and service in the Army Intelligence Corps. [238891]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Under Queen's Regulations for the Army 1975, chapter 5, part 14, regular service personnel are free to join political parties, but are not allowed to take an active part in the affairs of any political organisation, party or movement. They are not to participate in political marches or demonstrations.

## Army: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what percentage of the Army failed to meet *(a)* harmony guidelines for tour intervals and *(b)* separated service guidelines in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by corps; [237809]

(2) what the average tour interval was for each Army corps in the latest period for which figures are available. [237813]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The percentage of Army units (within those corps for which we record tour interval information) failing to meet harmony guidelines, as at 20 November 2008, is 46 per cent. The breakdown is as follows:

| *Corps* | *Percentage breaching harmony guidelines* |
|---|---|
| Royal Artillery | 55 |
| Royal Armoured Corps | 22 |
| Infantry | 50 |

The percentage of Army personnel failing to meet Separated Service guidelines, as at 31 December 2006, is 10.3 per cent. These are the most recent data available. It is hoped that Separate Service data will in future be produced by the Joint Personnel Administration system.

The average tour intervals for each Army corps (for which we record tour interval information), as at 20 November 2008, is as follows:

| *Corps* | *Average tour interval (months)* |
|---|---|
| Royal Artillery | 25 |
| Royal Armoured Corps | [1]25 |
| Infantry | [2]23 |

[1] Excludes two Royal Tank Regiment (2RTR) as they have not deployed as a formed unit since 2003.
[2] Excludes one and two LANCS due to their amalgamation (1 KORBR, 1 KINGS and QLR) in 2006.

The unit tour interval is a less relevant measure when applied to other corps (such as the Royal Engineers and the Royal Corps of Signals). This is due to the frequency with which personnel move between formed units within these corps (the personnel deployed with a unit will be substantially different from the personnel deployed with the same unit on a previous occasion). Unit tour interval data for these corps are not, therefore, routinely collated.

## Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what budget was allocated to the Defence Nuclear Safety (DNS) Regulator in the latest period for which figures are available; how many staff are employed by the DNS Regulator; how many are field inspectors; what expertise is required to be engaged as a DNS Inspector; and what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the *(a)* skills base and *(b)* numbers employed by the DNS Regulator. [237106]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) has a staff of 23, comprising 20 technical staff, supported by three administrative staff. All of the 20 technical staff engage in (field) inspections and 17 of them are appointed as Inspectors. In addition to the internal manpower costs, DNSR's budget in the current year is for operating costs of £0.2 million. This internal team is supported by dedicated staff in the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) and from industry, for which the budget in the current year is £4.254 million (representing around 35 man years).

The competence requirements for each post are specificaliy identified: they include competence in nuclear technology, safety management, safety regulation and nuclear accident management. All new inspectors joining DNSR follow a training programme, and their competence is formally assessed before they receive delegated authority. The level of skill and numbers required to effectively regulate the defence nuclear programmes is reviewed annually by the Defence Nuclear Environment and Safety Board (DNESB) Chairman, taking account of views of DNESB members and the representatives of the HSE Nuclear Directorate, the Environment Agency and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency who attend the DNESB. This is also considered by the independent Defence Nuclear Safety Committee, who separately advise the Secretary of State for Defence.

## Democratic Republic of the Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which United Kingdom military airframes *(a)* have been used and *(b)* are planned to be used in connection with operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and if he will make a statement. [236994]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* There have been no UK military aircraft used in connection with operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo since the recent increases in violence began in the east. At present, MOD has no plans to perform any operations related to the current surge in violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; we are therefore not planning on using any United Kingdom military airframes of any type in the country.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what countries have contributed to the UN force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and how many troops each has provided. [238458]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The information requested is available at:

http://www.monuc.org

and is updated on a regular basis.

## Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237414]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** There is no subsidy of prices for food and drink on sale to staff.

## Departmental ICT

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each year since 1997. [234088]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** As part of its ongoing action plan, MOD is currently undertaking censuses of all IT and digital media as recommended by the Burton report. As a result, some adjustment of historic figures previously reported is expected. However, we take any loss of media storage devices very seriously. We have put in place revised, robust procedures. New processes, instructions and technological aids are also being implemented to mitigate human errors and raise awareness of every individual in the Department.

No centralised records were maintained prior to 2003 and are not therefore available. Figures from 2003 will continue to be adjusted to incorporate subsequent recoveries of items, the reporting of additional thefts and losses and subsequent clarification of historic incidents. The following figures reflect the latest data held as at 5 November 2008.

| | *Lost* | *Stolen* |
|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Figures for memory sticks | | |
| 2003 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | 27 |
| 2005 | 0 | 2 |
| 2006 | 2 | 56 |
| 2007 | 8 | 1 |
| 2008[1] | 59 | 6 |
| *(b)* Figures for laptop computers | | |
| 2003 | 27 | 135 |
| 2004 | 22 | 272 |
| 2005 | 18 | 130 |
| 2006 | 27 | 170 |
| 2007 | 22 | 101 |
| 2008[1] | 62 | 58 |
| *(c)* Figures for desktop computers | | |
| 2003 | 1 | 45 |
| 2004 | 0 | 38 |
| 2005 | 0 | 25 |
| 2006 | 0 | 28 |
| 2007 | 2 | 13 |
| 2008[1] | 4 | 8 |
| *(d)* Figures for hard drives | | |
| 2003 | 4 | 5 |
| 2004 | 7 | 18 |
| 2005 | 12 | 2 |
| 2006 | 42 | 5 |
| 2007 | 8 | 1 |
| 2008[1] | 72 | 2 |

[1] Up to 5 November 2008

*(e) Figures for mobile telephones*

MOD units are not required to centrally report incidents of loss or theft of mobile phones, and to gather these data would incur disproportionate cost. These figures reflect reports which have been provided where the incidents have security significance or have been associated with the theft of other property.

| | *Lost* | *Stolen* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 1 | 1 |
| 2005 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006 | 0 | 3 |
| 2007 | 1 | 0 |
| 2008[1] | 4 | 2 |

[1] Up to 5 November 2008

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the evidence provided by the Permanent Secretary to the Public Accounts Committee on 22 October 2008, on the Defence Information Infrastructure programme, who provided the figure of the estimated value of £2.3 billion for the programme contract provided in the answer to the hon. Member for Portsmouth South of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 210W, on defence information structure; when he was informed that the figure given in that answer was incorrect; what steps were taken to inform the hon. Member for Portsmouth South of that fact; and what steps are being taken to prevent other mistakes in the provision of information to Parliament on his Department's project costs. [236793]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** At the time the hon. Member's question was tabled (July 2006), only Increment 1 of the DII Programme had obtained financial approval within the Department and was supported by a contract with the delivery partner. The answer given on 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 210W (which was based on information provided by the DII programme team), was confined to the value of that contract—£2.3 billion. This was in accordance with normal practice, which reflects the fact that giving estimated values for subsequent increments which are not yet approved or under contract could adversely affect the Department's position in future commercial negotiations. The answer was not incorrect. It made it clear that the figure given was the value of the DII Increment 1 contract.

Since 2006, additional increments of DII work have been placed on contract with Atlas, and parliamentary answers on DII(F) contract costs reflect the estimated value at the time, including uplifts for those additional increments. The NAO value for money audit report published on 4 July provides additional estimates of dependent programme costs, and potential DII(F) future increments, both of which lie outside of the current DII programme's approval.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much surplus land *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies own; and what the (i) area and (ii) estimated monetary value of each site is. [236430]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** A list of the Department's surplus land and property is regularly updated and placed in the Library of the House. The details provided include the area of each site.

The Department does not publish details of the estimated value of land that is due to be disposed of as this is commercially sensitive and could influence property transactions. Surplus property is normally sold on the open market with the benefit of competition.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for each of the sites owned by his Department and registered on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land; what construction projects are planned for each site; and when he expects each site to be returned to use. [236438]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** On the assumption that there is no interest from other Government Departments or former owner considerations under the 'Crichel Down' rules, the Department sells its surplus sites on the open market as soon as practicable.

Any future use to which the land might be put will ultimately be determined by other Government Departments if transferred after exposure on the Register of Public Sector Land or by the purchaser subject to the rigour of the Town and Country Planning system.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many press releases have been issued by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238977]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Records are not available for the entire time period. However the statistics for the last three complete calendar years are as shown.

| | *Press releases* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 334 |
| 2006 | 356 |
| 2007 | 305 |

It should be noted that press releases are only one part of the press officer function and will not include direct responses to journalist inquiries.

### European Fighter Aircraft: Bombs

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects Paveway IV bombs to enter service on Royal Air Force Typhoon aircraft. [238051]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Paveway IV weapon system is expected to enter service on Royal Air Force Typhoon aircraft from early in the next decade.

### Ex-servicemen: Counselling

**Mr. Morley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to inform service veterans of services available to them, with particular reference to mental health counselling services. [234035]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** When service personnel leave the armed forces, their healthcare needs are the responsibility of the NHS. Service leavers, particularly those who have medical problems or who are considered vulnerable, receive advice about the help available to them by MOD welfare services and are given information about the ex-service charities (such as the Royal British Legion and Combat Stress). This is reinforced by outreach events and information from the Department. More specifically, NHS-led community mental health pilots are running at five sites offering a best practice, culturally sensitive, veterans' mental health service; another one will begin shortly in Scotland. The service offers wider support of public and charitable providers and is being linked to the Government's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme. A current focus is raising awareness among local health professionals and potential clients.

### Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the implications for the health of British nuclear test veterans of the research conducted by the Medical Research Council into DNA defects in nuclear test veterans. [236368]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Ministry of Defence is not aware of any research conducted by the Medical Research Council into DNA defects in nuclear test veterans.

The concerns of the nuclear test veterans, however, are a priority. That is why I have asked my officials to work with experts on scoping a study into the possible links between the service of the veterans and the ill-health suffered by some of their children and grandchildren. The study will need to be sufficiently thorough and robust if it is to have the confidence of all concerned and I am happy that the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association is willing to be involved in this process. We are hopeful that a decision will be made on a way ahead before Christmas.

### Future Large Aircraft

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the basic A400M airframe will be configured to deliver an air-to-air refuelling capability; and what his policy is on whether the RAF fleet will be adaptable to such a capability. [238041]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The basic A400M airframe has been designed with an optional air-to-air refuelling (tanker) capability. The design also includes an air-to-air refuelling probe in order to receive fuel. These are only installed and cleared for use in line with specific customer requirements.

The future strategic tanker aircraft is being procured to meet the Department's currently envisaged air-to-air refuelling requirements. Therefore, while the A400M

could be fitted with an air-to-air refuelling (tanker) capability, the Department currently has no plans to adapt them for this role. The Department also has no plans to clear the refuelling probe capability for A400M. The fleet will however remain adaptable to have these capabilities enabled if required.

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what financial penalty clauses apply to his Department should it decide to *(a)* reduce orders under and *(b)* withdraw from the A400M Programme. [238303]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The A400M development and production contract, placed by OCCAR on behalf of the partner nations, contains provisions which allow nations to reduce aircraft numbers and provide suitable compensation for Airbus Military. The costs will vary depending on the timing of any reduction.

The contract contains provisions which allow nations to withdraw from the programme. Again, the cost of compensation will vary depending on the timing of the withdrawal.

Notwithstanding the contractual aspects, under the terms of the A400M development and production Memorandum of Understanding, all nations collaborating on the programme are obliged to hold their partners harmless from any associated impact resulting from a reduction in off-take or withdrawal from the programme.

### Future Large Aircraft: Safety

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of fitting a fuel inerting gas system to a A400M. [237068]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** I am withholding the cost of fitting an A400M aircraft with a fuel inerting gas system as this is commercially sensitive.

### Harrier Aircraft: Manpower

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what force size of Harrier pilots is required to achieve harmony for 11 pilots in theatre. [236790]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** A total of 55 Harrier pilots would meet Royal Air Force harmony guidelines to support 11 Harrier pilots in theatre. In my answer on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 134-35W, I stated that there were currently 12 Harrier pilots deployed in Afghanistan. The exact number of deployed pilots has fluctuated between 11 and 12 depending on circumstances. Inquiries made to answer this question have revealed that the figure of 12 pilots in my earlier answer was incorrect and I can confirm that there are actually 11 Harrier pilots currently in Afghanistan.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 147W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, how many Jaish-al-Mahdi prisoners have been released as a result of these discussions; [239015]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 304W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, whether the discussions with representatives of Jaish-al-Mahdi included discussions on the withdrawal of the British Army to Basra airport. [239171]

**Mr. Hutton:** Decisions on the disposition, role and number of UK forces in Iraq are taken by the UK Government, based on advice from military commanders on the ground and in conjunction with our coalition partners and the Government of Iraq.

With the full knowledge and support of both our coalition partners and the Iraqi Government, discussions with senior figures in Jaish al-Mahdi in Basra commenced in the summer of 2007 and continued until the end of that year. Over that period, 88 individuals were released from the divisional internment facility. For each of these individuals, the decision to release was taken by the Divisional Internment Review Committee on the basis that these individuals no longer represented an imperative threat to security.

### Military Aircraft

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of *(a)* Merlin HM MK1 and *(b)* Nimrod MR2 are (i) in service, (ii) in the forward fleet and (iii) fit for purpose. [237071]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The information requested for Merlin Mk1 and Nimrod MR2 aircraft that are in service, in the forward fleet and considered fit for purpose (FFP) is provided in the following table. 'In service' has been taken to mean the effective fleet which covers all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal. Aircraft in the forward fleet are those that are available to the front-line command for operational and training purposes, including those that are classed as 'short-term unserviceable'. Aircraft defined as fit for purpose are those considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date: these statistics are taken daily and reported as monthly averages.

| | *Merlin HM Mk1*[1] | *Nimrod MR2*[2] |
|---|---|---|
| Effective fleet | 42 | 15 |
| Forward fleet | 21 | 9 |
| Fit for purpose (FFP) | 12 | 5 |
| Forward fleet as a percentage of effective fleet | 50 | 60 |
| FFP as a percentage of forward fleet | 57 | 55 |

[1] Data as of 31 October 2008.
[2] Data as of 14 November 2008.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of extending the life of the C-130K fleet; [237383]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of purchasing one or more additional C-17s; [237384]

(3) what his latest estimate is of the in-service date of the A400M aircraft. [237385]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** It is planned that the Hercules C-130K fleet, the out-of-service date of which remains 2012, will be replaced by the A400M, which has a

planned in-service date of 2011. However, following the recent announcement of delays by Airbus Military in the A400M programme, we are considering a number of options as a contingency to mitigate any potential capability gaps that may arise. Options we are considering include an extension to the life of the C-130K fleet and leasing or procurement of additional C-17 capacity. We are monitoring the situation closely and are pressing Airbus Military for further information so we can make a detailed assessment of the impact on A400M production deliveries and the planned in-service date.

### Military Bases: Helicopters

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the levels of noise pollution from helicopters in the areas around *(a)* RAF Benson and *(b)* RAF Odiham. [237379]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Initial environmental baseline studies have been completed which include estimates of the existing noise climates (computer modelling) at all the sites being considered by programme Belvedere (a programme to rationalise the battlefield helicopter estate of Joint Helicopter Command). The programme includes RAF Odiham and RAF Benson.

An assessment of the potential changes in noise levels at existing and potential helicopter bases is being initiated by the project team. Their assessment will, in turn, closely inform the evaluation of the options.

### Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many new referrals to each Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit there have been in each year since 2003. [234922]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The number of referrals of military patients to the NHS trusts hosting the five Ministry of Defence Hospital Units (MDHUs) since 2003 are shown as follows. The data relate to in-patient and out-patient referrals for all medical conditions. Most operational casualties, however, are treated under the auspices of the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine in Birmingham (which is not an MDHU).

| *MDHU* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008 (up to 31 October 2008)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Derriford | 1,741 | 2,360 | 2,227 | 2,438 | 2,428 | 1,621 |
| Frimley Park | 4,533 | 6,015 | 5,779 | 5,812 | 5,800 | 3,765 |
| Northallerton | [1]n/a | [1]139 | 3,613 | 2,453 | 3,324 | 1,910 |
| Peterborough | 3,612 | 3,780 | 3,471 | 3,362 | 3,894 | 3,839 |
| Portsmouth | 4,738 | 4,264 | 4,619 | 4,502 | 4,217 | 2,552 |

n/a = Not available
[1] South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust did not account for referrals to MDHU Northallerton before November 2005.

### Nuclear Power: Emergencies

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* departmental officials and *(b)* members of the armed services are available for mobilisation in the event of a nuclear accident emergency; and what level of training is given to departmental officials on nuclear emergency response. [237285]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The number of civilian and military personnel employed within the MOD's nuclear accident response organisation will vary depending on the type, location and circumstances of any defence nuclear accident. It is therefore not possible to give precise numbers of personnel employed.

All those engaged in the nuclear accident response organisation are fully trained. Nuclear accident response capability is demonstrated on a regular basis to the satisfaction of the Health and Safety Executive (Nuclear Installations Inspectorate) and the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator.

### Nuclear Weapons

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any of the UK's nuclear bombs exploded during *(a)* the major trials of the 1950s and 1960s in Australia and the Pacific Islands and *(b)* the minor tests code-named Kittens, Tims, Rats and Vixen conducted at Maralinga, contained beryllium. [237226]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Beryllium was employed in major weapon design trials undertaken in Australia and the Pacific Islands in the 1950s. The UK did not carry out any major trials in the 1960s.

Beryllium was also used in minor trials in the 1950s and 1960s, including some in the four series referred to. It has not proved possible in the time available to determine which individual tests in these four series did involve beryllium.

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military personnel are based in Sudan; and how many work with *(a)* NATO forces, *(b)* EU forces and *(c)* other forces. [238274]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The UK currently has six military personnel based in Sudan. Two are in the defence section within the embassy, three are with the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), and one is with the UN/AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). The UK holds a further four posts in UNAMID for which three staff officers are due to deploy in the next two weeks.

### Tornado Aircraft

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Tornado GR4 aircraft are available; how many were available in *(a)* October 2007 and *(b)* each month of 2008 to date; and how many aircraft were unserviceable at the latest date for which figures are available. [236463]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The numbers of Tornado GR4 aircraft in the forward available fleet (FAF) for the months of October 2007 and January to October 2008 are detailed in the following table. FAF aircraft are those that are available to the front-line command for operational and training purposes; aircraft undergoing scheduled depth maintenance, or planned routine fleet maintenance are not included.

| | *Average number of Tornado GR4 in forward fleet* |
|---|---|
| *2007* | |
| October | 106 |
| *2008* | |
| January | 106 |
| February | 106 |
| March | 106 |
| April | 106 |
| May | 106 |
| June | 106 |
| July | 106 |
| August | 106 |
| September | 105 |
| October | 102 |

In October 2008 an average of 18 Tornado GR4 aircraft were not fit for purpose (FFP). Aircraft defined as not FFP are those considered not to be capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date; this includes aircraft undergoing short-term forward maintenance and other minor works.

The figures shown are the average for each of the given months, and have been rounded to the nearest whole number. The figures do not reflect the fact that an aircraft assessed as not FFP may be returned to the front line at very short notice to meet the operational need.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of Tornado GR4s are *(a)* in service, *(b)* in the forward fleet and *(c)* fit for purpose by squadron. [237073]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The information requested is only measured across the entire fleet. The numbers of Tornado GR4 aircraft that are in service, in the forward available fleet (FAF) and considered fit for purpose (FFP) are detailed in the following table. FAF aircraft are those that are available to the front-line command for operational and training purposes; aircraft undergoing scheduled depth maintenance, or planned routine fleet maintenance are not included.

Aircraft defined as FFP are those considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date; this does not include aircraft undergoing short-term forward maintenance and other minor works. The FAF and FFP figures shown are the average for the month of October 2008, and have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

| *Tornado GR4* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Number of aircraft in total fleet | 138 | 100 |
| Average number in forward fleet | 102 | 74 |
| Average number fit for purpose | 84 | 82 |

The figures do not reflect the fact that an aircraft assessed as not FFP may be returned to the front line at very short notice to meet the operational need.

### Trident

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made, with reference to the Trident submarine replacement programme, of *(a)* the adequacy of the contingency set aside, *(b)* the robustness of the calculation of inflation over the programme lifetime and *(c)* whether value-added tax will have to be paid for all or part of the expenditure on the programme. [237102]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** In compiling the initial estimates of the procurement costs involved in sustaining our independent deterrent capability set out in the December 2006 White Paper: The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent (Cm 6994) the Ministry of Defence followed HM Treasury guidance and the figures recognise uncertainty and the tendency for costs to be underestimated. As the costs mature through the Concept phase, they will capture the interdependent nature of the costs of the different elements of the programme.

Like the rest of Government, the MOD manages its finances so that inflation is taken into account. The figures set out in the White Paper are shown at 2006-07 prices but the Department's internal budgetary planning allows for the impact of inflation. The additional funding that the MOD received as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 settlement was provided on this basis.

The Ministry of Defence has assumed that VAT will be zero-rated for the submarine platform in the same way it currently applies to the Astute programme. The actual tax treatment of all the elements of the programme cannot be determined until nearer the time the contracts are placed and the precise manner in which we will procure the programme elements has been determined. The associated risk that the current VAT treatment assumptions may change has been recognised in compiling the estimates for the programme.

## OLYMPICS

### Departmental Early Retirement

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many employees in her Office have taken early retirement since its inception; and at what total cost. [238965]

**Tessa Jowell:** Since its inception no employees in my Office have taken early retirement.

### Olympic Games 2012: Ministry of Defence

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether the terms of reference set for KPMG in relation to its report on venue options for the 2012 Olympics included an instruction to hold discussions with the Ministry of Defence. [237719]

**Tessa Jowell:** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]* KPMG was instructed to assist in the evaluation of the options analysis including for the use of the Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich as the venue for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games shooting competitions. As announced following the Olympic Board on 19 November, the KPMG report will be published but it will be necessary to ensure it does not contain commercially sensitive material.

## HEALTH

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what responsibility strategic health authorities have to manage the performance of primary care trust services commissioning in order to reduce harm from alcohol. [237161]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department's operating framework for 2008-11 describes the business processes required throughout the system to support delivery against national and local priorities, ensure local accountability and drive transformation for the benefit of patients. As part of the operating framework, the Department put in place a new vital signs indicator for the national health service from April 2008 that will measure change in the rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) need to choose, in consultation with local partners, which Tier 3 indicators to prioritise locally. 99 PCTs have chosen alcohol as a Tier 3 indicator. Assurance of this process must take place at local level, between the strategic health authority (SHA) and PCT.

Where a PCT identifies reducing the rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions as a local priority, they will set annual plans to be jointly signed off by SHAs and in the case of any agreed local area agreement (LAA) priority, by the regional Government Office (GO). The Department's teams in each GO will work with the SHA to ensure this process is managed effectively in each region.

The intention is that performance against all vital signs indicators will be published annually. This will allow a local population to understand how well or poorly their local PCT is performing across a range of commissioner responsibilities and will be part of local conversation between PCTs and their populations. PCTs will therefore want to track progress against all the vital signs indicators.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what he plans to include within the new standardised codes for alcohol-related activity under NHS Connecting for Health; and when the codes will become active; [237163]

(2) what each of the current Read codes for alcohol-related activity is. [237250]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There are currently three different versions of Read codes (4byte, Version2, and Clinical Terms Version 3 - CTV3) in use within the national health service in England, and SNOMED CT which is the strategic terminology that is being deployed in new systems. All concepts authored in Read codes are simultaneously authored in SNOMED CT.

A complete list of over 300 published Read codes relating to alcohol-related activity, listed according to the CTV3 preferred term, has been placed in the Library. These codes are available for use now.

All versions of the Read codes and SNOMED CT are published bi-annually, in April and October. To date NHS Connecting for Health has received no further requests for additional coding to support the recording of alcohol-related activity for inclusion in the next scheduled release, planned for April 2009.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve *(a)* the quantity and *(b)* quality of data on alcohol screening. [237252]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We have taken steps to enable primary care practitioners to record their work in alcohol identification and brief advice. New Read codes for general practitioners computing have been available since May 2008. This enables data to be collected locally and nationally.

Work undertaken in future as part of the recently announced clinical Directed Enhanced Service (DES) for identification and brief advice for alcohol misuse for newly registered patients and as part of Locally Enhanced Services (LES) for additional adult groups in individual primary care trusts (PCTs) can be recorded using the new codes.

Use of the new codes will enable PCTs and the Department to monitor how identification and brief advice is being taken up in primary care.

### Asperger's Syndrome: Health Services

**Dr. Tony Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department makes available to adults who have Asperger's syndrome. [236780]

**Phil Hope:** "Better Services for people with an autistic spectrum disorder", published on 16 November 2006, clarified the nature and intent of Government policy as it relates to adults with an autistic spectrum condition (ASC) including Asperger's syndrome. It encourages people in the social care and health field to develop local agendas for action. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

As part of our commitment to meeting the needs of people with ASCs, we announced, in May 2008, a programme of work which will lead to a strategy for adults with autism, including Asperger's syndrome, that we will consult on next year.

### Carers: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people over the age of 60 were registered as carers in Tamworth constituency in each year since 1997. [237327]

**Phil Hope:** I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave on 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1190W, to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) and the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr. Evennett).

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (a) cards, (b) parties and (c) decorations in the last 12 months. [237486]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The amount the Department spent on purchasing Christmas cards for 2007 (inclusive of VAT) was £4,478.27. This does not include postage costs which are not available due to some cards being included with other correspondence or being hand delivered.

All expenditure incurred in the purchase and postage of Christmas cards is made in accordance with the Department's guidance on financial propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting.

In respect of the cost of Christmas parties in the last 12 months, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 367W, to the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr. Prisk).

In December 2007, the Department spent £2,755.65 on Christmas trees and decorations. This year's Christmas trees and decorations, paid for in October 2008, cost £2,966.68. These figures are inclusive of VAT.

Information on what agencies spend on these items is not held centrally.

### Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the effect on NHS costs of achieving full compliance by primary care trusts with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence appraisal TA97 on computerised cognitive behavioural therapy for depression and anxiety; [237029]

(2) what discussions officials from his Department have had with the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency on establishing a national contract for the purchase of treatments for the depression treatment beating the blues; and what estimate his Department has made of the potential change in cost to the NHS of this method of purchase compared with individual primary care trust commissioning. [237259]

**Phil Hope:** Departmental officials have recently met with the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency, who are currently reviewing the National Framework Agreement which assists primary care trusts in their local commissioning decisions about purchasing licences for Beating the Blues. As these decisions are taken locally the Department does not determine the cost and volume of licences to be provided. In these circumstances, no national estimate can be made.

However, there will be significant cost savings to the national health service by implementing Improving Access to Psychological Therapies services by reducing pressure on specialist psychology services in mental health trusts and reducing inappropriate referrals made to acute hospital trusts for people with medically unexplained symptoms.

We also expect to see savings to the economy as a whole by these new services making a contribution to helping people with these conditions retain or return to employment, thus reducing the burden on the Exchequer for the cost of statutory sick pay and incapacity benefit.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many treatments of *(a)* Beating the Blues and *(b)* Fear Fighter primary care trusts have commissioned through the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency using the National Framework Agreement; and if he will make a statement. [237179]

**Phil Hope:** Since the introduction of National Framework Agreement in 2007, 55 primary care trusts have commissioned licences for 30,458 treatments for Beating the Blues.

Due to the different pricing structure, it is not possible to provide the number of commissioned treatments for Fear Fighter. The licences sold under this arrangement are unlimited per primary care trust and are based on head of population. The product has currently been taken up by 38 primary care trusts providing the availability to the local population depending on need.

### Dementia

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people with *(a)* Alzheimer's disease and *(b)* other forms of dementia in each (i) strategic health authority area and (ii) primary care trust area. [237078]

**Phil Hope:** The Department does not collect this information. However, the Dementia UK report, published in 2007 by the Alzheimer's Society, estimated that there were 683,997 people in the United Kingdom with dementia. The report also estimated that approximately 62 per cent. of people with dementia have Alzheimer's disease and that those with vascular dementia and mixed dementia account for 27 per cent.

### Dental Services: Contracts

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average length of time was between the issue of invitations to tender and the initiation of work for NHS dental contracts in the last period for which figures are available. [237708]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected centrally. Primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning dental services to meet the needs of their local populations and manage any tender exercises required locally.

### Dental Services: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists there are per 1,000 people in Tamworth borough. [237130]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested.

The number of dentists with national health service activity, during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 per 100,000 population is available in table G1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08 report". Information is available by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published work force figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. The revised methodology counts the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

### Departmental ICT

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each year since 1997. [234086]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not differentiate between stolen, missing or lost equipment, or between memory sticks and other portable storage devices. The portable equipment lost or stolen for the period April 1997 to March 2008 is as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Laptops lost/stolen* | *Mobile phones lost/stolen* | *Other IT equipment peripherals lost/stolen* | *Total items lost/stolen* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 23 | 19 | 38 | 80 |
| 1998-99 | 19 | 19 | 37 | 75 |
| 1999-2000 | 18 | 26 | 30 | 74 |
| 2000-01 | 23 | 43 | 36 | 102 |
| 2001-02 | 35 | 36 | 18 | 89 |
| 2002-03 | 30 | 37 | 27 | 94 |
| 2003-04 | 34 | 29 | 16 | 79 |
| 2004-05 | 23 | 15 | 14 | 52 |
| 2005-06 | 16 | 11 | 10 | 39 |
| 2006-07 | 11 | 18 | 12 | 41 |
| 2007-08 | 04 | 21 | 0 | 35 |
| Total | 248 | 274 | 238 | 760 |

The Department takes the security and protection of its assets very seriously. Its policy and procedures are constantly reviewed and cases of losses or thefts are investigated. As a further deterrent, the Department marks its portable equipment with an invisible forensic dye called Smartwater. The Department's Security Unit continues to raise security awareness and physical protection of information technology equipment among its staff.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work and *(b)* provide assistance for his Department. [233526]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** As at April 2008 the Department's Media Centre employed 28 full-time press officers and no part-time press officers.

In addition, as at April 2008 there were five full-time press officers and no part-time press officers working in the Department that are employed by the NHS Business Services Authority on behalf of NHS Connecting for Health.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much surplus land *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies own; and what the (i) area and (ii) estimated monetary value of each site is. [236423]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department owns approximately 80 hectares of land and buildings that has been identified as currently surplus to requirements. A disposal strategy is in place for each. The following is a list of the more substantial properties with their estimated land area. Their estimated value is commercially confidential. The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency do not have any surplus land.

The information relating to the Department is in the following table:

| *Property* | *Estimated area (hectares)* |
|---|---|
| Laverneo, Grindon, Sunderland | 0.05 |
| 50 Scattergate Green, Appleby | 0.05 |
| Eagle Cottages, Jarrow | 0.05 |
| Land at Morton Banks, Keighley | 2.42 |
| Northern View, Bradford | 2.89 |
| White Hart, Harrogate | 0.33 |
| Warwick Cottage, Melton Mowbray | 0.10 |
| Land at Victoria Hospital, Worksop | 0.44 |
| Lakeview Close, Walsall | 1.51 |
| Land at Crone Hills, West Bromwich | 0.05 |
| Land at Wellington Hospital, Telford | 0.10 |
| Land at Gloucester Fields, St. Albans | 0.49 |
| Part Harperbury Hospital, Radlett | 36.8 |
| Land at Harps Close, Sudbury | 1.30 |
| Land at Harwich Hospital, Harwich | 0.76 |
| Part Little Plumstead Hospital, Norwich | 12.60 |
| Former Hinchingbroke Health Centre, Huntingdon | 0.72 |
| Rope Walk House, St. Neots | 0.05 |
| Land at Napsbury, St. Albans | 9.08 |
| St. James' Court, Balham | 0.24 |
| Dog Kennel Wood, Maidstone | 2.15 |
| Garratt Lane, Wandsworth | 0.05 |
| 10 Palmer Crescent, Ottershaw | 0.05 |
| 22-38 Princes Road, Redhill | 0.17 |
| Blackbrook House, Fareham | 1.24 |
| 63/65 Bardsley Drive, Fareham | 0.05 |
| Oaklands, Plymouth | 0.05 |
| Farm Lane House, Plymouth | 0.05 |
| Hilcyon House, Plymouth | 0.05 |
| Woodside Car Park, Plymouth | 0.11 |
| 332 High Road, Tottenham | 0.05 |
| Land at St. Georges Hospital, Hornchurch | 3.10 |

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236924]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department publishes details of its public bodies on an annual basis. The latest version, Public Bodies 2007 is available on the Appointments Commission website at:

http://www.appointments.org.uk/publications.asp.

A copy has been placed in the Library.

The 2008-09 budgets for the executive non-departmental public bodies (ENDPBs) are:

*2008-09 Recurrent Budgets*

*£000*

| | *Near cash* | *Non cash* |
|---|---|---|
| Alcohol Education and Research Council | 0 | 0 |
| Appointments Commission | 3,521 | 50 |
| Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence | 1,950 | 110 |
| Commission for Social Care Inspection | 41,349 | 15,400 |
| General Social Care Council | 8,529 | 2,158 |
| Healthcare Commission | 45,513 | 3,400 |
| Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority | 2,405 | 351 |
| Health Protection Agency | 148,943 | 22,700 |
| Human Tissue Authority | 738 | 428 |
| Monitor | 12,657 | 0 |
| National Biological Standards Board | 12,416 | 6,184 |
| Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board | 1,793 | 250 |

The advisory non-departmental public bodies (ANDPBs) sponsored by the Department incur little or no expenditure and are resourced from within the Department. As a result, information on budgets for 2008-09 is not available.

No decisions have yet been made on the ENDPB budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 onwards.

### Diabetes: Children

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 16 years have type 1 diabetes in *(a)* Winchester and the Meon Valley, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* England. [238275]

**Ann Keen:** Data on the number of children under the age of 16 years with diabetes in Winchester and the Meon Valley and Hampshire are not collected centrally.

At a national level, exact figures for the number of children diagnosed with and treated for diabetes are not available. However, estimates suggest that approximately 20,000 children are currently diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in England.

### Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Dr. Stoate:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the use of the anti-opiate drug buprenorphine/naloxone; whether any assessments has been undertaken of buprenorphine/naloxone where the comparator was buprenorphine alone; and what benefits were detected; [236364]

(2) what assessment the NHS has made of whether buprenorphine/naloxone is regarded as having any advantages over buprenorphine alone in helping patients recover from the physical and behavioural aspects of opioid dependence; and if he will make a statement. [236365]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) provides independent guidance on public health, health technologies and clinical practice, including the use of drugs by the national health service.

In January 2007 NICE published the 'Technology Appraisal' "Methadone and buprenorphine for managing opioid dependence", which recommended the use of both methadone and buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid dependence. However, this appraisal did not consider Suboxone, a newer product which combines buprenorphine and naloxone.

In 2007, the independent expert group commissioned to develop the United Kingdom clinical guidelines on the management of substance misuse considered the available research evidence on prescribing of Suboxone and the limited clinical experience in the UK. Their considered advice is included in the four UK Health Departments' publication, "Drug misuse and dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management", published in September 2007 (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library), and can be found at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/Substancemisuse/Substancemisusegeneralinformation/DH_4064342

As with all new medicines, Suboxone's exact place in treatment is still being established, although the Department's clarification of August 2007 that Suboxone can be dispensed using existing instalment dispensing arrangements may have removed a possible barrier to the availability of Suboxone.

Both Suboxone and buprenorphine are available on the national health service. The decision to use either drug is a clinical one, taken following consultation with the patient about their clinical needs and priorities.

### Food: Imports

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what rules his Department applies to the labelling of food and food products imported from *(a)* Israel, *(b)* Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories, *(c)* Israeli-controlled areas of the Palestinian territories and *(d)* areas of the Palestinian territories under the control of the Palestinian Authority; whether he plans to make any changes to those rules; and if he will make a statement. [238064]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Country of origin information is legally required for certain foods (fresh or frozen beef, veal, fish and shellfish, wine, honey, olive oil and most fresh fruit and vegetables). For other foods, the EC food labelling directive (2000/13/EC) requires an indication of the place of origin of a food if failure to give it might mislead a purchaser to a material degree about its true origin or provenance. These rules are implemented by the UK Food Labelling Regulations 1996.

The Government consider that it would be considered to be misleading to declare produce from the Occupied

Palestinian Territories as produce of Israel. We also consider that goods labelled as 'produce of the west bank' should indicate to consumers whether they are buying goods from a Palestinian producer in the west bank or from an illegal Israeli settlement in the west bank. The Government are currently considering the development of voluntary guidance for retailers and manufacturers on clearer labelling on products from illegal Israeli settlements.

### General Practitioners

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many copies of his Department's guidance and competencies for the provision of services using GPs with Special Interests: dermatology and skin surgery, have been printed; what the budget for distribution of the documents is; what criteria were used for the dissemination of the documents to *(a)* commissioners of services, *(b)* general practitioners and *(c)* other clinicians and health professionals; and if he will make a statement. [235882]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department's current guidance document, 'Guidance and Competencies for the Provision of Services using GPs with Special Interests', was published on the Department's website in April 2007, and publicised through the websites of the British Association of Dermatology, Primary Care Contracting and other routes. A small number of copies on CD were made available at the launch event. There is no budget for distribution of the guidance in hard copy. A copy has been placed in the Library.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_074665

### General Practitioners: Pharmacy

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to take steps to minimise variations in service specifications across primary care trust areas in implementing proposals set out in the Pharmacy White Paper. [236488]

**Phil Hope:** The White Paper "Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths—Delivering the Future", set out the Government's proposals to strengthen commissioning in pharmacy and recognised that primary care trusts' (PCTs) local needs assessments are a valuable part of that process. It also recognised that there was considerable variation in the scope, depth and breadth of pharmaceutical needs assessments developed by PCTs to identify local needs and that they required further review and strengthening to ensure they are an effective and robust commissioning tool.

To help implement this, NHS Employers has been developing an appropriate support programme for PCTs. Guidance is expected to be finalised in the near future.

### Health Centres

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 83W, on health centres, for what reasons he has not asked primary care trusts to assess the expected *(a)* volume of activity and *(b)* local demand prior to opening a health centre. [235604]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Primary care trusts are planning the delivery and location of the general practitioner-led health centres and the services each will offer based on local health needs assessments and following an affordability and demand planning exercise which includes estimating the volume of patient activity required to meet expected capacity of the new service tendered for.

### Health Education

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health trainers there are in each primary care trust (PCT); and how many people have been helped by health trainers in each PCT in the last 12 months. [237399]

**Ann Keen:** Figures are not available centrally in the precise form requested.

In April 2008 there were 3,657 health trainers (individuals not whole-time equivalents) employed, funded, or supported by the national health service in primary care trust (PCT) areas.

Data on the number of clients seen by health trainers are not available centrally for all PCTs on a consistent or comprehensive basis.

The following table shows the distribution of health trainers between PCTs.

*Numbers of health trainers in England by primary care trust in April 2008*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan | 78 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 94 |
| Barnsley Primary Care Trust | 11 |
| Bath and North East Somerset Health Trainer Service | 8 |
| Bedfordshire | 15 |
| Berkshire West | 6 |
| Bexley HT project | 65 |
| Birmingham East and North Primary Care Trust | 13 |
| Blackpool | 74 |
| Blackpool with Darwen | 29 |
| Bolton | 58 |
| Bradford District Health Trainer Service | 84 |
| Brent HT programme | 126 |
| Bridlington Health Trainers | 17 |
| Brighton and Hove | 48 |
| Bristol Health Trainers | 23 |
| Buckinghamshire | 0 |
| Bury | 66 |
| Calderdale Community Health Trainers | 12 |
| Camden | 13 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire | 0 |
| Central Lancashire PCT HT Service | 11 |
| Change of Heart—Nottingham City PCT | 99 |
| Connect 4 life, Tameside and Glossop PCT | 18 |
| Cornwall Health Trainer Service | 28 |
| County Durham PCT Health Trainer Service | 94 |
| Coventry PCT | 20 |
| Cumbria | 49 |
| Derby City | 0 |
| Derby County | 117 |
| Devon | 40 |
| Doncaster PCT | 32 |

*Numbers of health trainers in England by primary care trust in April 2008*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Dudley Health Trainer service | 0 |
| Ealing | 30 |
| East and Coastal Kent | 121 |
| East Lancashire | 129 |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald | 0 |
| Enfield | 14 |
| Gateshead HT Partnership | 50 |
| Gloucestershire PCT | 0 |
| Great Yarmouth | 10 |
| Greenwich teaching PCT | 140 |
| Halton—Reach for the Stars Health Trainer Service | 26 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 8 |
| Hampshire PCT | 16 |
| Hartlepool Health Trainer Service | 8 |
| Hastings HT service | 12 |
| Havering | 0 |
| Health Lifestyle coaching—Reading | 9 |
| Health Trainer Service—Worcestershire PCT | 9 |
| Heart of Birmingham | 27 |
| Herefordshire Primary Care Trust: Health Trainer Service | 0 |
| HIV Health Support | 4 |
| Hounslow | 80 |
| HT North Tyneside | 32 |
| Hull Health Trainer Service | 32 |
| Isle of Wight HT service | 39 |
| Islington | 12 |
| Knowsley | 21 |
| Lambeth PCT HT | 36 |
| Leeds NHS Health Trainers | 39 |
| Leicester City | 8 |
| Leicester county and Rutland | 9 |
| Lewisham HT Scheme | 1 |
| Lincolnshire | 31 |
| Liverpool | 44 |
| Luton | 0 |
| Manchester | 40 |
| Medway | 0 |
| Mid Essex | 11 |
| Middlesbrough PCT and Redcar and Cleveland PCT | 21 |
| Milton Keynes | 0 |
| Newcastle Community HT | 37 |
| Norfolk | 64 |
| North East Essex | 0 |
| North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus (CTP) | 197 |
| North Kirklees Health Trainers/Huddersfield Health Trainers | 19 |
| North Lancaster | 0 |
| North Lincolnshire PCT | 30 |
| North Somerset PCT, Health Trainer service | 4 |
| North Staffs PCT | 0 |
| North Tees | 26 |
| North Yorkshire and York PCT | 37 |
| Northamptonshire | 40 |
| Northumberland | 49 |
| Nottinghamshire County and Bassetlaw | 21 |
| Oxfordshire | 10 |
| Peterborough | 43 |
| Portsmouth HT | 24 |

*Numbers of health trainers in England by primary care trust in April 2008*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Rochdale Boroughwide HT service | 25 |
| Rotherham NHS Health Trainers | 61 |
| Salford Community Health Trainers | 20 |
| Sandwell PCT | 29 |
| Sefton | 60 |
| Sheffield PCT | 0 |
| Solihull Care Trust | 1 |
| Somerset PCT | 7 |
| South Birmingham PCT Health Trainer Service | 0 |
| South East Essex | 0 |
| South Staffs PCT | 38 |
| South Tyneside | 12 |
| South West Essex | 0 |
| Southampton City PCT HT Service | 50 |
| Southwark | 56 |
| St. Helens—Choices Health Trainers | 51 |
| Steps to Health—HT programme, Oldham Community Health Services | 30 |
| Stockport | 11 |
| Stoke on Trent Lifestyle Support Programme | 0 |
| Suffolk | 2 |
| Sunderland HT Service | 38 |
| Surrey | 8 |
| Telford Wrekin Primary Care Trust | 4 |
| The Swindon Health Ambassador Scheme | 0 |
| Torbay | 6 |
| Tower Hamlets HT Pilot Programme | 27 |
| Wakefield District Primary Care Trust | 67 |
| Walsall Health Trainer Service | 15 |
| Warwickshire | 15 |
| West Essex (Epping Forest) | 3 |
| West Kent | 0 |
| West Sussex | 3 |
| Western Cheshire | 7 |
| Westminster HT programme | 29 |
| Wiltshire PCT | 4 |
| Wirral PCT Health Trainer Programme | 0 |
| Wolverhampton | 0 |
| Total | 3,657 |

*Notes:*
These data are based on returns from the National Implementation Team provided in order to track progress and not central returns to the Department.
Number of health trainers.
1. Presently health trainers are not included in the NHS workforce survey.
2. The numbers of health trainers are people but not whole-time equivalents.
3. They are not necessarily employed by the NHS.
4. They are not necessarily funded wholly by the NHS.

## Health Services: Foreigners

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was spent on providing assistance with health care costs to *(a)* foreign nationals and *(b)* higher education students through the HC2 form in each of the last five years; [237397]

(2) how many *(a)* foreign nationals and *(b)* higher education students (i) applied for and (ii) received assistance with health care costs in each of the last five years. [237398]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Health Services: Low Incomes

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure that the HC1 claim form can be downloaded from the internet. [236484]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has asked the prescription pricing division of the national health service business services authority to look at how the service for NHS low income scheme customers can be improved. Options being considered include on-line form completion and downloadable forms.

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* change in cost to callers and *(b)* revenue generated for his Department as a result of changing the telephone number for ordering an HC1 form from an 0300 to an 0845 number. [236485]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There has been no change in the cost to callers requesting an HC1 form as it has never been available from an 0300 number. HC1 forms are only available from the national health service forms order line on 0845 610 1112. No income is generated from incoming telephone calls to this number.

The prescription pricing division of the NHS business services authority is currently reviewing the relative costs and benefits of alternatives to the 0845 number currently in use.

### Health Services: Manchester

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of administering the concessionary scheme for patients when the Greater Manchester congestion charge scheme is implemented. [238055]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** No estimate has been made of the costs of administering concessionary schemes for patients should the proposed Greater Manchester congestion charge scheme be implemented.

A Greater Manchester National Health Service Transport Innovation Fund Working Group has been established that will further develop the arrangements proposed for the reimbursement of those attending medical appointments. The working group is committed to ensuring that any discount scheme is fair and equitable for people who need to attend health care facilities. The group will continue to incorporate the views and perspectives of NHS organisations from across Greater Manchester and will also progress work on the administration of any reimbursement scheme that is introduced.

The guiding principle will be that administration costs must be minimal with respect to staff time and that technological developments should be optimised to ensure that there is no unnecessary bureaucracy at trust sites.

The people of Greater Manchester will be able to vote on the Greater Manchester Innovation Fund Proposals in a referendum to be held on 11 December 2008.

### Health Services: Overseas Students

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department plans to review the provision of health care to non-EU students in higher education; [237230]

(2) whether his Department plans to review the provision of health care to foreign students. [237396]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Students from overseas who are in the United Kingdom for the purpose of pursuing a full-time course of study of at least six months' duration, or a course of any length which is substantially funded by the United Kingdom Government, are currently exempt from charges for hospital treatment. There are no plans to review this arrangement.

In conjunction with the Home Office, the Department is currently reviewing access to national health service health care by foreign nationals. Among other things, the review will consider access to primary medical services for all students from overseas. A full public consultation on this review will take place next year.

### Health Services: Overseas Visitors

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the outcomes of his review of access to the NHS by foreign nationals. [236475]

**Ann Keen:** The review of access to the national health service by foreign nationals, which is currently being conducted jointly by the Department and the Home Department, has taken longer than expected due to the complex and inter-connecting issues under consideration. A full public consultation exercise will be undertaken early next year.

### Health Services: Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for which statistics relating to *(a)* hospitals, *(b)* maternity units and *(c)* other health services in England, about which information has been sought by means of parliamentary questions in the current Session, his Department has answered that such information is not collected centrally. [235898]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Answers which state that information is not collected centrally are a matter of public record, available in the *Official Report*, but are not identified separately by the Department in its own systems. Therefore, to check all such answers sent this session would involve disproportionate cost.

The Department maintains rigorous procedures to ensure that it collects the most valuable statistical information. Information collected from the national health service by the Department is subject to a process called the Review of Central Returns. This seeks to ensure that information collected fits with national policies for health, does not duplicate existing collections, and minimises the burden to the NHS. Further details are available on the NHS Information Centre's website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/services/the-review-of-central-returns-rocr

### Health Services: Prisoners

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the standard of health care for prisoners in England and Wales in comparison to that received outside prisons through the National Health Service. [237615]

**Phil Hope:** With regard to England, health services in prisons are monitored on three main fronts.

Within prisons, her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) undertake both announced and unannounced inspections of prison establishments, from which reports are produced and progress monitored. Health services to prisoners are included in these inspection visits. HMIP have worked closely with the Healthcare Commission to ensure that national health service standards relating to primary health trusts (PCTs) commissioning of health services in custody reflect the standards expected by all NHS organisations. Both organisations have a memorandum of understanding to support work in this area.

The Department has developed a range of prison health performance indicators to assess NHS standards of services provided in custody to support commissioners to measure these services against those that would generally be provided in the community. These new performance standards were introduced in 2008 across the prison estate with a 98 per cent. completion rate. These reports are supported at the strategic health authority level and allow for local monitoring and service development. The reports also enable comparison across establishments of the same size, same type of prison and same expected activity.

The Independent Monitoring Boards in each establishment provide an annual report highlighting progress and any concerns. Health care is included in this report. Both PCTs and the Department are expected to provide responses to any health issues including any action plans to improve services.

Health services in prisons in Wales are a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

### Hearing Aid Council

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Hearing Aid Council to be disbanded. [238864]

**Phil Hope:** We are working towards the required secondary legislation to allow the closure of the Hearing Aid Council and the transfer of its register to the Health Professions Council in March 2010.

### Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health care-acquired infections there were in each primary care trust area in each of the last five years. [237222]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not available. The mandatory surveillance system in England applies to national health service acute trusts and data on primary care trusts are not currently compiled.

### Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many girls in each local authority area have opted out of receiving the human papilloma virus vaccination. [237401]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not collect these data centrally.

### IVF: Costs

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost to the NHS in each of the next 10 years of mandatory guidance on in-vitro fertilisation produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [237175]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Primary care trusts (PCTs) are making progress towards the implementation of the recommendations in the clinical guideline produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in 2004. We have estimated that the cost of funding up to three cycles of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) in all PCTs is in the region of £170 million a year above the cost of the present level of provision. The estimate is subject to considerable uncertainty; it does not take into account recent progress made towards the full implementation of the NICE fertility guideline, for example in the East of England strategic health authority, and it varies with differing assessments of factors such as the number of people seeking treatment in the future and the range of costs of IVF treatment.

### Maternity Services: Manpower

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the most recent local maternity workforce plans submitted to his Department by strategic health authorities. [238537]

**Ann Keen:** The most recent local maternity workforce plans submitted to the Department by strategic health authorities (SHAs) were interim plans in February 2008 and these plans may have changed following ongoing work with primary care trust (PCTs) and providers. A summary of the local maternity workforce plans is shown in the following tables.

*Summary of SHA Midwifery Workforce Plans, February 2008*

*Headcount*

| *SHA* | *2006* | *2007* | *2009* | *2012* | *Change 2006 to 2009* | *Percentage change 2006-09* | *Change 2006 to 2012* | *Percentage change* | *Plan signed off* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 1,703 | 1,692 | 1,792 | 1,942 | 89 | 5.23 | 239 | 14.03 | Yes |

*Summary of SHA Midwifery Workforce Plans, February 2008*

*Headcount*

| *SHA* | *2006* | *2007* | *2009* | *2012* | *Change 2006 to 2009* | *Percentage change 2006-09* | *Change 2006 to 2012* | *Percentage change* | *Plan signed off* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | 2,326 | 2,380 | 2,439 | 2,586 | 113 | 4.86 | 260 | 11.18 | Yes |
| London | 4,301 | 4,188 | 4,402 | 4,720 | 101 | 2.35 | 419 | 9.74 | Yes |
| North East | 1,272 | 1,284 | 1,323 | 1,390 | 51 | 4.01 | 118 | 9.28 | Yes |
| North West | 3,949 | 4,030 | 4,193 | 4,437 | 244 | 6.18 | 488 | 12.36 | Yes |
| South Central | 1,550 | 1,787 | 1,855 | 2,329 | 305 | 19.68 | 779 | 50.26 | Yes |
| South East Coast | 1,760 | 1,808 | 2,368 | 2,538 | 608 | 34.55 | 778 | 44.20% | Yes |
| South West | 2,370 | 2,344 | 2,556 | 2,875 | 186 | 7.85 | 505 | 21.31 | Yes |
| West Midlands | 2,770 | 2,750 | 2,924 | 3,063 | 154 | 5.56 | 293 | 10.58 | Yes |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 2,443 | 2,460 | 2,492 | 2,644 | 49 | 2.01 | 201 | 8.23 | Yes |
| England total | 24,444 | 24,723 | 26,344 | 28,524 | 1,900 | 7.77 | 4,080 | 16.69 | — |

*FTE*

| *SHA* | *2006* | *2007* | *2009* | *2012* | *Change 2006 to 2009* | *Percentage change 2006 to 2009* | *Change 2006 to 2012* | *Percentage change 2006 to 2012* | *Plan signed off* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 1,293 | 1,325 | 1,379 | 1,475 | 86 | 6.65 | 182 | 14.08 | Yes |
| East of England | 1,740 | 1,780 | 1,824 | 1,935 | 84 | 4.83 | 195 | 11.21 | Yes |
| London | 3,436 | 3,532 | 3,712 | 3,980 | 276 | 8.03 | 544 | 15.83 | Yes |
| North East | 1,003 | 1,014 | 1,045 | 1,098 | 42 | 4.19 | 95 | 9.47 | Yes |
| North West | 3,138 | 3,219 | 3,382 | 3,626 | 244 | 7.78 | 488 | 15.55 | Yes |
| South Central | 1,145 | 1,278 | 1,326 | 1,690 | 181 | 15.81 | 545 | 47.60 | Yes |
| South East Coast | 1,325 | 1,361 | 1,783 | 1,910 | 458 | 34.57 | 585 | 44.15 | Yes |
| South West | 1,774 | 1,760 | 1,924 | 2,164 | 150 | 8.46 | 390 | 21.98 | Yes |
| West Midlands | 2,092 | 2,136 | 2,282 | 2,393 | 190 | 9.08 | 301 | 14.39 | Yes |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 1,904 | 1,918 | 1,942 | 2,061 | 38 | 2.00 | 157 | 8.25 | Yes |
| England total | 18,850 | 19,323 | 20,599 | 22,332 | 1,749 | 9.28 | 3,482 | 18.47 | — |

*Note:*
These figures were taken from individual SHA Maternity and Neo-natal workforce plans returned to the Department in February 2008. In addition, 2007 figures do not reflect the latest NHS Workforce Census Data. The 2006 figures are published data from the NHS Workforce Census.

### Multiple Sclerosis: Drugs

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 919-20W, on multiple sclerosis: drugs, what factors his Department considered when deciding not to publish Annex C of the ScHARR report; if he will place in the Library a full copy of the report; how many of the 5,000 patients subject to routine monitoring are still taking any of the drugs covered by the scheme; in which peer-reviewed medical journal the results of the two-year analysis will be published; and if he will make a statement. [237791]

**Ann Keen:** The Department considered a range of factors in deciding not to publish Annex C of the ScHARR report. These included the commercially confidential nature of the material in the annex. The ScHARR report was submitted to the Department as a summary of the work undertaken on the scheme. We have no plans to publish a full copy of the report or place it in the Library. A great majority of the 5,000 patients monitored in the risk sharing scheme are still taking the drugs covered by the scheme. Fuller details of patient numbers will be included in the forthcoming two-year analysis. Arrangements are being made for the publication of this analysis but it has yet to be accepted for publication in a specific journal.

### National Health Service: Telephone Numbering

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has considered changing its 084 telephone numbers to 03 numbers in the National Health Service; and if he will make a statement. [236189]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** An information gathering exercise has been completed on the use of 084 telephone numbers in general practice. As part of that exercise, the merits of 03 numbers have also been considered.

The information gathered has been subject to lengthy and detailed analysis before being shared with Ministers, who are currently deciding on the most appropriate course of action. In the meantime, the Department remains clear that it does not expect patients to pay more than the equivalent cost of a local rate call when contacting their general practitioner.

### NHS Direct

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what parties were consulted prior to the decision being taken that NHS Direct will not be granted foundation trust status; [237013]

(2) what plans his Department has to review the future operation of NHS Direct following the decision that it will not become a foundation trust; [237182]

(3) what reasons have been given to his Department for the decision by NHS Direct not to pursue foundation trust status; and if he will make a statement. [237636]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department of Health and NHS Direct jointly commissioned KPMG to look at options

for a future model for commissioning and delivering a multi-channel health information and advice service to the public. The review also considered whether foundation trust was an appropriate organisational form for NHS Direct.

In the course of the review, KPMG consulted representatives from:

the Department;

NHS Direct;

the NHS including: East Midlands Strategic Health Authority, Nottingham City Primary Care Trust, Birmingham East and North Primary Care Trust, Yorkshire Ambulance Trust, London Ambulance Service, Wolverhampton Primary Care Trust, Trafford Primary Care Trust, NHS Direct Wales, North East SHA, South West Ambulance Trust, East of England Primary Care Trust, NHS Blood and Transplant, Devon Doctors; and

external organisations including Pfizer Health Solutions UK.

The review concluded, among other things, that foundation trust status was not the right organisational model for NHS Direct at the current time. The recommendations were that NHS Direct's current status as an NHS trust should be retained for now until financial and contracting mechanisms are reviewed and agreed and foundation trust policy on national organisations is clarified. This does not preclude NHS Direct from reapplying for foundation trust status in the future. All parties agreed to accept the recommendations.

The Department continues its ongoing discussions with NHS Direct about future operational and organisation form, taking into account factors such as NHS Choices and the Government's wider work on digital technology.

## NHS: Cleaning Services

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations have been cancelled in the Leeds Health Authority area due to surgical equipment being inadequately sterilised in each of the last two years; and what estimate he has made of the cost of those cancellations to the NHS. [238697]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected centrally and no estimate of cost can be made.

The Government's cancelled operations policy introduced in April 2002 provides an incentive for hospitals to avoid cancellations by giving patients the right to move to the hospital of their choice if they are not treated within 28 days. Since this came into force, the number of operations cancelled at the last minute has fallen from 1.5 per cent. to 0.9 per cent. of elective activity.

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the value is of the contract awarded to the private sector company to carry out surgical equipment sterilisation in the Leeds Health Authority. [238698]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not hold the information requested.

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is part of a collaboration for decontamination services with Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust. Each trust has a separate contract with B. Braun Sterilog.

## NHS: Drugs

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 3.18 of the report to him by the National Cancer Director, Improving access to medicines for NHS patients; which NHS organisations *(a)* did and *(b)* did not maintain that a patient who purchases an additional private drug for a condition is no longer entitled to NHS care for that condition. [237022]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Professor Richards' review did not assess whether the existing guidance had been applied appropriately, but instead sought to develop a view on whether it was sufficiently comprehensive or clear to provide a useful resource for the national health service in the future.

Professor Richards found that there was too much variation across the country in the way the guidance was being applied. This is why the Secretary of State issued, on 4 November, revised guidance for consultation which makes clear that patients wishing to purchase additional private care should not have their NHS care withdrawn. A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of all submissions made to Professor Mike Richards' review reported on in "Improving access to medicines for NHS patients". [237023]

**Alan Johnson:** Professor Mike Richards published, as part of his report "Improving access to medicines for NHS patients", a summary of the views he heard as part of his comprehensive engagement exercise, including a summary of the mailbox responses. This can be found at appendix 2 of his report.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of the evidence referred to in paragraph 2.17 of "Improving access to medicines for NHS patients"; if he will list the criteria used to demonstrate cost-effectiveness; and if he will make a statement. [237025]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I understand that the evidence referred to by Professor Richards in paragraph 2.17 of his report includes appraisals conducted by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) such as NICE's appraisals of the clinical and cost-effectiveness of trastuzumab (Herceptin) for both early-stage and advanced HER2-positive breast cancer.

Information relating to these appraisals is available on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA107

(early-stage)

and

www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA34

(advanced).

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to implement recommendation 1 of "Improving access to medicines for NHS patients"; with regard to what specific steps he will take to publish updated timetables; and if he will make a statement. [237030]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement made by the Secretary of State for Health on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 131.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average number of treatments involving the off-label usage of a drug *(a)* provided and *(b)* denied to patients in the latest period for which information is available; what steps his Department plans to take to assist primary care trusts to make decisions on funding off-label usage of drugs; whether his Department plans to discuss with (i) the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and (ii) the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency the funding of off-label usage of drugs; what timetable he has set for implementing Recommendation 4 of "Improving access to medicines for NHS patients"; and if he will make a statement. [237080]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We have made no estimate of the annual number of such treatments and we have no plans to discuss the funding of such treatments with either the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence or the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

The NHS chief executive wrote to strategic health authority chief executives on 4 November 2008 to ask them to review, by April 2009, the way in which PCTs in their area collaborate to support effective decision-making on funding treatments. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library. Strategic health authorities are now taking this piece of work forward in their areas.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for implementing Recommendation 11 of "Improving access to medicines for NHS patients"; which organisations his Department plans to commission to conduct the recommended audit; whether he plans to publish the results; whether he plans to repeat the audit; and if he will make a statement. [237082]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has asked Professor Mike Richards to lead the implementation of recommendation 11 of his report, "Improving access to medicines on the NHS", and Professor Richards is currently considering the best approach to this piece of work. A copy of this report has already been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to Appendix 1 of "Improving access to medicines for NHS patients"; for what reasons his Department did not request that all primary care trusts respond to his Department's survey on the use of exceptional funding procedures; which primary care trusts provided *(a)* full and *(b)* partial responses; what assessment he has made of the reasons for six primary care trusts providing partial responses; and if he will make a statement. [237083]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State deliberately set a challenging time scale for the review in order to minimise the period of uncertainty for patients, while still allowing Professor Richards enough time to consider these difficult issues properly.

In light of the need to gather evidence as quickly as possible, primary care trusts (PCTs) were given a tighter deadline for responding to this survey than is normal, and the deadline for responding was over the summer period. This meant that some PCTs were unable to respond. However, Professor Richards was confident that the data collected from the 80 PCTS who did respond fully were representative of the picture across the country. For example, the results of the Department of Health survey are consistent with a survey conducted by the Rarer Cancers Forum, the results of which are set out in chapter 2 of Professor Richards' report, "Improving access to medicines for NHS patients". A copy of the report has already been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to Appendix 1 of Improving access to medicines for NHS patients; which *(a)* cancer and *(b)* non-cancer treatments were applied for through exceptional circumstances requests in 2008; and how many exceptional circumstances requests were (a) made and (b) approved for each treatment. [237084]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not held centrally. The survey of primary care trusts conducted by the Department to inform Professor Richards' review did not ask for details of specific treatments requested for exceptional funding in order to keep the administrative burden on the national health service to a minimum. Appendix 1 of the report, "Improving access to medicines for NHS patients" (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library), sets out the data held by the Department as a result of this survey.

### NHS: Information and Communications Technology

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* hardware and *(b)* software has been deployed to trusts under the National Programme for IT, broken down by trust; and how much the equipment in each deployment cost. [233290]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Comprehensive detailed information on the hardware and software deployed to each trust, broken down by individual trust, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Of total payments made to local service providers to 30 September 2008, the sum of one-off payments, representing deployments, and recorded as capital in the Department's accounts, amounts to £758 million.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the unitary cost for each *(a)* small, *(b)* medium and *(c)* large trust under the National Programme for IT is; and what payments local service providers have (i) received and (ii) are owed for deployments in respect of each trust, broken down by size of trust. [233292]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The value of local service provider contracts under the national programme for information technology, and entitlement to payment under the contracts, is based on the provision of systems and services that will meet the agreed requirements set out in the contracts. The sums concerned are linked to the type and mix of systems and services deployed at each site as well as the

size of the trust receiving the deployment. It is therefore not possible to ascribe a single 'unitary cost' to national health service trusts according to whether they are small, medium or large.

Payments are not 'owed' to local service providers. Payments are made following local confirmation of successful deployment by the trust, when a one-off payment is made. A recurring service charge is paid monthly thereafter.

Of total payments made to 30 September 2008, the sum of one-off payments, representing deployments, amounts to £758 million.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what deployment *(a)* in total and *(b)* of Cerner BT has made at (i) the Homerton Hospital NHS Trust and (ii) the Newham University Hospital NHS Trust; and what payment BT has received for the deployments. [233294]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Under its national programme for information technology (NPfIT) local service provider (LSP) contract, BT assumed responsibilities for the services already contracted for between Cerner and the Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and the Newham University Hospital Trust. Under the contract £5 million has been paid to BT in respect of each of the trusts to take over service management responsibility for the deployed Cerner Millennium systems.

Details of other deployments at the trusts and payments to BT are shown in the following table.

| | *System* | *Payment (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Newham | ESAP | [1] — |
| | MOM | [2] — |
| | PSC | [3] — |
| | PACS[4] | 1,199,411 |
| Homerton | ESAP | [1] — |
| | MOM | [2] — |
| | PSC | [3] — |
| | PACS[4] | 1,018,271 |

1 ESAP (electronic single assessment process): deployment testing has not been completed for either trust, and no payment has yet been made.

[2] MOM (map of medicine): a single deployment charge of £6,975,275 was paid in July 2007 to cover all London NHS organisations rather than as unit cost per organisation.

[3] PSC (pharmacy stock control): this is an additional service commissioned and paid for directly by the trusts and not via NPfIT.

[4] PACS : picture archiving and communications system

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Connecting for Health paid for the deployment of PACS, broken down by trust. [233296]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The deployment costs of picture archiving and communications systems (PACS) provided under national programme for information technology contracts were paid locally by national health service trusts. The Department's expenditure on PACS has been primarily on central development costs and the cost of central data stores.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism *(a)* Connecting for Health and *(b)* the London Programme for IT use for (i) price deployments and (ii) transfer payment to the local service provider. [233298]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The value of local service provider contracts under the national programme for information technology, and entitlement to payment under the contracts, is based on the provision of systems and services that will meet the agreed requirements set out in the contracts. The sums concerned are not directly linked to the cost of hardware, software or other supplier costs.

The price payable for deployment of each of the elements of the contracted services is set by agreement with suppliers relative to other elements of the services and to the benefit of that element to the national health service. A one-off payment is made following confirmation of successful deployment by the trust, and then a recurring service charge is paid monthly thereafter.

Funds are transferred via the bankers' automated clearing system following receipt of invoices from the local service provider.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the funds for each of Connecting for Health's contracts is allocated to *(a)* design, development and testing and *(b)* final deployment. [233301]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Payment to prime contractors for systems and services deployed under national programme for information technology contracts is only made after 45 days of live running, and on the basis that no significant operational problems have been experienced. There is no entitlement to payment for completion of the design, development and testing phases.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health to what extent the payments to suppliers under Connecting for Health contracts are tied to completion of work commissioned. [233772]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Payments to suppliers under the national programme for information technology contracts are tied to successful delivery and acceptance of an agreed service. Payments may also be made for the provision of the infrastructure to support the services being delivered and, in line with Treasury rules, to aid with suppliers' capital costs in return for a reduction in the future payment for successful delivery. In that case there is no overall increase in the cost of the services.

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* heads of NHS IT have been responsible for the Cerner systems; over what periods each such person was responsible for the systems; and what meetings (i) have been held and (ii) are planned between the responsible Ministers or heads of NHS IT and hospital trusts on the systems; [235165]

(2) which part of the NHS has responsibility for funding additional costs arising from the introduction and running of NHS IT Cerner systems in hospital trusts. [235166]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Under the national programme for information technology (NPfIT) it is the responsibility of the local service providers (LSPs) to manage the delivery of systems and services to the contracted timetables and for the management of their sub-contractors and suppliers, of which Cerner is one. The Department assesses progress against plans and manages the relationship and commercial arrangements with suppliers to ensure that national health service requirements are being met.

Ministerial responsibility for NPfIT over the period has been as follows:

John Hutton: Inception of NPfIT to May 2005;

Lord Warner: May 2005 to December 2006;

Lord Hunt: January 2007 to June 2007: and

Myself as Minister of State for Health Services: July 2007 to present.

Day-to-day responsibility for NPfIT currently lies with Martin Bellamy as director of programme and system delivery accountable to Ministers for the strategic direction of the programme and for management of the contracts between the Department and LSPs. Mr. Bellamy took up his post in September 2008. Prior to his appointment, responsibility lay with Gordon Hextall, chief operating officer, from January 2008, following the departure of the then director general of NHS IT, Richard Granger. Mr. Granger was appointed, at the inception of the national programme, in October 2002.

No meetings have to date been held, or are currently planned, between Ministers and trust officials specifically relating to the systems. Responsibility for deployments, including planning and timetabling, lies with the relevant NHS bodies, who agree the deployments with suppliers in line with the suppliers' capacity and their local circumstances. There have been and will continue to be numerous meetings between trusts and heads of IT, including visits to trusts as a matter of routine business.

The local NHS service implementation and running costs of NPfIT systems and services are paid by the NHS bodies which receive and benefit from them, out of normal NHS allocations.

## NHS: Manpower

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS *(a)* nurses and *(b)* doctors were employed by the South Staffordshire primary care trust in each year since 1997. [237331]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not collected in the format requested.

The number of hospital and community health services (HCHS) medical and dental staff and nurses employed by South Staffordshire primary care trust (PCT) is shown in the following table. The information is not available prior to 2002.

*HCHS: medical and dental staff and nurses[1] within South Staffordshire PCT[2]*

*Number (headcount)*

| | *As at 30 September each year* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| HCHS Medical and Dental staff | 7 | 24 | 34 | 39 | 39 | 33 |
| HCHS Nurses | 669 | 724 | 857 | 947 | 1,093 | 1,042 |

[1] General practitioners (GP) and GP practice nurses have been excluded from the figures, as they are not directly employed by the PCT.
[2] South Staffordshire PCT was formed in October 2006 from a complete merger of Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT, East Staffordshire PCT, Cannock Chase PCT and South Western Staffordshire PCT. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.
*Note:*
*Data Quality:*
Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service (NHS) trusts and PCTs in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens, any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level, this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.
*Sources:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

## Nurses: Manpower

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses per 100 beds there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust in each year since 1967. [237171]

**Ann Keen:** The number of qualified nurses per 100 beds in England and the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust in each year since 1997 is shown in the following table.

The data were collected for the first time in 1997 and figures prior to this year are unavailable.

*NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff per 100 beds in England and each specified organisation, as at 30 September each year*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 150 | 154 | 160 | 163 | 171 | 180 | 189 | 197 | 206 | 211 | 221 |
| York Hospitals NHS Trust | 163 | 129 | 139 | 153 | 129 | 146 | 145 | 153 | 163 | 163 | 172 |
| North Yorkshire and York PCT | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 250 | 294 | 319 | 329 | 281 | 285 |

n/a = not available
*Notes:*
1. Figures are based on headcount nursing figures. Beds data are for beds open overnight and day only. Figures exclude GP practice nurses.
2. In October 2006 Craven, Harrogate and Rural District PCT, Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT, Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT and Selby and York PCT merged to form North Yorkshire and York PCT. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.
*Sources:*
The NHS Information Centre non-medical workforce census
Department of Health

### Patient Choice Schemes

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals are not connected to the choose and book system. [237079]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** All national health service hospital trusts use the choose and book system. Of these, 145 currently receive direct electronic bookings, and 24 are not electronically connected to the system but receive 'indirect' bookings. In this case, booking information is transferred manually on to the choose and book system from hospital systems by trust staff.

### Patient Information Advisory Group

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many full-time equivalent staff are employed by the Patient Information Advisory Group; [235184]

(2) what *(a)* capital, *(b)* revenue and *(c)* other funding his Department has given to the Patient Information Advisory Group in each of the last three financial years. [235256]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Patient Information Advisory Group (PIAG) does not directly employ staff. PIAG is staffed by NHS employees, hosted by the NHS Business Services Authority. At present, there are five whole-time equivalent posts supporting PIAG, one of which is currently vacant.

Expenditure incurred by PIAG and funded by the Department in each of the last three financial years, which was for revenue purposes only, was as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 130,640 |
| 2006-07 | 122,458 |
| 2007-08 | 214,651 |

### Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of exemption prescription items were dispensed to people aged 60 years or over in *(a)* Vale of York constituency and *(b)* England in the last 10 years; and what percentage of prescription items were dispensed free to patients in (i) Vale of York constituency and (ii) England in the last 10 years; [237170]

(2) how many prescription items were dispensed to people aged 60 years or over in *(a)* Vale of York constituency and *(b)* England in the last 10 years; and how many prescription items were dispensed free to patients in (i) Vale of York constituency and (ii) England in the last 10 years. [237172]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We do not hold this information at constituency level. Based on a one in 20 sample of prescriptions dispensed in the community, the information requested for North Yorkshire and York primary care trust (PCT) and its predecessor bodies and England is shown in the following table.

| | *North Yorkshire and York PCT and predecessor bodies* | | | | *England* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Estimated prescription items dispensed to over 60s (million)* | *Estimated exempt prescription items dispensed to over 60s (percentage)* | *Estimated prescription items dispensed free (million)* | *Estimated prescription items dispensed free (percentage)* | *Estimated prescription items dispensed to over 60s (million)* | *Estimated exempt prescription items dispensed to over 60s (percentage)* | *Estimated prescription items dispensed free (million)* | *Estimated prescription items dispensed free (percentage)* |
| *All dispensers* | | | | | | | | |
| 2007 | [1]7.9 | [1]74.2 | [1]10.6 | [1]86.8 | 469.1 | 66.5 | 705.5 | 88.6 |
| 2006 | [2]7.4 | [2]73.7 | [2]10.1 | [2]86.4 | 440.8 | 66.6 | 661.7 | 88.0 |
| 2005 | [3]7.1 | [3]73.0 | [3]9.7 | [3]86.1 | 409.5 | 64.9 | 630.7 | 87.6 |
| 2004 | [3]6.7 | [3]72.8 | [3]9.2 | [3]85.5 | 391.4 | 65.7 | 596.1 | 86.9 |
| 2003 | [3]6.2 | [3]72.2 | [3]8.6 | [3]84.9 | 363.5 | 64.9 | 560.2 | 86.2 |
| 2002 | [3]5.8 | [3]71.6 | [3]8.1 | [3]84.3 | 339.7 | 64.3 | 528.6 | 85.7 |
| 2001 | [4]5.3 | [4]70.4 | [4]7.6 | [4]83.8 | 317.5 | 63.3 | 501.6 | 85.4 |
| *Community pharmacists and appliance contractors only* | | | | | | | | |
| 2000 | [4]4.1 | [4]69.8 | [4]5.8 | [4]83.8 | 270.2 | 63.4 | 426.0 | 85.1 |
| 1999 | [4]3.5 | [4]70.1 | [4]5.0 | [4]83.8 | 252.2 | 61.5 | 410.3 | 85.1 |
| 1998 | [4]3.3 | [4]68.0 | [4]4.8 | [4]83.7 | 234.0 | 58.6 | 399.1 | 85.4 |

[1] North Yorkshire and York PCT.
[2] Selby and York PCT, Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT, Craven, Harrogate and Rural District PCT and Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT until 1 October 2006. North Yorkshire and York PCT thereafter.
[3] Selby and York PCT, Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT, Craven, Harrogate and Rural District PCT and Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT.
[4] North Yorkshire Health Authority.
*Source:*
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system—Exemption Category Estimates

### Psychiatry: Recruitment

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of whether there are enough prospective psychiatrists in training to meet future recruitment needs; and if he will make a statement. [237732]

**Ann Keen:** Local national health service organisations, supported by strategic health authorities and the Workforce Review Team, are best placed to determine the levels of service and resources required to meet the health needs of the local population.

The number of doctors training in psychiatry in 2007 is 3,479, an increase of 31 per cent. since 1997.

### Smoking: Young People

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of raising the legal age at which tobacco can be purchased on rates of smoking among young people. [237227]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Reducing the number of young people who smoke is a top priority for the Government. We raised the age of sale to 18 on 1 October 2007. It is still too early to assess the impact of the change on smoking rates of young people.

However, data collected in the winter of 2007 following the introduction of the ban showed smoking levels fell from 9 per cent. in 2006 to 6 per cent. in 2007. However, we cannot be sure what proportion of this was due to the additional restrictions on age of sale.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to prevent the purchase of tobacco on behalf of those under 18 years old. [237228]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Preventing the purchase of tobacco by young people under 18 is one of the Government's top priorities. We recently consulted on the issues in a major public consultation on the Future of Tobacco Control, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. The issue of purchasing tobacco on behalf of under-18s was raised in the consultation.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the police are able to take to prevent the purchase of tobacco on behalf of those under 18 years of age. [237229]

**Dawn Primarolo:** From 1 October, 2007, it has been illegal to sell tobacco to young people under 18. This was an increase from the age of 16. Trading Standards Officers rather than the police have responsibility for enforcing the law on age of sale of tobacco.

### Social Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statistical items are centrally collected from local authorities on social care in their area. [235610]

**Phil Hope:** Statistical returns are collected from local authorities by a number of different organisations as relate to the provision of children's and adults' social care services:

The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care (NHS IC) collects information on adult social care for the Department of Health;

The Department for Children, Schools and Families collects information on the provision of children's social care services;

The Commission for Social Care Inspection collects information on adult social care relevant to its function as the independent regulator of those services; and

Skills for Care, the employer-led authority funded by the Department of Health, collects information on social care work force.

A table has been placed in the Library which sets out the individual data returns collected by the organisations above in 2008-09.

Following the implementation of the new Local Performance Framework for Local Authorities and their Partners from April 2008, the Department has undertaken a review of its adult social care collections (noted in the table as collected by NHS IC). This review, facilitated by the NHS IC, has been wide ranging and culminated in a public consultation on proposals for the future, conducted under Office for National Statistics rules. The consultation ended on 24 October 2008, and final recommendations for the scope and nature of future adult social care collections will be submitted for consideration by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State before the end of the year.

### Social Services: Haringey

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what inspections the Commission for Social Care Inspection and its predecessor inspectorates have undertaken of Haringey Council's social services department since 2000. [236669]

**Phil Hope** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The Commission for Social Care Inspection was created in April 2004, by the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003, from the National Care Standards Commission, the Social Services Inspectorate and the SSI Audit Commission Joint Review Team.

CSCI is responsible for the inspection of adult social services in Haringey. The responsibility for inspection of children's social services in Haringey transferred from CSCI to the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) on 1 April 2007. As part of this process all of CSCI's detailed records on children's services, including those since 2000, were passed to Ofsted at that time.

I am informed by CSCI that inspections of Haringey council's adult social services department carried out by CSCI and its predecessors, were as follows:

2000-01: Inspection of Health Authority Registration and Inspection Unit

2001-02: Inspection of Mental Health Services;

2001-02: Best value review inspection of Learning Disability Services;

2004-05: Inspection of Older People's Services;

2005-06: Mental Health Improvement Review (CSCI joint with the Healthcare Commission).

Responsibility for children's social services lies with the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

### Social Services: Registration

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he announced his Department's intention to consult on adding further categories of social care workers to the General Social Care Council register; when the consultation commenced and closed; when he announced his decision; and when his decision was implemented; [236544]

(2) which categories of social care worker *(a)* are and *(b)* are not registered by the General Social Care Council; and what estimate his Department has made of the numbers of people in each category. [236545]

**Phil Hope:** From 1 April 2005, it became compulsory for all social workers in England to be registered with the General Social Care Council (GSCC). Social workers and social work students are the only category of social care workers required to register with the GSCC. The GSCC has registered almost 100,000 social workers and social work students to date.

Figures regarding the remainder of the social care workforce are not collected centrally. However, Skills for Care estimate that the remainder of the unregistered workforce is made up of 764,000 care workers, 141,000 other direct care/support providing workers, 131,000 managers and supervisors, and 184,000 administrative, ancillary and other workers.

On 7 February 2006 the Government announced their intention to assess the case for registration of other parts of the social care workforce, and asked the GSCC to begin planning for this. The GSCC held a public consultation which ended in May 2006 and delivered the outcomes of this consultation to the Government. The Government continue to work closely with the GSCC to progress this work.

### Tuberculosis

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of tuberculosis were recorded in each primary care trust area in each of the last five years. [237223]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Data for cases of tuberculosis by primary care trust for 2001 to 2005 have been provided in the following table. Data for 2006-07 are not yet available.

*Number of tuberculosis cases by primary care trust, England, 2001-05*

| *Primary care trust* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT | 0 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| Barking and Dagenham PCT | 30 | 35 | 42 | 43 | 59 |
| Barnet PCT | 78 | 102 | 102 | 94 | 116 |
| Barnsley PCT | 6 | 9 | 9 | 10 | <5 |
| Bassetlaw PCT | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 11 | 12 | 12 | 9 | 19 |
| Bedfordshire PCT | 35 | 30 | 32 | 36 | 38 |
| Berkshire East PCT | 76 | 83 | 97 | 87 | 105 |
| Berkshire West PCT | 40 | 61 | 59 | 53 | 81 |
| Bexley Care Trust | 17 | 21 | 25 | 29 | 22 |
| Birmingham East and North PCT | 92 | 94 | 99 | 123 | 112 |
| Blackburn with Darwen PCT | 42 | 60 | 34 | 50 | 59 |
| Blackpool PCT | 17 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 6 |
| Bolton PCT | 70 | 60 | 54 | 47 | 69 |
| Bournemouth and Poole PCT | 20 | 28 | 19 | 25 | 36 |
| Bradford and Airedale PCT | 149 | 119 | 141 | 111 | 164 |
| Brent Teaching PCT | 230 | 265 | 217 | 233 | 285 |
| Brighton and Hove City PCT | 24 | 6 | <5 | 14 | 16 |
| Bristol PCT | 40 | 64 | 52 | 78 | 68 |
| Bromley PCT | 18 | 25 | 31 | 28 | 30 |
| Buckinghamshire PCT | 39 | 34 | 49 | 32 | 40 |
| Bury PCT | 15 | 7 | 21 | 10 | 8 |
| Calderdale PCT | 21 | 29 | 27 | 19 | 25 |
| Cambridgeshire PCT | 23 | 23 | 22 | 26 | 42 |
| Camden PCT | 91 | 116 | 106 | 77 | 106 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 12 | 9 | 12 | <5 | 7 |
| Central Lancashire PCT | 46 | 49 | 40 | 40 | 38 |
| City and Hackney Teaching PCT | 143 | 145 | 157 | 157 | 135 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT | 11 | 13 | 12 | 20 | 12 |
| County Durham PCT | 19 | 15 | 18 | 19 | 14 |
| Coventry Teaching PCT | 61 | 79 | 58 | 78 | 89 |
| Croydon PCT | 96 | 108 | 113 | 119 | 114 |
| Cumbria PCT | 5 | 7 | 5 | 8 | <5 |
| Darlington PCT | <5 | 5 | 8 | <5 | 5 |

*Number of tuberculosis cases by primary care trust, England, 2001-05*

| Primary care trust | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Derby City PCT | 47 | 48 | 62 | 43 | 32 |
| Derbyshire County PCT | 45 | 35 | 35 | 32 | 32 |
| Devon PCT | 28 | 14 | 14 | 22 | 19 |
| Doncaster PCT | 16 | 14 | 21 | 19 | 15 |
| Dorset PCT | 19 | 9 | 13 | 14 | 17 |
| Dudley PCT | 17 | 46 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| Ealing PCT | 191 | 197 | 187 | 256 | 240 |
| East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 20 | 18 | 17 | 33 | 49 |
| East Lancashire PCT | 52 | 65 | 44 | 50 | 70 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire PCT | 15 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 6 |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT | 21 | 18 | 10 | 17 | 9 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT | 27 | 38 | 45 | 39 | 30 |
| Enfield PCT | 96 | 80 | 97 | 96 | 103 |
| Gateshead PCT | 7 | 7 | 7 | <5 | <5 |
| Gloucestershire PCT | 18 | 21 | 24 | 25 | 25 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT | 12 | <5 | 15 | 9 | 10 |
| Greenwich Teaching PCT | 69 | 72 | 72 | 88 | 87 |
| Halton and St. Helens PCT | 5 | <5 | 9 | 7 | 5 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | 80 | 81 | 64 | 69 | 90 |
| Hampshire PCT | 30 | 27 | 44 | 59 | 43 |
| Haringey Teaching PCT | 151 | 140 | 127 | 149 | 133 |
| Harrow PCT | 100 | 114 | 115 | 99 | 133 |
| Hartlepool PCT | <5 | 10 | 7 | 6 | <5 |
| Hastings and Rother PCT | 10 | 8 | <5 | 5 | 5 |
| Havering PCT | 17 | 19 | 13 | 12 | 30 |
| Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT | 166 | 178 | 185 | 210 | 216 |
| Herefordshire PCT | <5 | <5 | <5 | 6 | <5 |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT | 16 | 20 | 21 | 17 | 33 |
| Hillingdon PCT | 95 | 95 | 116 | 118 | 137 |
| Hounslow PCT | 127 | 120 | 98 | 117 | 167 |
| Hull PCT | 9 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 7 |
| Isle of Wight NHS PCT | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| Islington PCT | 87 | 106 | 94 | 89 | 83 |
| Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 41 | 31 | 51 | 48 | 46 |
| Kingston PCT | 16 | 18 | 19 | 23 | 27 |
| Kirklees PCT | 85 | 86 | 82 | 71 | 87 |
| Knowsley PCT | <5 | 6 | 8 | <5 | <5 |
| Lambeth PCT | 134 | 159 | 155 | 127 | 145 |
| Leeds PCT | 95 | 106 | 80 | 115 | 111 |
| Leicester City PCT | 266 | 194 | 201 | 162 | 263 |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT | 54 | 41 | 33 | 37 | 45 |
| Lewisham PCT | 74 | 91 | 79 | 77 | 99 |
| Lincolnshire PCT | 6 | 14 | 15 | 18 | 18 |
| Liverpool PCT | 48 | 35 | 20 | 18 | 85 |
| Luton PCT | 71 | 85 | 79 | 67 | 89 |
| Manchester PCT | 136 | 141 | 122 | 157 | 145 |
| Medway PCT | 24 | 14 | 21 | 9 | 15 |
| Mid Essex PCT | 12 | 8 | 10 | 22 | 5 |
| Middlesbrough PCT | 22 | 23 | 18 | 25 | 17 |
| Milton Keynes PCT | 24 | 11 | 14 | 18 | 23 |
| Newcastle PCT | 40 | 38 | 33 | 39 | 38 |
| Newham PCT | 210 | 214 | 245 | 242 | 259 |
| Norfolk PCT | 17 | 21 | 25 | 27 | 46 |
| North East Essex PCT | 9 | 13 | 10 | 5 | 11 |
| North East Lincolnshire PCT | 11 | <5 | <5 | 0 | <5 |
| North Lancashire PCT | 15 | 22 | 16 | 10 | 15 |
| North Lincolnshire PCT | <5 | 5 | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| North Somerset PCT | 7 | <5 | <5 | 5 | 10 |
| North Staffordshire PCT | 9 | 8 | 10 | 8 | <5 |
| North Tees PCT | 14 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 16 |
| North Tyneside PCT | 11 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| North Yorkshire and York PCT | 14 | 15 | 18 | 26 | 22 |

*Number of tuberculosis cases by primary care trust, England, 2001-05*

| *Primary care trust* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northamptonshire PCT | 69 | 84 | 58 | 76 | 80 |
| Northumberland Care Trust | 11 | 7 | 9 | <5 | 9 |
| Nottingham City PCT | 57 | 42 | 37 | 48 | 54 |
| Nottinghamshire County PCT | 23 | 20 | 30 | 20 | 19 |
| Oldham PCT | 48 | 39 | 38 | 37 | 44 |
| Oxfordshire PCT | 34 | 26 | 47 | 68 | 62 |
| Peterborough PCT | 27 | 26 | 14 | 34 | 37 |
| Plymouth Teaching PCT | 16 | 13 | 9 | 12 | 6 |
| Portsmouth City Teaching PCT | 11 | <5 | 16 | 26 | 21 |
| Redbridge PCT | 92 | 92 | 110 | 111 | 120 |
| Redcar and Cleveland PCT | 9 | <5 | <5 | 5 | 0 |
| Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 11 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 19 |
| Rotherham PCT | 39 | 38 | 34 | 28 | 25 |
| Salford PCT | 16 | 11 | 26 | 22 | 23 |
| Sandwell PCT | 81 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 118 |
| Sefton PCT | 12 | 6 | 12 | 11 | 15 |
| Sheffield PCT | 83 | 59 | 90 | 91 | 86 |
| Shropshire County PCT | 7 | <5 | 11 | 19 | 15 |
| Solihull Care Trust | 10 | 9 | 17 | 13 | 11 |
| Somerset PCT | 7 | 20 | <5 | 17 | 22 |
| South Birmingham PCT | 45 | 57 | 67 | 55 | 49 |
| South East Essex PCT | 20 | 25 | 22 | 34 | 29 |
| South Gloucestershire PCT | 10 | 5 | 12 | 11 | 10 |
| South Staffordshire PCT | 11 | 9 | 22 | 24 | 22 |
| South Tyneside PCT | 16 | 6 | 9 | 7 | <5 |
| South West Essex PCT | 17 | 17 | 21 | 26 | 28 |
| Southampton City PCT | 17 | 21 | 36 | 35 | 33 |
| Southwark PCT | 103 | 106 | 101 | 133 | 141 |
| Stockport PCT | 21 | 23 | 25 | 9 | 21 |
| Stoke on Trent PCT | 31 | 36 | 34 | 26 | 42 |
| Suffolk PCT | 11 | 19 | 14 | 25 | 27 |
| Sunderland Teaching PCT | 27 | 21 | 15 | 19 | 18 |
| Surrey PCT | 33 | 15 | 68 | 70 | 71 |
| Sutton and Merton PCT | 52 | 85 | 70 | 85 | 87 |
| Swindon PCT | 10 | 9 | 12 | 12 | 9 |
| Tameside and Glossop PCT | 29 | 16 | 33 | 14 | 41 |
| Telford and Wrekin PCT | <5 | <5 | <5 | 16 | 13 |
| Torbay Care Trust | 8 | 6 | <5 | 8 | 12 |
| Tower Hamlets PCT | 67 | 122 | 147 | 118 | 129 |
| Trafford PCT | 31 | 27 | 22 | 31 | 19 |
| Wakefield District PCT | 17 | 11 | 16 | 27 | 23 |
| Walsall Teaching PCT | 62 | 59 | 54 | 58 | 44 |
| Waltham Forest PCT | 69 | 104 | 99 | 99 | 116 |
| Wandsworth PCT | 51 | 93 | 96 | 96 | 124 |
| Warrington PCT | <5 | 7 | <5 | <5 | 6 |
| Warwickshire PCT | 34 | 44 | 34 | 44 | 41 |
| West Essex PCT | 11 | 19 | 11 | 14 | 9 |
| West Hertfordshire PCT | 40 | 42 | 36 | 36 | 62 |
| West Kent PCT | 22 | 26 | 24 | 28 | 40 |
| West Sussex PCT | 34 | 39 | 44 | 53 | 42 |
| Western Cheshire PCT | <5 | <5 | <5 | 7 | 13 |
| Westminster PCT | 78 | 75 | 89 | 85 | 97 |
| Wiltshire PCT | 11 | 12 | 15 | 12 | 8 |
| Wirral PCT | 10 | 13 | 5 | <5 | 14 |
| Wolverhampton City PCT | 49 | 73 | 79 | 83 | 93 |
| Worcestershire PCT | 16 | 18 | 12 | 23 | 30 |
| Total[1] | 6,386 | 6,623 | 6,725 | 7,034 | 7,820 |

[1] Where PCT was known

*Note:*
Numbers less than five not stated due to risk of deductive disclosure

*Source:*
Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance as at 27 October 2008

### York Hospital

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the capital expenditure on York Hospital was in each year since 1992. [236883]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not available in the format requested.

Information on total additions for buildings for the York hospitals trust, excluding dwellings, fixtures, fittings and equipment, is shown in the following table:

York hospitals NHS trust

£000

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Additions to buildings excluding dwellings | 2,126 | 2,581 | 7,776 | 11,085 | 2,822 |

*Note:*
The trust became a foundation trust on 1 April 2007. Data from foundation trusts are not collected.
*Source:*
National Health Service (NHS) Trust audited summarisation schedules.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Voting Behaviour: Religion

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what research the Equality and Human Rights Commission has undertaken on the implications for faith communities of proposals for weekend voting. [236755]

**Maria Eagle:** The Equality and Human Rights Commission has not undertaken any research on the implications for faith communities of proposals for weekend voting.

## TREASURY

### Bank of Credit and Commerce International

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the amount of unrecovered local authority deposits in the former Bank of Credit and Commerce International. [236130]

**Angela Eagle:** According to the liquidators' website at:

http://www.bcci.info/

admitted creditors of BCCI will have received 86.5 per cent. of their claims by December 2008.

### Bank Services

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the use of post offices to provide banking services. [238481]

**Angela Eagle:** Treasury Ministers and officials have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for BERR and with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Bank Services: Charities

**Jim Dowd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to protect the funds of registered charities held by Icelandic banks. [230114]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* The Government have put in place arrangements to ensure that all FSCS-eligible depositors in the Icelandic banks of Landsbanki, Heritable, and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander will receive their money in full. If a charity is eligible to claim compensation from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, it will be entitled to benefit from these arrangements. Charities not eligible for compensation from the FSCS will be creditors in the normal way.

### Bank Services: EC Action

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on action which might be taken at EU level to discourage nationals of EU countries from using offshore financial centres. [237711]

**Mr. Timms:** There have been a number of recent discussions at EU level focused on offshore tax evasion. The main EU instrument for tackling this is the Savings Directive, together with associated agreements with non-EU financial centres. The Commission has made a proposal to amend the directive, which the Government will be considering carefully. The proposal aims to expand the scope and improve the effectiveness of the directive.

### Bank Services: Iceland

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Great Grimsby of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 930W, on bank services, on which dates his Department was informed by the Financial Services Authority of *(a)* its decision to intensify its supervision of deposit-taking by Icelandic banks and *(b)* its decision further to increase contracts with the banks. [236211]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* As the memorandum of understanding between HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the FSA sets out, the three authorities meet at a number of levels on a very regular basis to exchange information on threats to financial stability.

### Bank Services: Public Bodies

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of public bodies which use offshore banking facilities. [236310]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government do not collect this information centrally. However, in line with guidance in Managing Public Money, each public sector organisation is expected to manage its business, including its banking facilities, prudently, efficiently and effectively.

### Banks

**Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he was first informed of concerns about Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander Bank; when these concerns were first discussed by the tripartite authorities; and at what level the discussion took place. [235915]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The FSA intensified its supervision of deposit-taking by Icelandic banks (including through increased contact with firms, more frequent visits and enhanced reporting requirements) from the beginning of 2008. As the economic situation deteriorated during the year, and particularly since September, the FSA worked increasingly with the banks concerned.

As the memorandum of understanding between HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the FSA sets out, the FSA informs the tripartite of its concerns on a regular basis.

### Banks: Debts

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what level of debt the banks to which public money is committed have in connection with their involvement in the leveraged buyout of professional football clubs. [236047]

**Ian Pearson:** It is a matter for the management of the banks concerned to release specific business information and updates in line with their regulatory obligations and provide any required disclosures in their audited annual report and accounts.

### Banks: Government Shareholding

**Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to opening to public subscription the 12 per cent. preference shares in *(a)* Lloyds TSB/HBOS and *(b)* the Royal Bank of Scotland due to be taken up by the Government; and if he will make a statement. [235914]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* Agreements on the terms and conditions of the Government's recapitalisation have been reached with the banks involved and are available in the House of Commons Library. The terms of these agreements ensure value for money for the taxpayer.

### Banks: Iceland

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of UK nationals who hold deposits with offshore Icelandic banks and *(b)* the value of such deposits. [229572]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* The UK Government and the Financial Services Authority do not hold such information.

### Cost of Living: Barnet

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effects of rising prices in Chipping Barnet constituency. [237552]

**Angela Eagle:** A combination of an increase in global energy and food prices has driven inflation higher in constituencies across the UK although inflation fell in October. The Government do not underestimate the effect of higher prices on consumers and the constituents of Chipping Barnet are no exception. The Government have taken action to support people—including cutting income tax to give 22 million households up to £120 for this year and freezing fuel duty.

### Council Tax: Valuation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 314W, on the Valuation Office, whether the specifications will include the use of geo-data to support the operation of the council tax automated valuation model. [236029]

**Mr. Timms:** They will.

### Departmental Advertising

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on television advertising in each of the last five years. [230932]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* The Treasury spent £2,991,000 on TV advertising within a publicity campaign running from September 2005 to March 2006 to raise awareness of Stakeholder savings and investment products. There were no other instances of TV advertising in the last five years.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many external consultants work for his Department. [237149]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Holiday Leave

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the policy of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies is on whether leave taken by staff in the period between Christmas and new year must be taken from their annual holiday allowance. [237341]

**Angela Eagle:** HM Treasury and OGCbuying.solutions staff are entitled to one day's privilege leave over the Christmas and new year period in addition to the public holidays over this period. For any additional leave, staff are required to use their annual leave allowance between Christmas and new year from their annual holiday allowance.

## Departmental ICT

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 778-80W, on departmental ICT, what IT projects *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency are undertaking; and what the most recent estimate is of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each. [236024]

**Mr. Timms:** The following tables list large IT change projects being undertaken by *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) as at November 2008, with their associated cost ranges and currently planned implementation dates.

HMRC and VOA undertake IT change projects across a wide range of their business processes and systems.

Table *(b)* includes IT change projects managed through the 'World Class Programme' of the VOA, which manages the delivery of business projects that have an IT impact. Projects currently preparing viability proposals have not yet assessed their IT costs.

The tables do not include projects which are making minor enhancements to existing systems, or projects being delivered on behalf of other Government Departments. Costs identified are those relating to the IT elements of business change projects from April 2008 to the expected implementation date.

Many of our IT projects are at an early stage in their development lifecycle, and detailed technical solutions and IT supplier costs are yet to be established. The figures shown below are therefore estimates and remain subject to revision, finalisation and formal investment approval.

*Table (a): HMRC IT projects as at November 2008*

| *IT project* | *Implementation date* | *Estimated costs (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| Combined Economic Operator Projects | February 2010 | 1-5 |
| Common Core Components | March 2009 | 5-10 |
| Connect | January 2010 | 5-10 |
| Consolidation of Inward Cheque Processing | March 2009 | 1-5 |
| Enterprise infrastructure | December 2011 | over 20 |
| Enterprise Resource Planning System | March 2010 | 5-10 |
| Estates Consolidation and Transformation Programme | March 2012 | 32-35 |
| EU Legislative risk Requirement | January 2010 | 5-10 |
| EU VAT Refunds Project | December 2009 | 5-10 |
| European Union Savings Directive Project | October 2009 | under 1 |
| Excise Movement and Control System | October 2010 | over 20 |
| FTS3 Sea Containers | November 2008 | 1-5 |
| Government Card Account | April 2009 | under 1 |
| HMRC Banking Transition Project | September 2009 | 5-10 |
| Implementation of Lord Carter's Recommendations on online services | December 2012 | over 20 |
| Import/Export/Community Transit Systems | March 2010 | 10-20 |
| Internal on-line guidance | March 2009 | 1-5 |
| Managed Data Transfer Service | April 2009 | 10-15 |
| Modernising PAYE Processes for Customers | June 2010 | over 20 |
| Spectrum | March 2009 | over 20 |
| Student Loan Business Service Modernisation | April 2009 | 1-5 |
| Tax Credits Transformation Programme | October 2009 | 5-10 |
| Tribunals Reform | April 2009 | under 1 |
| VAT systems changes | December 2008 | under 1 |
| Workflow and Case Management | April 2009 | 5-10 |

*Table (b): VOA IT projects as at November 2008*

| *IT Project* | *Implementation date* | *Estimated costs (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| BlackBerries | December 2008 | under 1 |
| Geographical Information System | January 2010 | 1-5 |
| Hardcopy Records—Strategic | October 2009 | 1-5 |
| Tech Refresh | June 2009 | 1-5 |

## Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [237465]

**Angela Eagle:** HM Treasury's Publishing Unit which comprises of 14 staff are responsible for various aspects of the publishing process including branding, web publishing, design and print production. Branding activity accounts for a small percentage of the unit's role.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [238177]

**Angela Eagle:** Special advisers in the Treasury are not provided with Government cars.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what external speakers his Department and its agencies have paid since January 2005; how much each was paid; and on what date each spoke. [237606]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The information requested in respect of the Treasury and its agencies is not available.

### Departmental Procurement

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2007-08, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [222036]

**Angela Eagle:** A copy of the list of active suppliers, including postcodes, held on the Treasury's accounting system at 28 October 2008 has been deposited in the Library.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria are used to assess candidates for non-executive directorships at his Department. [237762]

**Angela Eagle:** Treasury's most recent recruitment for independent non-executive directors was in summer 2008. Three non-executive directors were appointed following an open competition involving the independent Office of the Civil Service Commissioners.

Candidates were assessed against criteria set out on Treasury's website:

"An individual:

Of undisputed integrity and standing, and of sufficient authority to command the respect of HMT Ministers and officials

A leader: Chair, CEO or head of function in a major organisation; or a relevant area of public/voluntary sector; or a relevant area of public policy involving strategy development

With an interest in the wider public policy debate and in economic and financial policy in particular

With a strong, demonstrable commitment to diversity

Between the Non-Executive Board Members, we are also seeking to replace existing expertise from Non-Executives who are reaching the end of their terms:

A proven ability to lead and communicate change

Experience in financial management and risk management. Previous experience on audit committees would also be advantageous.

Extensive experience and expertise in a field relating to Treasury's remit and in particular the Financial Services sector"

### Departmental Secondment

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many secondees have worked in his Department since 1 January 2005; from which organisation each was seconded; in which section of his Department each was employed while at the Department; and for what periods each worked at the Department. [237566]

**Angela Eagle:** The information is as follows:

1. The number of secondees from outside the civil service who have worked in HMT Treasury in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 July 2008 is 79.

2. The employment sectors they were seconded from are as follows:

| *Employment sector* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Private | 41 |
| Public | 37 |
| Voluntary | 1 |

3. The section that each secondee worked in are listed as follows:

| *Directorate* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| Finance Regulation industry | 11 |
| Budget, Tax and Welfare | 14 |
| Government Financial Management | 7 |
| Ministerial Corporate Services | 4 |
| Macro-economic policy and International Finance | 14 |
| Public Services and Growth | 29 |
| Grand total | 79 |

4. The precise length of each secondment could be answered only at disproportionate cost. However, most secondments last between one and two years.

**David Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were seconded from the private sector to *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(b)* the Office of Government Commerce and *(c)* OGC Buying Solutions in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [238397]

**Angela Eagle:** There have been seven secondments from the private sector to HMRC in 2008 and two to OGC. Information for earlier years is not available. There was one such secondment to OGCbuying.solutions in 2005, two in 2006, none in 2007 and one in 2008.

### Driving Offences

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how fines incurred by businesses for minor driving offences are treated for tax purposes. [238056]

**Mr. Timms:** Fines incurred by businesses for minor driving offences are not allowable deductions for tax purposes.

### Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) for what reason light goods vehicles with lower emissions ratings do not fall into a lower vehicle excise duty band than similar vehicles with higher emissions; [237781]

(2) if he will assess the merits of vehicle excise duty gradation according to emissions levels in the case of light goods vehicles. [237782]

**Angela Eagle:** Comprehensive data on the carbon dioxide emissions of light goods vehicles are unavailable, and therefore vehicle excise duty for these vehicles cannot be differentiated by carbon dioxide emission levels at this time.

### Financial Institutions: Iran

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications for UK financial institutions of the decision by the United States Administration to ban Iran from undertaking U-turn financial transactions involving US financial institutions. [237360]

**Ian Pearson:** The U-turn licence enabled Iranian entities to have indirect access to the US financial system—including through UK financial institutions. Revocation of that licence will mean financial institutions worldwide can no longer route payments for the benefit of Iran through the US.

We are not aware that UK financial institutions made any significant use of the U-turn licence, and therefore we expect the US decision to close the U-turn licence will have limited implications for UK financial institutions.

### Financial Services Authority: Departmental Responsibilities

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Department has ministerial responsibility for the Financial Services Authority. [230844]

**Ian Pearson:** The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is an independent non-governmental body, given statutory powers by the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. It is a company limited by guarantee, operationally independent of Government and funded entirely by the firms it regulates.

This statutory independence means that the Government do not have any control over the day-to-day running of the organisation, but it falls within the policy field for which the Treasury is responsible. The FSA is accountable to Parliament, the Treasury, the public and industry in a number of ways including the requirement for the FSA to publish an annual report on the discharge of its functions and the extent to which its regulatory objectives have been met.

### Intellectual Property

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment the Treasury has made of the contribution which industries dependent on intellectual property make to the UK economy. [238359]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury has made no such assessment.

However, a number of recent reports have examined the importance of innovative and knowledge-based sectors to the UK economy, including the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property (December 2006), the Sainsbury Review (October 2007), the Treasury's Economics Paper No. 1, "Intangible Investment and Britain's Productivity (October 2007)", the "Creative Britain" strategy document (February 2008), and the DIUS White Paper "Innovation Nation" (March 2008).

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect of intellectual property crime on revenues received by the Exchequer. [238360]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury has made no such assessment.

### Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects funds to be released from the Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander Bank. [236227]

**Ian Pearson:** On 8 October, the Treasury used powers under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008 to transfer Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander's Kaupthing Edge deposit business to ING Direct. These depositors are now customers of ING Direct.

The remainder of KSF was placed into administration following due legal process. Creditors will be paid out in accordance with UK insolvency procedures.

### Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander: Isle of Man

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Isle of Man authorities and *(b)* Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander Bank (Isle of Man) on the bank releasing the funds held within it. [236228]

**Ian Pearson:** Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man are a matter for the Government of the Isle of Man.

Deposits with Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man will be subject to the Isle of Man Deposit Compensation Scheme.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

### Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the timetable is for the Valuation Office Agency's review of the effects of the increases in empty property business rates. [235102]

**Mr. Timms:** The Valuation Office Agency keeps the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly informed on empty property rates, from its perspective of keeping rating lists up to date, but is not itself undertaking a review.

### Office of Government Commerce: Finance

**David Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the budget for *(a)* the Office of Government Commerce and *(b)* OGC Buying Solutions is for each of the next three financial years. [238395]

**Angela Eagle:** Details on the Office of Government Commerce's DEL budget for the next three financial years are set out in "HM Treasury Annual Report 2007-08" (CM 7408). Approval for changes to the 2008-09 provision will be sought through the supply process.

OGCbuying.solutions is a trading fund set up under the Government Trading Funds Act 1973 and is therefore dependant on the funds it earns, and consequently receives no central budget for its operations. This means that Buying Solutions must cover its expenditure completely through sales to its customers. While Buying Solutions undertakes rigorous financial planning, its expenditure is off-set by its income earned.

### Public Sector: Procurement

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of using British Standards Institution standard PAS 2050 in public procurement. [237744]

**Angela Eagle:** PAS 2050 is a voluntary standard to assess the life cycle greenhouse gas emissions, GHG, in products (i.e. goods and services). Its development was co-sponsored by DEFRA and the Carbon Trust in response to demand from business. PAS 2050 is a method designed to enable businesses to carbon footprint their goods or services, to know where in their supply chain their greenhouse gas emissions occur, and then work to reduce them.

The Government are fully committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in public procurement. "Quick wins" product standards have been mandated for many categories of goods and services. Government Departments are currently working with the Carbon Disclosure Project, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to understanding the carbon emissions associated with supply chains, on pilots that will provide information to Departments about the overall carbon emissions of suppliers to Government.

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance he has given the Centre of Expertise for Sustainable Procurement regarding the use of whole-life costing in public sector procurement. [237746]

**Angela Eagle:** The Centre of Expertise for Sustainable Procurement uses the guidance published in HM Treasury 'The Green Book: Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government', which states that whole life costing (WLC) must be applied in all public sector procurement as part of ensuring value for money solutions.

### Research and Development Tax Credit

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was overpaid in research and development tax credits in each year since 2000; how many companies were overpaid research and development tax credits in each such year; and if he will make a statement; [231993]

(2) how much was underpaid in research and development tax credits in each year since 2000; how many companies were underpaid research and development tax credits in each such year; and if he will make a statement; [231994]

(3) how many appeals there have been against the *(a)* underpayment and *(b)* overpayment of research and development tax credits in each year since 2000; and how many appeals were successful in each year. [231995]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested is not available.

Under the self-assessment system, a company makes a claim, in its corporation tax return, to a specific amount of research and development tax relief (including payable tax credit if appropriate).

HMRC carries out a risk assessment into every tax return and may intervene in a particular case. This may ultimately lead to an adjustment of the amount of tax relief given, in which case the company has a right of appeal. Such interventions take place for a large number of different tax reasons, many unrelated to any R and D claim. In many cases there will be a number of relevant factors. To safeguard its compliance processes, HMRC does not separately publish the numbers of interventions in respect of R and D.

### Retail Trade: Competition

**Andrew George:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what meetings at which the Competition Commission market investigation into the supply of groceries in the UK was discussed he has had since 1 May 2008; [237212]

(2) what meetings he and Ministers within his Department have had with representatives of UK grocery retailers since 1 May 2008. [237213]

**Angela Eagle:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Revenue and Customs: Business Interests

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date John Connors, the Director of HM Revenue and Customs' Large Business and Employers' Customer Unit, submitted an application under the business appointments procedures to join Vodafone; on what date the application was approved; and what conditions were placed on Mr. Connors when the application was approved. [237568]

**Mr. Timms:** John Connors submitted the application on 19 March 2007 and the application was approved on 8 May 2007. No conditions were placed on him.

### Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the Chief Executive of HM Revenue and Customs received the letter from the right hon. Member for Birkenhead of 31 October 2008 on his constituent, Natasha Brown; and when he expects the matter raised in the letter to be resolved. [238155]

**Mr. Timms:** As HM Revenue and Customs did not receive my right hon. Friend's letter, his office was contacted and provided a copy of the letter on 19 November 2008. The chief executive aims to reply within 15 working days.

### Revenue and Customs: Fraud

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff at *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency have been investigated for alleged fraud in 2008. [237359]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs employs over 80,000 staff.

From 1 April 2008 to date, there have been 27 investigations into suspected fraudulent activity by HMRC staff. The investigations are for such activity as failing to declare a criminal conviction ranging to fraudulent claims to repayments.

The number of Valuation Office Agency staff investigated for alleged fraud in 2008 is less than five. The exact number cannot be disclosed on grounds of confidentiality.

### Revenue and Customs: Manpower

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of each grade were employed at the Inland Revenue and HM Revenue and Customs offices at *(a)* Concord House, Paignton and *(b)* Tor Hill House, Torquay on (i) 31 March 2005, (ii) 31 March 2007 and (iii) 31 March 2008. [237943]

**Mr. Timms:** The number of staff by grade employed at these HM Revenue and Customs/Inland Revenue offices, in both headcount and full time equivalent (FTE), were:

*Concord House, Paignton*[1]

| *Grade* | *Headcount* | *FTE* |
|---|---|---|
| *(i) 31 March 2005 (Inland Revenue)* | | |
| Officer | 2 | 2 |
| Assistant Officer | 4 | 2.73 |
| Administrative Assistant | 2 | 1.86 |
| Total | 8 | 6.59 |

[1] This office was vacated in June 2006.

*Tor Hill House, Torquay*

| *Grade* | *Headcount* | *FTE* |
|---|---|---|
| *(i) 31 March 2005 (Inland Revenue)* | | |
| Senior Officer | 1 | 1 |
| Higher Officer | 6 | 5.34 |
| Officer | 23 | 22.73 |
| Assistant Officer | 31 | 27.04 |
| Administrative Assistant | 23 | 20.75 |
| Total | 84 | 76.85 |
| *(ii) 31 March 2007* | | |
| Senior Officer | 1 | 1 |
| Higher Officer | 3 | 2.16 |
| Officer | 21 | 20.81 |
| Assistant Officer | 33 | 28.94 |
| Administrative Assistant | 16 | 13.97 |
| Total | 74 | 66.88 |
| *(iii) 31 March 2008* | | |
| Senior Officer | 2 | 2 |
| Higher Officer | 2 | 1.16 |
| Officer | 18 | 17.81 |
| Assistant Officer | 27 | 23.61 |
| Administrative Assistant | 15 | 13.16 |
| Total | 64 | 57.74 |

### Revenue and Customs: Penzance

**Andrew George:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much tax revenue has been recovered as a result of the work of compliance staff in the Penzance HM Revenue and Customs office in each of the last five years; [238039]

(2) what estimate he has made of tax revenue recovered as a result of work undertaken in the Penzance HM Revenue and Customs office during the last five years. [238040]

**Mr. Timms:** HMRC does not have the available systems to trace back the amount of tax revenue recovered to the work of staff in a particular office.

### Revenue and Customs: Reorganisation

**Andrew George:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he will announce the results of the remaining decisions in the *(a)* workforce change and *(b)* transformation programmes; [237794]

(2) what factors underlay his decision to delay the final announcement of his future plans for the workforce change programme. [238263]

**Mr. Timms:** The remaining decisions on the future of the offices reviewed under the workforce change regional review programme are expected to be announced before the end of 2008.

HMRC will provide an update on its transformation programme in its forthcoming Autumn Performance Report.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the impact which the closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices have upon the economy of the areas in which they were based; [237860]

(2) what assessment he has made of the fiscal stimulus which HM Revenue and Customs offices contribute to the economies in the areas in which they are located; [237861]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposed closure of the Penzance tax office on the local economy; and if he will assess the potential contribution of that office to the local economy in the current economic climate; [238261]

(4) what assessment he has made of the fiscal stimulus provided to local economies from HM Revenue and Customs operations in local communities. [238262]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) draws socio-economic issues to my attention in the impact assessments it prepares when drawing up its regional review proposals. These are important issues

but the primary consideration is HMRC's need to restructure itself into a modern and efficient organisation meeting the needs of its customers.

HMRC is organised on national business lines and most offices do not have a direct link to the taxpaying community in which they are located, with the exception of the inquiry centres. HMRC's general expectation is that staff based at offices that are to be vacated will commute to another office within reasonable daily travel.

They will still therefore contribute to their local economy.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of the proposal submitted by staff in the Penzance HM Revenue and Customs office in response to his Department's workforce change proposals on the deployment of their expertise to expand the Department's repayment compliance project. [237862]

**Mr. Timms:** All responses received in response to the consultation exercise on the workforce change proposal for the future of the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office in Penzance have been considered.

The proposal to vacate the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office in Penzance, with the exception of the inquiry centre service which will be maintained in the present building or nearby, was based on the latest plans of HMRC business units, including those of local compliance.

The repayment compliance project carried out in Penzance was a successful initiative which demonstrated that this type of work did not have to be carried out locally.

### Revenue and Customs: Secondment

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many secondees have worked in HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) since 1 January 2005; from which organisation each was seconded; in which section of HMRC each was employed; and for what period each worked at HMRC. [237564]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is given in the table:

*Secondments within HMRC, November 2008*

| *Dept From* | *HMRC section* | *Period in HMRC* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *From* | *To* |
| Australian Taxation Office | Special Civil Investigations | 1 March 2007 | 2 years |
| Bank of England | Finance | 20 November 2006 | 19 November 2009 |
| Bank of England | Finance | 28 February 2007 | 27 February 2009 |
| Bank of England | Debt Management and Banking | 1 January 2008 | 31 March 2009 |
| Bank of England | Debt Management and Banking | 1 November 2006 | 1 November 2009 |
| Bank of England | Government Banking Service | 22 September 2008 | 31 January 2009 |
| Cabinet Office | HMRC Pacesetter | 5 October 2005 | 31 March 2008 |
| Communities and Local Government | Knowledge, Analysis and Intelligence | 15 September 2008 | 2 yrs |
| Dept for Constitutional Affairs | Solicitors | 4 September 2006 | 3 September 2008 |
| Dept of Constitutional Affairs | Solicitors Office | 1 April 2005 | 31 March 2008 |
| Dept for Constitutional Affairs | Centralised Processing | 26 September 2005 | 25 September 2009 |
| Egon Zehnder | Chief People Officer | 7 January 2008 | 31 July 2008 |
| DEFRA | Communication and Marketing | 6 August 2007 | 5 August 2009 |
| HM Treasury | Business Tax | 3 July 2006 | 2 July 2008 |
| HM Treasury | Large Business Services | 21 August 2006 | 20 August 2008 |
| Home Office | Central Compliance | 1 December 2003 | Continuing arrangement |
| Home Office | Compliance Pacesetter | 13 February 2007 | 31 January 2009 |
| Home Office | Central Compliance | 1 October 2008 | May 2009 |
| IBM | Individuals Customer Unit | 1 May 2007 | 30 April 2008 |
| IBM | Central Compliance | 1 July 2008 | Continuing arrangement |
| KPMG | Anti Avoidance Group | 1 October 2008 | 1 October 2009 |
| KPMG | Local Compliance Large and Complex | 6 October 2008 | 3 April 2009 |
| KPMG | Large Business Services | 22 January 2008 | 21 September 2008 |
| Korean National Tax Service | Central Policy | 1 April 2008 | 18 months |
| Labour Providers Unit—Norwich | Debt Management and Banking | 1 July 2004 | Continuing arrangement |
| Labour Providers Unit -Norwich | Debt Management and Banking | 1 April 2005 | Continuing arrangement |
| Ministry of justice | People Function | 1 May 2008 | 1 May 2010 |
| New Zealand tax authority | Large Business Services | 1 April 2008 | 31 March 2009 |
| OPG/GBS | Debt Management and Banking | 6 March 2007 | 5 March 2010 |
| OPC | Tax Law rewrite | 16 October 2006 | 1 October 2009 |
| OPC | Central Policy | 1 May 2007 | Expected to leave on 31 December 2009 |
| OPC | Central Policy | 1 September 2003 | October 2009 |
| OPC | Central Policy | 1 December 2007 | Expected to leave on 31 December 2009 |
| OPC | Central Policy | 1 June 2007 | October 2009 |
| Office of Parliamentary Counsel | Tax Law Rewrite | 15 October 2006 | 14 October 2008 |
| SOCA | Criminal Investigations | 1 July 2007 | 30 June 2008 |
| Tax office Finland | People Function | 1 September 2007 | 1 March 2008 |

*Secondments within HMRC, November 2008*

| *Dept From* | *HMRC section* | *Period in HMRC* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *From* | *To* |
| DTI via Cabinet Office | Knowledge, Analysis and Intelligence director | 9 2006 | Continuing arrangement |
| DTI | Central Policy | 8 January 2007 | 1 March 2009 |
| Valuation Office Agency | People Function | 16 January 2006 | Continuing arrangement |
| Valuation Office Agency | HR and Learning | 3 January 2006 | 2 January 2008 |
| Valuation Office Agency | Solicitors Office | 1 April 2007 | 31 March 2009 |
| Winterrule Acts | Individuals Customer Unit | 5 September 2007 | Continuing arrangement |
| Department Work and Pensions | Central Compliance | 1 May 2008 | May 2009 |

HMRC is unable to provide the data requested on the number of secondees who have worked in the Department since 1 January 2005.

**Revenue and Customs: Standards**

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what national processing performance targets were set for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) offices in 2007-08; and what the performance of HMRC offices in Devon was against those targets in that year. [237940]

**Mr. Timms:** Processing has a range of targets. The main ones for the PAYE/SA business are:

| *Activity* | *Target (percentage)* |
|---|---|
| PAYE Quality | 93 |
| SA Quality | 97 |
| Post Quality (40 days) | 90 |
| Post - 15 day turnaround | 80 |
| Post - 40 day turnaround | 95 |

Separate figures are not reported for individual offices.

**Tax Credit**

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit cases are awaiting a decision by the Adjudicator's Office; what the target time for a decision to be made is; what the *(a)* length of the longest time and *(b)* average time taken to reach a decision has been in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [238339]

**Mr. Timms:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer my predecessor gave my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 388W, and the answer I gave the hon. Member for North Thanet (Mr. Gale) on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1196W.

**Taxation: Companies**

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* limited liability companies, *(b)* partnerships and *(c)* self-employed individuals that were liable for late payment interest charges levied by HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last four years in respect of (i) main rate corporation tax, (ii) marginal small company rate corporation tax, (iii) small companies' rate corporation tax, (iv) VAT, (v) income tax and (vi) national insurance contributions; and what the projected figures for (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10 are; [238834]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the monetary value of late payment interest charges levied by HM Revenue and Customs on *(a)* limited liability companies, *(b)* partnerships and *(c)* self-employed individuals in each of the last four years in respect of (i) main rate corporation tax, (ii) marginal small company rate corporation tax, (iii) small companies' rate corporation tax, (iv) VAT, (v) income tax and (vi) national insurance contributions; and what the projected figures for (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10 are; [238835]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the number of late payment interest charges levied by HM Revenue and Customs on *(a)* limited liability companies, *(b)* partnerships and *(c)* self-employed individuals in each of the last four years in respect of (i) main rate corporation tax, (ii) marginal small company rate corporation tax, (iii) small companies' rate corporation tax, (iv) VAT, (v) income tax and (vi) national insurance contributions; and what the projected figures for (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10 are. [238836]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Taxation: Pensioners**

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pensioners not eligible for pension credit have experienced a net reduction in their income following the removal of the 10 per cent. tax band and the subsequent increase of the tax-free allowance. [237946]

**Mr. Timms:** A breakdown of the 1.1 million households that experienced a net reduction in their income from the personal tax measures is provided in the Treasury's memorandum to the Treasury Select Committee as part of their inquiry into "Budget measures and low income households".

**Taxation: Prisoners**

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Prison Service ruling that prisoners may not be employed and pay tax applies to prisoners in open prisons. [237296]

**Mr. Timms:** Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs takes the view that because prisoners working inside prisons, whatever the category of prison, are working under prison rules, they cannot be treated as employees for tax and NICs purposes.

### Taxation: Rehabilitation

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the tax revenue received from taxation of rehabilitation services provided by employers to employees where the injury was sustained outside the workplace in the last financial year; [238789]

(2) what the tax treatment is of rehabilitation services for employees provided by employers for *(a)* the employer and *(b)* the employee in (i) cases where the injury is sustained in the workplace and (ii) cases where the injury is sustained outside the workplace. [238790]

**Mr. Timms:** No estimate has been made of the tax revenue received from the taxation of payments made by employers to cover costs of injuries suffered by their employees outside the workplace. Employers are not required to report to HMRC the reason for providing their employees with taxable private medical treatment.

Where an injury or condition derives directly from an employee carrying out his or her duties or in the case of other accidents or conditions that derive solely from the employee carrying out his or her job, the cost of the treatment paid for by their employer, including rehabilitation services, would not be subject to tax or national insurance contributions.

But where the injury or condition does not directly arise from the employee performing the duties of the job, the cost of treatment paid for by the employer will be subject to tax and to employer's class 1A national insurance contributions.

### Taxation: Self-assessment

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on which dates since September 2008 the HM Revenue and Customs online self-assessment tax pages have not had a full service available; for how long on each occasion; and if he will make a statement. [236799]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* HMRC's online services—including the Self Assessment service—are not available when HMRC and/or the Government Gateway need to upgrade their online systems. The Self Assessment service was not available on the following dates since September 2008:

1-2 September from 20.00 to 05.15, a total of nine hours and 15 minutes.

5-8 September from 19.30 to 06.00, a total of 58 hours and 30 minutes.

10 September from 0.00 to 06.00, a total of six hours.

6 October from 02.00 to 05.00, a total of three hours.

9 October from 22.04 to 22.18, a total of 14 minutes.

17-18 October from 20.00 to 01.33, a total of five hours and 33 minutes.

24-27 October from 06.00 to 6.00, a total of 72 hours.

30 October from 22.00 to 23.30, a total of one hour and 30 minutes.

1 November from 02.00 to 22.00, a total of 20 hours.

6-7 November from 27.53 to 8.20, a total of eight hours and 27 minutes.

10 November from 06.30 to 10.15, a total of three hours and 45 minutes.

11-12 November from 22.00 to 04.20, a total of six hours and 20 minutes.

The majority of downtime is scheduled to minimise impact on customers, for example overnight, and to avoid peak times such as the lead up to the online Self Assessment filing deadline. HMRC warns its customers in advance of such downtime.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many upgrades of the HM Revenue and Customs online self-assessment tax form have been made to the system since September 2008; when such upgrades were made; for how long the online form was unavailable as a result of the upgrades; and if he will make a statement. [236800]

**Mr. Timms:** Since September 2008 there have been two upgrades to the HM Revenue and Customs online Self Assessment service which have resulted in the service being temporarily unavailable.

The first took place on 1-2 of September and totalled nine hours and 15 minutes. The second occurred on 24-27 October and totalled 72 hours.

HMRC's customers are informed in advance of the downtime caused by upgrades; it is scheduled to minimise impact on customers, for example overnight, and to avoid peak times such as the lead up to the online Self Assessment filing deadline.

### Valuation Office: Databases

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 684W, on Valuation Office: databases, if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance given to staff on how the database alignment exercise should be conducted. [236020]

**Mr. Timms:** The database alignment exercise is being undertaken by Ordnance Survey.

### Valuation Office: Geographical Information Systems

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 314W, on the Valuation Office, what the go live date is for the geographical information system; and whether it will cover *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales. [236030]

**Mr. Timms:** The specification for the Valuation Office Agency's GIS will not be finalised until December 2009. The go live date will be determined during the specification process. The VOA's GIS will cover England and Wales.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 314W, on the Valuation Office, if he will place in the Library a copy of the invitation to tender with commercially sensitive elements redacted. [236032]

**Mr. Timms:** It would be inappropriate to do so as Aspire have conducted the tender process.

### Valuation Office: Handbooks

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1279W, on the Valuation Office: manuals, if he will publish an updated list of the titles of each of the Valuation Office Agency's learning manuals. [235015]

**Mr. Timms:** The following learning documents are currently available to Valuation Office Agency staff.

Rating Support Application (RSA) training support materials;
RSA: Introduction to Rating Workbook;
RSA: Induction Workbook;
IT Services Division (ITSD) IT Training Information;
District Valuer Services (DVS) Caseworker Support IT training support materials;
Defence Support Package Guides and Workbooks;
CRAC, MILO, 1990 Rating Enquiries IT application work aids and trainer notes;
Digital Mapping User Guide;
Digital Photography User Guide;
Microsoft Applications IT trainer notes;
VOA Management Development guides and workbooks;
NDR Referencers Manual;
CT Referencers Manual;
Zoning of shops handbook;
Introduction to Rating;
The role of the Referencer;
Introduction to Inspections;
Introduction to Industrials;
Introduction to Offices;
Inspection of Shops;
Principles of Rating;
Material Date, Effective Dates and Transition;
Introduction to Commercial Landlord and Tenant;
Rentals Approach to Rating valuation;
Introduction to Masts;
Mast Valuations;
CT Valuation Modules 1 to 4;
Business Awareness;
Customer Service;
Data Security Workbook;
CT Caseworker Support (Introduction to Council Tax Workbook); and
CT Caseworker Support, IT Training Support Materials.

### Valuation Office: Northern Ireland Land and Property Services

**Mrs. Lait:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1266W, on the Valuation Office: Northern Ireland Land and Property Services, if he will place in the Library copies of the minutes of the Steering Committee on Harmonisation in respect of each of the meetings listed in the answer. [222896]

**Mr. Timms:** A copy of the minutes of the 45th and 46th meetings of the Steering Committee on Harmonisation (Practice and Procedure) England Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland held on 8-9 May 2007 in Belfast and 6-7 November 2007 in London have been placed in the Library. There were no minutes from the other meetings.

### Valuation Office: Rightmove

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency, or HM Revenue and Customs on its behalf, will pay to rightmove.co.uk plc in respect of 2008-09. [236183]

**Mr. Timms:** Terms for an extension to the contract with Rightmove are being finalised. Payments to third parties will be published in the Valuation Office Agency's Report and Accounts in due course.

### Valuation Office: Standards

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what national targets have been set for the Valuation Office Agency (VOA); and what the performance of VOA offices in the South West Region against these targets was in 2007-08. [237935]

**Mr. Timms:** Within the South West Region, the Valuation Office Agency's structure during 2007-08 comprised the South West and Western Groups covering local taxation work, and the South West District Valuer Services Unit covering other work. The national targets set by my right hon. Friend the former Paymaster General for 2007-08 and announced to the House on 26 March 2007 together with the audited results (which are available on the Agency's website at: www.voa.gov.uk) are shown as follows alongside the individual outturns for the South West Region.

*Valuation Office Agency national targets and results, 2007-08*

| *Agency key targets* | *Agency target* | *Agency result* | *South West Group result* | *Western Group result* | *DVS SW result* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Customer* | | | | | |
| To achieve overall customer satisfaction of 88 per cent. (Percentage) | 88 | 91 | | | |
| *Operations* | | | | | |
| To enable prompt issue of correct bills by local authorities through clearing rating reports within an average of 18 working days (Number) | 18 | 11 | 12.3 | 9.0 | |

*Valuation Office Agency national targets and results, 2007-08*

| *Agency key targets* | *Agency target* | *Agency result* | *South West Group result* | *Western Group result* | *DVS SW result* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *To enable prompt issue of correct bills by local authorities through clearing council tax reports within an average of 14 days—England only (Number)* | 14 | 14 | 11.9 | 17.1 | — |
| *To enable prompt issue of correct bills by local authorities through clearing council tax reports within an average of 16 days—Wales only (Number)* | 16 | 12 | — | — | — |
| *To contain reductions in the 2005 rating lists to a maximum of 4.2 per cent. of the total compiled list rateable value, over the entire life of the lists (Percentage)* | 4.2 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 1.1 | — |
| *To ensure that 96 per cent. of new council tax bandings are right first time (Percentage)* | 96 | 97 | 96.3 | 96.8 | — |
| *To enable prompt issue of tax assessments by clearing all HMRC initial appraisal cases for inheritance tax on average within eight days (Number)* | 8 | 9.6 | — | — | 7.2 |
| *To enable prompt issue of tax assessments by clearing all HMRC initial appraisal cases for capital gains tax cases within an average of 12 days (Number)* | 12 | 9.5 | — | — | 13.0 |
| *Value for money* | | | | | |
| *To improve productivity by 3 per cent. in 2007-08 (Percentage)* | 3 | 8 | 5.1 | 13.1 | — |
| *To improve value for money on IHT work for HMRC by 5 per cent. (Percentage)* | 5 | 15 | — | — | 33 |
| *People* | | | | | |
| *All staff to have the core skills and competencies for their role within six months of taking up post (Percentage)* | 100 | 99 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

My predecessor announced to the House on 15 May 2008 the following national targets for the Agency for 2008-09. They are available at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/forward_plan/Forward_Plan_2008-11.pdf

**Valuation: Licensed Premises**

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1625W, on valuation: licensed premises, if he will place in the Library a copy of the updated manual on valuing licensed premises. [23501]

**Mr. Timms:** The latest version of the Rating Manual is available on the Valuation Office Agency's website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

This includes updated sections on licensed properties in preparation for the 2010 revaluation, these are:

Rating Manual Volume 5: Section 825: Practice Note 2010;

Rating Manual Volume 5 Section 825: Public Houses, Licensed Restaurants and Wine Bars—Practice Note 1: 2010: Appendix 1: Approved Guide to Valuation; and

Rating Manual Volume 5 Section 825: Public Houses, Licensed Restaurants and Wine Bars—Practice Note 1: 2010: Appendix 2

These are accessible at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/instructions/chapters/rating_manual/vol5/sect825/frame.htm

**VAT: Bingo**

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on what grounds HM Revenue and Customs is contesting the recent ruling relating to overpaid VAT on interval games of bingo; and if he will make a statement. [23769?]

(2) what assessment he has made of the implications of the recent HM Revenue and Customs Tribunal on the application of VAT on games of interval bingo. [23795?]

**Mr. Timms:** Considerations of taxpayer confidentiality prevent HM Revenue and Customs from disclosing its grounds of appeal in the recent case, or its assessment of the implications of the Tribunal decision, neither of which are in the public domain.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications of the European Court of Justice ruling on Linneweber for the tax treatment of licensed bingo. [23795?]

**Angela Eagle:** HM Revenue and Customs does not consider that the judgment has any implications for the tax treatment of bingo in the UK. It does not accept that there is any actual or potential distortion of competition in the UK caused by the different tax treatments and accordingly no breach of the principle of fiscal neutrality. This decision is being appealed in the High Court.

**VAT: Energy**

**Mr. Francois:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1267W, on VAT: lighting, what progress he has made at EU level on his proposals for wider application of reduced value added tax rates to energy saving and energy efficient products; and if he will make a statement. [23759?]

**Mr. Timms:** In response to a joint proposal from the UK and France for a reduced rate of VAT on energy-efficient products and energy-saving materials, and following the Conclusions of the Spring European Council, the European Commission has launched an external study to examine the economic effects of such measures. The Government's current understanding is that this study will be concluded within the coming months.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was recovered by his Department in overpaid tax credits following court cases in each *(a)* month of 2008-09 to date and *(b)* year from 2003-04 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [230485]

(2) how much, on average, his Department clawed back per case of tax credits overpayment taken to court in each *(a)* month of 2008-09 and *(b)* of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [231026]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is not available. Departmental records do not link sums recovered with individual court cases.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Climate Change: Conferences

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's objectives are for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznan; what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment and Climate Change about the conference; whether a Minister from his Department will be part of the Government's delegation; and if he will make a statement. [234961]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) will be attending the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) talks in Poznan as members of the UK delegation. DFID officials jointly lead for the UK on adaptation policy and on climate financing. The UK will be represented at ministerial level by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Ed Miliband, and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Joan Ruddock.

The Poznan meeting is an important staging post en route to the Copenhagen meeting at the end of 2009, where we hope to secure global agreement on a long-term framework for addressing climate change that enables us to avoid dangerous climate change. Poznan should mark a turning point from the 'year of ideas' to the 'year of negotiations'. We will therefore be looking for commitment from all parties to move into full negotiating mode in 2009.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236927]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for International Development's (DFID) only non-departmental public body (NDPB) is the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC), which was established by Act of Parliament in 1959.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission is responsible for managing the UK's contribution to the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP), an international programme under which all Commonwealth governments offer scholarships and fellowships to citizens of other Commonwealth countries.

The budget that has been set for the CSC is £15.93 million for 2008-09, £17.43 million for 2009-10 and £17.5 million for 2010-11.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Selby of 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 767W, on public relations, what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* CDC has incurred on public affairs firms since 2002. [239173]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development's (DFID) central data management system does not currently hold information on public affairs as a separate category. It would therefore not be possible to provide the requested information for either DFID or CDC without incurring disproportionate cost.

A list of contracts awarded by DFID since January 2005 is available on DFID's website

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/procurement/contractslet.asp.

This includes the contract title, which provides an indication of the nature of work being carried out. The information published on our website does not include lower value contracts issued by DFID departments or overseas offices under delegated authority.

### Djibouti: Overseas Aid

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK aid was given to Djibouti in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2005. [237020]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Details on UK aid to Djibouti since 1997-98 are laid out in the following table.

*Total UK gross public expenditure on development (GPEX) to Djibouti, 1997-98 to 2007-08*

*£000*

| | *Bilateral GPEX* | *UK imputed share of multilateral ODA*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 2 | 439 |
| 1998-99 | 0 | 1,204 |
| 1999-2000 | — | 7 |
| 2000-01 | — | 2,446 |
| 2001-02 | — | 569 |
| 2002-03 | 14 | 2,208 |
| 2003-04 | — | 455 |
| 2004-05 | — | 1,585 |
| 2005-06 | — | 1,109 |
| 2006-07 | 3,944 | 1,482 |
| 2007-08 | 176 | .. |

[1] 2007-08 data are not yet available

The 2006-07 and 2007-08 bilateral data in the above table are estimates of the value of DFID funding to the Education Fast Track Initiative (FTI) allocated to Djibouti. This allocation is based on the breakdown of expenditure reported by the FTI.

### EU Aid

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the UK contribution to the EU international aid budget was in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007. [237019]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Details on the UK's contribution to the European Commission's (EC's) development programme are laid out in the following table.

*UK contribution to the EC's development programme, 2004-05 to 2007-08*

*£ million*

| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| European Development Fund | 253.7 | 234.4 | 238.0 | 280.0 |
| European Commission National Experts | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.2 | — |
| European Investment Bank | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | — |
| UK's attribution of the EC's External Assistance Budget | 966.6 | 955.9 | 883.3 | 920.3 |
| Total European Commission | 1,222.0 | 1,192.0 | 1,123.2 | 1,200.3 |

### India: Overseas Aid

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has for the future level of UK aid to India. [237180]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** With 456 million poor people living on less than $1.25 a day (the international poverty line), India is home to one-third of the world's poor. With such large numbers living in destitution, the world cannot make headway on poverty without tackling it in India. For this reason, the UK remains committed to its development programme in India. Currently there are no plans to decrease aid to India.

### North Africa: EU Aid

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the European Commission on plans to increase EU aid to *(a)* Morocco, *(b)* Algeria, *(c)* Libya and *(d)* Egypt. [237027]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) represents the majority of the European Commission's aid to Morocco, Algeria, Libya and Egypt. The 2007-10 aid budgets for all countries under the ENPI were approved by EU member states, including the UK, in 2006. Country allocations will be considered again during the mid-term review of the ENPI in 2010, when the budgets for 2011-13 will be agreed. The Department for International Development (DFID) will continue to be involved with the European Commission during this process.

### Overseas Aid: Voluntary Work

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many seats on British Airways' flights have been purchased under the Platform2 programme; at what cost; and how many and what percentage of them were used. [236337]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Platform2 is implemented on behalf of the Department for International Development (DFID) by Christian Aid in partnership with Islamic Relief and the British Universities North America Club (BUNAC).

A total of four economy British Airways flights have been purchased by BUNAC under the programme: two to Accra in Ghana (at a cost of £576.29 and £726), one to Cape Town, South Africa (£1,118.26), and one to India (£726). All four flights were used.

### Overseas Aid: Water

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will increase the number of water wells which receive funding from his Department. [236232]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to increasing our level of funding for water and sanitation in Africa to £200 million a year by 2010, and maintaining it at this level for five years. This will involve a variety of measures, including water wells, to achieve better access to safe and clean drinking water.

### Palestinians: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government has taken to protect aid workers in Palestine. [237613]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The UK Government are not responsible for the safety of aid workers working in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs). We regularly post updated travel advice on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website which we urge all British nationals working in or travelling to the OPTs to follow.

Department for International Development (DFID) staff posted abroad receive security briefing and training. While they are in country, office and home accommodation and local travel are security risk-assessed, and appropriate security safeguards are adopted. Consultants and contractors employed by DFID are responsible for their own security and safety arrangements. However, DFID seeks to ensure that they are appropriately briefed on security matters.

DFID is also funding a UN Access Support Team to help humanitarian agencies and NGOs negotiate with the government of Israel to move humanitarian imports and staff into Gaza and within the west bank. This should reduce the time aid workers spend waiting at crossings, some of which—particularly into Gaza—are hazardous.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps the Government has taken to promote economic development in Palestine. [237614]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) provided financial and technical support to the Palestinian Authority (PA) to host the first Palestine Investment Conference in Bethlehem in May this year, at which over £700 million of investment agreements were signed with mainly Arab companies. Following the success of the conference, the Prime Minister announced a further investment event to be hosted in London on 15-16 December 2008. This will build further momentum on the economic track of the peace process by helping to increase investment and economic relations between the UK and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

DFID is also currently funding a new £3.7 million Facility for New Market Development (FNMD) to support Palestinian businesses to diversify and compete in new markets and enhance exports. During his visit in July this year, the Prime Minister presented the first grant awards to Palestinian entrepreneurs from this facility, and spoke at a seminar of leading UK and Palestinian businesspeople. The facility already has 23 clients, including seven businesses owned by women, and four coming from Gaza. DFID has also provided the PA with £3 million to help it pay off its private sector debts. This benefited firms in both Gaza and the west bank.

In parallel with these activities, the UK Government have called on the government of Israel to ease the restrictions on the movement of Palestinian people and goods.

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236899]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has received no complaints of racial abuse relating to staff in the last 12 months.

### Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the government of Congo-Brazzaville on reports of corruption in that country. [237024]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have a bilateral programme with Congo-Brazzaville and has had no formal discussions with its government. However, Congo-Brazzaville is a candidate country in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) which DFID supports. The EITI brings together governments, business and civil society to increase transparency over extractive revenue flows from companies to governments.

Further information is available on the EITI website: http://eitransparency.org/.

### Russia: Overseas Aid

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK aid was given to Russia in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [237018]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Details on UK aid to Russia are laid out in the following table.

*UK total bilateral gross public expenditure on development (GPEX) 2005-06 to 2007-08*

| | *Russia (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 5,684 |
| 2006-07 | 5,085 |
| 2007-08 | 373 |

### Somalia: International Assistance

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate has been made of the proportion of the Somali population which does not have access to aid due to the withdrawal of humanitarian agencies from the country. [236353]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The humanitarian situation in Somalia continues to be of great concern to the UK Government. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) does not have an official estimate of the proportion of the Somali population unable to access to aid due to the withdrawal of humanitarian agencies. However, a contingency plan has been put into place and other agencies have stepped in quickly to fill the gap left by the withdrawal. Our partners, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), World Food Programme (WFP) and UNOCHA, remain responsive, and operational on the ground despite the difficult conditions and aid is still being delivered to the most vulnerable. Reports from the WFP indicate that 2.3 million Somalis will receive food aid in November.

Since January 2008, the UK Government have provided £20.5 million, and will shortly release a further £6.5 million, towards assisting the humanitarian situation in Somalia.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Jobcentre Plus

11. **David Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to ensure that Jobcentre Plus is able to react rapidly to announcements of clusters of redundancies in a particular area. [237972]

**James Purnell:** On 12 November we announced that we are doubling the funding for the Jobcentre Plus' Rapid Response Service, from £3 million to £6 million for this financial year.

We will offer a Rapid Response Service to all employers declaring 20 or more redundancies and will also offer support where there are clusters of redundancies which require extra measures to help people find work.

### Pensioner Poverty

12. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of poverty levels among married pensioners. [237973]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Between 1998-99 and 2006-07, 900,000 pensioners have been lifted out of relative poverty, measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs. Around 200,000 of these are pensioners living with a partner.

Today, after housing costs are accounted for, pensioners who are living with a partner are less likely to be living in poverty than the population as a whole.

### Personal Accounts

13. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects personal accounts to commence. [237974]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Our package for reforms will transform the savings culture in the UK, helping many millions to build—and enjoy—a decent income in retirement. Auto-enrolment will overcome the indecision and inertia that prevents many people from saving.

The personal accounts scheme is a critical element of these reforms.

As we have always said, our plan is to introduce these reforms from 2012.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the cost of establishing the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority and other costs associated with the proposed personal accounts scheme *(a)* at the date on which the scheme was proposed and *(b)* in each month to date; and if he will make a statement. [236013]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 410W to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling).

I cannot reveal the estimated costs associated with the personal accounts scheme as these estimates are commercially sensitive until the commercial procurement of services underpinning the scheme is complete.

Actual expenditure associated with the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority from its creation until 31 March 2008 was £12.43 million. For 2008-09, the authority received an initial budget allocation of £36.1 million. My Department reviews the allocation throughout the year and will be considering the budget for 2009-10 in light of the anticipated passage of the Pensions Bill and the extended role of the authority, which includes setting up the personal accounts scheme.

The Government remain confident that the delivery authority will deliver a personal accounts scheme that offers low charges to members and is self-financing in the long-term, such that its costs of establishment and operation are met through members' charges.

### Benefits Advice

14. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the effect on benefit claimants of private companies operating premium rate telephone lines claiming to offer benefits advice. [237975]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Department for Work and Pensions makes advice on benefits and a wide range of other entitlements easily accessible to everyone through a variety of channels including information leaflets, telephone helplines, websites, and through intermediary organisations working closely with us.

These sources of help and information are consistently promoted through the DWP website, phone books, in Jobcentres, Pension centres and by local authorities and through promotional campaigns.

Where people are seeking information on entitlements, they should turn to the relevant DWP Agency or trusted sources of information like Age Concern or the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Other organisations promoting benefits advice services on a commercial basis are the responsibility of the service Regulator to monitor their operation and to take action where necessary to control them.

### Benefit Payments Non-residents

15. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions What estimate he has made of the monetary value of benefits paid by his Department to citizens of other EU countries not resident in the UK in the last 12 months. [237976]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Nationality is not a condition of entitlement to DWP benefits and pensions, so it is not recorded. I can however tell you that the latest figures available show that the UK Government paid £1.01 billion in benefits and pensions during the period 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 for both UK nationals and EU citizens living in other EU countries.

20. **Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the monetary value of benefits paid by his Department to citizens of other EU countries not resident in the UK in the last 12 months. [237981]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Nationality is not a condition of entitlement to DWP benefits and pensions, so it is not recorded. I can however tell you that the latest figures available show that the UK Government paid £1.01 billion in benefits and pensions during the period 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 for both UK nationals and EU citizens living in other EU countries.

### Mental Illness

16. **Anne Moffat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to assist people with a mental illness or recovering from a mental illness to enter employment. [237977]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We recognise the employment challenges that people with mental health conditions face and we are working to develop a National Strategy for Mental Health and Work, to ensure a coordinated response across Government to the challenges faced by people of working age with mental health conditions and improve their employment chances.

### Incapacity Benefit

17. **Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had on policy to enable people to move from incapacity benefit to employment. [237978]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Our Green Paper 'No-one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility' proposed a range of further steps to help people on incapacity benefits realise the personal benefits of moving into work. As part of the consultation process we have met with various groups representing disabled people to discuss welfare reform policy.

The Government will be publishing their response to the consultation in due course.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the effects of *(a)* low wages and *(b)* migrant workers on the number of incapacity benefit claimants in principal seaside towns; and if he will make a statement. [235533]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Pathways to Work programme is now providing support for incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance customers across the whole country. Government and independent research continues to find no significant evidence of negative employment effects from migration. We do not plan to make a specific assessment of the effects on incapacity benefit claimants in seaside towns.

### Jobcentre Staff

19. **Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to increase staffing levels at Jobcentres in response to recent projections of rising unemployment. [237980]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Government's investment in Jobcentre Plus means that we are well placed to deal with the full range of economic conditions.

However, in recognition of the current situation and the anticipated increase in our workload, we intend to employ an additional 2,200 full-time equivalent staff by March 2009. Some of this increase is already in place and we have set in hand a fast track recruitment process to enable us to achieve this as quickly as possible.

Staffing levels will be kept under active review in order to respond to rising economic challenges.

### Disability Living Allowance

21. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to extend the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance to people with severe sight loss. [237982]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We have had very constructive discussions with the Royal National Institute of Blind People and others on their proposal to extend the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance to people with severe visual impairments.

I welcomed the opportunity attend the RNIB lobby of Parliament on 15 October, along with hundreds of blind and visually impaired people from all around the UK. I certainly recognise the force of the arguments made and I look forward to working with the Royal National Institute of Blind People on this important issue.

### Jobseeker's Allowance

22. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are claiming jobseeker's allowance. [237983]

**Mr. McNulty:** The number of people in the UK claiming jobseeker's allowance in October was 980.9 thousand.

23. **Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants there were in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Clwyd West constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [237984]

**Mr. McNulty:** The number of people in the UK claiming jobseeker's allowance in October was 980.9 thousand.

In Clwyd West the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance was 1,053.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average period was for which jobseeker's allowance was claimed in each month in each of the last three years, broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [232151]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested has been placed in the Library.

### Mortgage Support

24. **Ms Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance his Department provides in respect of mortgage repayments to people who become unemployed. [237985]

25. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department offers in respect of mortgage repayments to people who have lost their jobs. [237986]

**Kitty Ussher:** I refer the hon. Members to the answer given by the Secretary of State to my hon. Friend the Member for Bolton, North-East (Mr. Crausby).

### Access to Work Programme

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget for Access to Work will be in each of the next six years; and if he will make a statement. [237109]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Access to Work budget for 2008-09 is £69 million. The Green Paper 'No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility', Cm 7363, announced that the budget for Access to Work will be doubled. The budget will be steadily increased to £138 million by 2013-14.

### Benefit Fraud Inspectorate: Standards

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what national targets there are for the Benefit Fraud Inspectorate; and what the performance of its activities in Devon has been against these targets in each year since they were set. [237739]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Benefit Fraud Inspectorate closed for business on 31 March 2008.

Responsibilities for assessing and reporting on local authorities benefit services now rest with the appropriate audit bodies in England, Scotland and Wales.

No national or local performance targets were set for the Benefit Fraud Inspectorate.

### Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: ICT

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which computer system the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will use to calculate maintenance payments for their customers; what system the Child Support Agency has used hitherto; and if he will make a statement. [233940]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, which computer system the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will use to calculate maintenance payments for their customers; what system the Child Support Agency has used hitherto; and if he will make a statement. [233940]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission took responsibility for the Child Support Agency functions, assets and people from 1 November 2008. In doing so it took responsibility for both of the existing statutory maintenance schemes. The Agency uses the computer system known as CSCS to manage some cases assessed under the Child Support Act 1991, and the CS2 system for some cases assessed under the Child Support Act 1991 and for all cases assessed under the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission expects to introduce the new gross income statutory maintenance scheme in 2011 and all Agency clients on both schemes will then be invited either to apply to the new gross income scheme or to make a private arrangement. It is currently planned that this process will take around three years, after which time both of the current schemes will close.

The Commission is currently inviting tenders for the computer system to support this new statutory maintenance scheme.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Children: Maintenance

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency cases were unresolved three months after initiation at the latest date for which figures are available. [234691]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The administration of the child maintenance system is a matter for the Commissioner of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Support Agency cases were unresolved three months after initiation at the latest date for which figures are available.

At the end of September 2008, there were a total of 95,900 uncleared applications across both child maintenance schemes. Of these, 65,100 were uncleared current scheme applications over 12 weeks old and 20,200 were uncleared old scheme applications, which by definition are all over 12 weeks old. This is a significant reduction on the March 2006 total of 284,000 outstanding applications, at which point we put the Operational Improvement Plan in place.

Additional information on uncleared cases can be found in tables 2.1 and 5 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics, the latest copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library or online at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of new Child Support Agency cases were resolved within six weeks of receipt in the latest period for which figures are available. [234711]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what proportion of new Child Support Agency cases were resolved within six weeks of receipt in the latest period for which figures are available. [234711]

The latest available information concerning the length of time it takes the Agency to clear new applications is routinely set out in Table 3 of the Child Support agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS), the latest copy of which is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp.

The latest statistics show that of all the applications received in July 2008, 71% were cleared within 6 weeks. They also show that there were 75,700 uncleared applications on the current scheme as at September 2008, compared to 106,100 in March 2008: a reduction of 30,400.

The Agency is currently surpassing the commitment set out in the Operational Improvement Plan to improve client service by reducing the length of time taken to clear new applications. The Agency committed to clearing 80% of new applications within 12 weeks by March 2009 and the latest information shows that 85% of the June 2008 intake was cleared within 12 weeks.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (a) cards, (b) parties and (c) decorations in the last 12 months. [237477]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department does not have any account codes or categories to specifically identify spend on Christmas cards, parties or decorations. However, it does have in place a policy not to incur this kind of expense.

### Connecting for Health

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of buying out the Connecting for Health contracts. [233300]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I have been asked to reply.

Each national programme for information technology (NPfIT) contract contains provisions for penalties to be paid in the event of premature termination of the contract by either party. The penalty payable would depend upon the circumstances leading to termination, and be either settled by agreement between the parties or, ultimately, be determined by a court. It is not possible to make a meaningful estimate of what the sum would be in respect of all NPfIT contracts because of the number of possible variables involved.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237427]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department provides an annual subsidy of £3.4 million for various catering outlets that sell food and drink to staff. This subsidy allows outlets to remain viable and varies depending on a number of factors, such as location and canteen usage.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237444]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department's capitalisation policy is to treat items costing over £5,000, either on an individual or a pooled basis, as capital assets recorded within the fixed asset register. No expenditure on flat screen televisions, DVD players or stereo equipment has been capitalised during the last three years.

The Department does not have any account codes or categories to specifically identify any spend on these categories which may fall below the capitalisation threshold and thus to try and identify any such expenditure would incur a disproportionate amount of time and cost.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of data cleansing of his Department's customer information system was in each year since 2004. [236324]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

| *Financial year* | *Data cleansing[1] (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 460 |
| 2007-08 | 390 |
| 2006-07 | 312 |
| 2005-06 | 290 |
| 2004-05 | 290 |

[1] Ongoing costs for data cleansing work are drawn from the cost of a data maintenance team and the delivery of related change requests. Other Government Departments may also contribute to data cleansing in regards to shared data. This amount is not included in the table as it could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of maintaining his Department's website was in 2007-08; and what the forecast costs of maintaining it are in 2008-09. [237575]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Maintenance of DWP websites including www.dwp.gov.uk is mostly carried out by the Department's own in-house digital media team. It is not possible for us to quantify internal staff costs, because in most cases, staff are engaged in more than one role. In addition, we are unable to establish accurately our infrastructure costs because they form part of a wider departmental IT contract.

DWP is currently working with the COI to develop a standardised method for quantifying website costs across Government. We will be implementing this standard from March 2009 in line with the current timetable.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2007-08. [237576]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The website

www.dwp.gov.uk

received 9,979,110 visitors, 6,034,988 unique visitors and 51,469,970 page views 2007-08.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data was lost by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231426]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department takes its responsibilities for the protection of personal data very seriously.

*(a)* Since 1 December 2007, three laptops and four memory sticks were recorded as lost by the Department.

*(b)* The Department has recorded three instances of personal data related incidents during 2007-08 in its resource accounts which were published on 13 August 2008.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [227606]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 16 October 2008]:* Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and in order for them to work they must be communicated effectively. However, this has also to be done with cost efficiency in mind and there are strict rules to ensure value for money on Government advertising.

Much Government advertising aims to alert people to things that can save lives—and we make no apologies for campaigns like this—such as wearing seat belts, not drinking and driving, quitting smoking and what to do in an emergency. We also use our communications work to protect public funds, for example through our work to drive down benefit fraud.

The other main area of activity is in recruiting people to important frontline services such as in attracting more people to become nurses and police, which are crucial to the public's welfare.

Advertising spend within the DWP covers both campaign advertising and recruitment advertising.

Advertising costs in the following table are for total media spend only and exclude the cost of creative work, research, production of supporting materials or launch events.

All costs are exclusive of VAT, advertising rebates and audit adjustments.

The majority of departmental spend on advertising is via the Central Office of Information (COI) rosters.

Total spend that is held centrally or with the COI is as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 37,423 |
| 2004-05 | 22,338 |
| 2005-06 | 11,211 |
| 2006-07 | 6,579 |
| 2007-08 | 9,179 |

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department and its agencies are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [237464]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In 2007-08, a central branding team comprising of two full-time posts advised on the development, promotion, and use of the departmental corporate brand, promoted guidelines and best practice and ensured consistency and clarity in the use of the brand across the range of Departmental communications.

Our agency brands were managed by two posts with responsibility for ensuring the consistency of the brands on our customer facing products and communications.

The cost of these four posts over the period 2007-08 was £130,140.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236936]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The remit of each non-departmental public body (NDPB) sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions can be found on the Department's Internet site at the following location

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/ndpb/publicbodies.asp#ndpb.

In respect of the budget information requested, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1197W which refers to the executive NDPBs budgets. The advisory NDPBs sponsored by the Department incur little or no expenditure and are resourced from within the Department. As a result, information on the advisory NDPBs budgets for 2008-11 is not available.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on entertainment by his Department at Caxton House in 2007-08. [237641]

**Jonathan Shaw:** While the Department separately identifies expenditure on entertainment within its agencies and business units, this information is not recorded by location. It would not, therefore, be possible to provide this information without incurring a disproportionate amount of time and cost.

### Departmental Older Workers

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people recruited by his Department in 2007-08 were aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years; and what percentage this represented of the number of new recruits in each case. [235239]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam to the answer I gave on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1074W.

### Departmental Redundancy

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many posts will be discontinued in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to achieve the planned 12,000 headcount reduction; and if he will make a statement. [230436]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department achieved significant work force and financial efficiencies over the Spending Review 2004 period with a reduction in its total work force of over 31,000 and an increase in productivity of 11 per cent., between March 2004 and March 2008.

The Department's three-year plan for 2008 to 2011 published in February 2008 contained planning assumptions of further headcount reductions of 12,000 between April 2008 and March 2011. The plan is available in the Library.

The recent increase in unemployment will have an impact on departmental staffing levels. In particular, in 2008-09, the Department plans to retain many of the staff employed to support the introduction of the new employment and support allowance implementation in order to deal with increased work loads.

Plans for future years are being actively reviewed as part of the Department's planning process.

## Departmental Responsibilities

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which *(a)* external and *(b)* internal programmes of his Department and its agencies cost between £1 million and £50 million; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) expected completion date of each is. [226196]

**Jonathan Shaw:** All projects/programmes within DWP are subject to a formal monitoring and governance process. However, within this monitoring/governance process, there are two levels.

*1. Monitoring by Investment Committee/Change Delivery Committee (CDC)*

Projects which form part of the CDC Portfolio are projects/programmes where they require:

a. an up-front investment cost of over £25 million and/or,

b. requires a commitment of steady state ongoing costs in excess of £10 million per annum (DEL Admin/DEL Programme/or AME); and/or,

c. an Office of Government Commerce Risk Potential Assessment Score of 41 points or over; and/or

d. make a significant contribution to the Department's objectives (this is taken to include a close alignment with a ministerial objective, a public sector agreement target or a target set by the centre of Government for the Department as a whole).

*2. Projects Managed by Business Unit Governance Boards*

These are still subjected to a formal process but are projects which fall outside the scope of CDC because they have lower financial investment.

The majority of the projects/programmes covered in this response are monitored and managed within the CDC Portfolio, and are therefore within the £25 million to £50 million range. However, for some IS-IT projects, we have already collected these data and these have also been included.

For the majority of projects managed by business units (£1 million to £25 million) we are unable to provide details due to the disproportionate cost associated with obtaining these details.

When assessing the costs of the projects to be included, the 'investment (i.e. one-off)' costs of the project/programme have been used. Costs of running the solutions implemented by the projects and programmes are not included as in the vast majority of cases they are more than compensated for by the financial benefits they generate.

| *Project* | *(i) Purpose* | *(ii) Expected completion date* |
|---|---|---|
| Document Repository Service[1] | This project seeks to support the Department's modernisation programmes through the provision of a document repository to store digitised images of documents received from customers (letters, faxes, e-mails etc.), cutting down paper in the organisation | March 2009 |
| On Time Solution | Provide a range of improved information services to DWP businesses, including improved quicker management information, fraud and error intervention and analysis | March 2011 |
| Provider Referrals and Payment Project | Deploy an IT system to automate and e-enable transactions between Jobcentre Plus and training providers | June 2010 |
| Local Services Integration Programme | To provide local services with an IT solution that supports the end to end process | December 2011 |
| Government Connect | To roll out a secure data network connecting Government and local authorities, including secure file transfer, e-mail and web-browser capability | March 2011 |
| Method of Payment Reform | MPRP will develop modern, electronic, secure and efficient methods of payments for customers who require payment by an alternate means other than direct payment to bank accounts. | March 2011 |
| Tell Us Once | TUO is a major cross Government initiative, led by DWP, to transform the way in which people can tell Government (central and local) about changes to their circumstances | April 2009 |
| Data Centre Strategy | The project is addressing the ongoing continued threat of business service continuity at Washington Data Centre with a replacement strategy to be complete by the end of 2010 | 2010 |
| Lone Parent Obligations | LPO is part of welfare reform and intends increasing the lone parent employment rate. Currently lone parents are not required to seek employment until their youngest child reaches 16. Under new proposals to be phased in (starting with youngest child aged 12), lone parents will no longer be entitled to income support solely for being a lone parent if their youngest child is above seven. In the last year before entitlement ceases, work-focused interviews will take place to encourage lone parents to take up training opportunities, leading to employment | February 2011 |

| Project | (i) Purpose | (ii) Expected completion date |
|---|---|---|
| Provider Led Pathways to Work (PL Pathways) | Central to the welfare reform agenda, this project will contract the private and voluntary sector to provide additional help and support for all but the most severely ill or disabled incapacity benefit customers gaining employment. Additional help will be provided through additional mandatory monthly work-focused interviews and tailored, job-focused support, including help to manage customer's health condition, especially in relation to work | April 2008 |
| Jobseekers Regime and Flexible New Deal | This programme will replace and streamline the current new deal programmes and will concentrate on tackling the challenging problems of those who remain unemployed despite a strong economy and historically low unemployment. The programme will include provision of obtaining skills and mandatory work experience for customers | October 2010 |
| Periodicity and Payday | This project forms part of the Working Age (WA) Benefit Simplification Programme to align and extend payment periods for all WA benefits on an incremental basis so that they would over time be paid on a fortnightly basis, wholly in arrears. A single payday will be assigned to each individual, regardless of the benefits they receive | July 2009 |

[1] Document Repository System: The date shown for the expected completion date (March 2009) is the End Project Review (EPR) date. A completion date of November 2008 has been previously quoted; this refers to the 1st "Go Live Date" which was delivered to the original planned deadline.

### Departmental Statistics

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what statistical releases and reports *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies intend to publish in the next calendar year. [235883]

**Jonathan Shaw:** All National Statistics released by the Department or its agencies are pre-announced on the Release Calendar run by the UK Statistics Authority, in line with the National Statistics Code of Practice.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many overseas visits he has made in his official capacity since his appointment. [238392]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Secretary of State has made three overseas visits in his official capacity since his appointment.

### Deprivation Indicators: Children

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what indicators his Department uses to monitor levels of child poverty; and if he will make a statement on trends in these indicators since 1997. [235557]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Department uses three indicators to monitor levels of child poverty; they were established in 2003 following a lengthy period of consultation.

Absolute low income measures whether the poorest families are seeing their income rise in real terms. The threshold is fixed as equal to the relative low income threshold for the baseline year of 1998-99 expressed in today's prices.

Relative low income measures whether the incomes of the poorest families are keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the economy as a whole. This indicator measures the number of children living in households below 60 per cent. of contemporary median equivalised income. This is the indicator which is used to measure performance against the public service agreement target to halve child poverty by 2010-11.

Material deprivation and low income combined provides a wider measure of people's living standards. This indicator measures the number of children living in households that are both materially deprived and have an income below 70 per cent. of contemporary equivalised median income.

Since 1998 progress has been made against all of the indicators. 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative low income between 1998-99 and 2006-07, a shift from 3.4 million children to 2.9 million children. The number of children living in absolute low income has halved from 3.4 million to 1.7 million.

Between 2004-05, the first year data were available, and 2006-07 the number of children in the UK defined as poor using the combined indicator of relative low income and material deprivation fell by 200,000 from 2.2 million to 2.0 million on the particular material deprivation threshold that was chosen.

Low income is not the only dimension to poverty and a child's quality of life, including access to health care, education and a safe environment, are critical.

The three indicators are therefore underpinned by the broader Opportunity for all indicators. Opportunity for all is the Government's report on poverty and social exclusion which includes a wide range of poverty and social exclusion indicators for children and young people (as well as working age adults, older people and communities) including health, education and housing. Details can be found on the Opportunity for all website at

www.dwp.gov.uk/ofa.

### Disability Living Allowance: Sight Impaired

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with a visual impairment have received *(a)* the lower rate and *(b)* the higher rate of the mobility component of the disability living allowance in the last 12 months. [237258]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The available information is in the table.

*Disability living allowance cases in payment with blindness as the main disabling condition by mobility award rate: Great Britain*

| | Higher rate | Lower rate |
|---|---|---|
| May 2008 | 4,600 | 58,040 |
| February 2008 | 4,640 | 57,490 |
| November 2007 | 4,650 | 57,200 |
| August 2007 | 4,630 | 56,760 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Where the claimant is eligible for both care and mobility components, the disabling condition associated with the mobility component is shown here. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.
4. Figures are published on the DWP website at www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* blind and *(b)* partially sighted people living in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency received the mobility component of disability living allowance at the lower rate in each year since 2003. [238138]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The available information is in the table.

*Disability living allowance claimants in Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency receiving lower rate mobility component where the main disabling condition is blindness*

| As at May each year | Number |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 80 |
| 2004 | 80 |
| 2005 | 80 |
| 2006 | 90 |
| 2007 | 90 |
| 2008 | 90 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital.
3. Where the claimant is eligible for both care and mobility components, the disabling condition associated with the mobility component is shown here. Where more than one disability is present, only the main disabling condition is recorded.
4. These figures are published on the internet website at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

## Disabled

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with disabilities his Department employs. [238384]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The number of staff who have declared themselves to be disabled is 6,075, 5.7 per cent. of the work force.

However, while the Department encourages staff to make a declaration, declaration is voluntary. We are aware that not all disabled staff do declare that they consider themselves to be disabled, and the true figure may be higher than this. For example, the 2008 DWP staff survey (which is completed anonymously), showed that 13.6 per cent. of respondents considered themselves to have a long standing health condition or disability.

## Employment and Support Allowance

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much employment and support allowance was paid on average in each week of the last period for which figures are available. [238389]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Employment and support allowance was introduced on 27 October 2008 for new customers claiming on the grounds of disability. New customers will go onto an assessment rate for 13 weeks while their medical condition is assessed. While on the assessment phase customers are paid the same amount, £60.50. However, we have fast-tracked a small number of customers who are terminally ill directly onto the support group, where they receive the higher rate of £89.50 immediately.

Information about average payments for employment and support allowance is not yet available.

## Employment Level

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many British born people of *(a)* working age and *(b)* 16 years old and over were in employment in each year since 1997. [237132]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many British born people of (a) working age and (b) 16 years old and over were in employment in each year since 1997. (237132)

The attached table gives the number of people in employment in the UK for the categories requested, from July-September 2001 to July-September 2008. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Estimates for years prior to 2001 are not available because the question asking for the part of the UK in which a respondent was born was not introduced into the LFS until spring 2001. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

*Employment levels for British born[1] people, by age—three months ending September, 2001 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

| | Working age[2] | Thousand 16 and over |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 23,730 | 24,484 |
| 2002 | 23,921 | 24,706 |
| 2003 | 24,053 | 24,918 |
| 2004 | 24,163 | 25,033 |
| 2005 | 24,209 | 25,145 |
| 2006 | 24,026 | 25,064 |
| 2007 | 23,849 | 24,950 |

*Employment levels for British born[1] people, by age—three months ending September, 2001 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

| | Working age[2] | Thousand 16 and over |
|---|---|---|
| 2008[3] | *23,759 | *24,944 |

[1] Excludes UK born people who did not state the part of the UK in which they were born.
[2] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59
[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described as follows:
Guide to Quality:
*Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness*
* $0 \leq CV < 5$ Estimates are considered precise
** $5 \leq CV < 10$ Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** $10 \leq CV < 20$ Estimates are considered acceptable
**** $CV \geq 20$ Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
*Note:*
These estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).
*Source:*
Labour Force Survey

## Employment Service

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* Employment Service and *(b)* Benefit Agency offices, accessible to the public there were in each year for which records are available, broken down by region. [231472]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Employment Service and Benefit Agency offices, accessible to the public, there were in each year for which records are available, broken down by region. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

At Annex 1 I have attached information on the number of Jobcentre Plus customer-facing offices there have been since April 2002 when Jobcentre Plus was created. Information on the separate networks operated by the Employment Service and Benefits Agency prior to 2002 is not available.

Jobcentre Plus inherited around 1,500 offices from the merger of the Benefits Agency and the Employment Service. Often customers would have to walk from one office to the next to look for work and then deal with changes in their benefit claim. As we have modernised to improve customer service, we have been able to rationalise this estate to provide excellent high street coverage and reduce cost to the tax payer. We remain the largest office network in Government with 747 modern Jobcentres which are supported by 31 contact centres and 79 main benefit processing centres. This has brought our customer-facing services together in a more coherent and integrated network.

Jobcentres continue to provide an essential service—especially to those customers most in need of tailored help. However, the great majority of our services (in common with most large, modern organisations) are now also delivered through the telephone and internet. For example, to give customers more convenient access we have more than half a million vacancies on-line at any time (our website receives close to one million job searches every working day), and new claims to benefit are predominantly taken by telephone with some taken on-line.

All this is vastly improving the service Jobcentre Plus can provide for all its customers and ensures that it is delivered in the best way for them.

Annex 1:

*Jobcentre Plus customer-facing offices*

| Region | 1 October 2008 | 1 January 2008 | 1 January 2007 | 1 January 2006 | 1 January 2005 | 1 January 2004 | 1 January 2003 | 1 January 2002 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | 57 | 60 | 65 | 72 | 84 | 85 | 90 | 90 |
| East Midlands | 53 | 59 | 56 | 69 | 71 | 75 | 83 | 83 |
| London | 77 | 80 | 90 | 114 | 121 | 132 | 138 | 139 |
| North East | 45 | 45 | 49 | 53 | 60 | 64 | 65 | 65 |
| North West | 97 | 101 | 112 | 129 | 139 | 153 | 160 | 160 |
| Scotland | 99 | 101 | 103 | 125 | 139 | 150 | 153 | 153 |
| South East | 76 | 81 | 82 | 97 | 107 | 121 | 123 | 123 |
| South West | 57 | 64 | 85 | 91 | 102 | 114 | 118 | 118 |
| Wales | 63 | 63 | 64 | 87 | 95 | 108 | 111 | 111 |
| West Midlands | 63 | 64 | 79 | 98 | 105 | 108 | 115 | 116 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 60 | 65 | 61 | 68 | 79 | 87 | 98 | 88 |
| Total of all regions | 747 | 783 | 844 | 1,003 | 1,102 | 1,197 | 1,244 | 1,246 |

## Employment Services: Data Protection

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training his Department's employment advisers receive in the requirements of data protection legislation. [233656]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what training his Department's employment advisers receive in the requirements of data protection legislation. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

All Jobcentre Plus employment advisers undergo a comprehensive training process regarding the requirements of data protection legislation as it relates to the work that they do. This includes, but is not restricted to, matters of data confidentiality, under what circumstances data may and may not be shared, and matters relating to information stored on our databases that hold confidential details relating to members of their public.

Jobcentre Plus has, as an integral part of its core foundation training, an interactive data protection workbook. The workbook has been designed to help our advisers navigate the data protection element of the DWP Intranet site, which provides extensive advice about data protection legislation as it relates to the work of Jobcentre Plus.

### Employment: Disabled

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what percentage of people with disabilities referred to the Shaw Trust by his Department's agencies have successfully entered *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employment in each of the last three years; [236215]

(2) how many people with disabilities referred to the Shaw Trust by his Department's agencies have successfully secured *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time jobs in the last six months. [236216]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Department does not hold central records of the total number of people with disabilities referred to Shaw Trust and therefore figures to show the number of successful referrals as a percentage of all referrals could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Details of the number of people with disabilities referred to Shaw Trust's New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP) contract, who have successfully entered full or part-time employment in each of the last three years, and during the last six months, is provided in the following table. Shaw Trust also has a number of other small contracts including Workstep, Work Prep and Pathways to Work. The number of disabled people moving into full or part time work through these contracts is 2,167. Information to show the number of people separately entering full and part time work in these contracts is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*NDDP Job outcomes*

| | *Full time jobs* | *Part time jobs* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 7,815 | 599 | 8,414 |
| 2006-07 | 7,207 | 1,179 | 8,386 |
| 2005-06 | 8,088 | 1,129 | 9,217 |
| April to September 2008 | 3,562 | 85 | 3,647 |

### Health and Safety Executive: Manpower

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff are employed in the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate *(a)* on a full-time equivalent basis and *(b)* on a headcount basis, broken down by grade. [236568]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The answer to this question is provided in the following table:

*The number of staff employed in the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate at 1 October 2008*

| *Job band*[1] | *Headcount* | *Full-time equivalent* |
|---|---|---|
| Band 1 | 28 | 27.19 |
| Band 2 | 115 | 110.09 |
| Band 3 | 62 | 61.61 |
| Band 4 | 14 | 12.83 |
| Band 5 | 30 | 27.72 |
| Band 6 | 65 | 53.78 |
| SCS[2] | 7 | 6.47 |
| Total | 321 | 299.69 |

[1] Grade 9

[2] Senior civil servants.

These figures exclude nine agency administrative staff and four temporary secondees/contractors.

### Hotels

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on hotel bills by his Department in 2007-08. [235579]

**Jonathan Shaw:** During the 12 months from April 2007 to March 2008 the Department employed an average of 114,000 staff.

The Department's expenditure on hotel accommodation for the financial year April 2007 to March 2008 was £11,577,103.

### Incapacity Benefit: Medical Examinations

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to reassess existing incapacity benefit claimants under the new work capability assessment; and if he will make a statement. [236115]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave her on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1115W.

### Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed by Jobcentre Plus *(a)* call centres and *(b)* to act as advisers carrying out work-focussed interviews in each of the last 24 months. [235345]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus. I have asked the acting chief executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many staff were employed by Jobcentre Plus (a) Call Centres in each of the last 24 months and (b) to act as advisers carrying out work-focussed interviews in the same timescale. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The following table provides the number of full-time equivalents (FTEs) employed (a) in Call Centres and (b) as work-focussed interview (WFI) advisers within the period September 2006 to August 2008.

*Number of FTEs employed with call centres and as WFI advisers within the period September 2006 to August 2008*

| | *Call centres* | *WFI advisers* |
|---|---|---|
| September 2006 | 6,378.87 | 9,133.02 |
| October 2006 | 6,402.77 | 9,246.98 |
| November 2006 | 6,474.91 | 9,160.20 |
| December 2006 | 6,556.03 | 9,072.75 |

*Number of FTEs employed with call centres and as WFI advisers within the period September 2006 to August 2008*

| | *Call centres* | *WFI advisers* |
|---|---|---|
| January 2007 | 6,578.63 | 9,077.62 |
| February 2007 | 6,541.57 | 9,020.85 |
| March 2007 | 6,382.54 | 8,891.65 |
| April 2007 | 6,228.88 | 9,367.16 |
| May 2007 | 6,262.84 | 9,325.93 |
| June 2007 | 6,302.19 | 9,287.60 |
| July 2007 | 6,417.60 | 9,295.78 |
| August 2007 | 6,397.54 | 9,255.04 |
| September 2007 | 6,346.56 | 9,318.09 |
| October 2007 | 6,349.25 | 9,293.58 |
| November 2007 | 6,393.66 | 9,291.19 |
| December 2007 | 6,438.06 | 9,282.97 |
| January 2008 | 6,403.93 | 9,280.73 |
| February 2008 | 6,399.24 | 9,222.51 |
| March 2008 | 6,209.55 | 9,198.13 |
| April 2008 | 6,061.53 | 8,918.29 |
| May 2008 | 5,945.55 | 8,950.17 |
| June 2008 | 6,061.53 | 8,967.29 |
| July 2008 | 6,266.83 | 9,053.78 |
| August 2008 | 6,164.68 | 9,015.52 |

*Source:*
Information for parliamentary questions is usually obtained from the Jobcentre Plus management information portal and this has been the source of data for the call centre figures. Information on job roles is not available within the Jobcentre Plus management information portal and therefore the work-focused interview adviser figures have been extracted from the activity based management system (ABM).

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the staffing levels at Jobcentre Plus are sufficient during the economic downturn. [235355]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I have asked the Acting Chief Executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the staffing levels at Jobcentre Plus are sufficient during the economic downturn. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus's staffing assumption for March 2009 has been increased by an additional 2,200 full time equivalents from 65,453 to 67,653 in recognition of the anticipated workloads.

We intend to increase staffing from our current position of 66,733 by recruiting additional staff and have set in hand a fast track recruitment process to enable us to obtain staff as quickly as possible.

Our staffing levels will be kept under active review in order to respond to rising economic challenges.

I hope this is helpful.

## Jobcentre Plus: Public Appointments

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when the appointment of the new Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus will be announced; and when the new chief executive will take up the post; [235351]

(2) when the recruitment process for the new Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus began. [235352]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Department for Work and Pensions received approval from the Cabinet Office at the end of October to take forward an external recruitment exercise to appoint a new Chief Executive for Jobcentre Plus. The appointment will be announced after the recruitment process has been completed.

## Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls were received by Jobcentre Plus call centres in each of the last 24 months; what the average waiting time was for such calls to be dealt with in each month; and how many dropped calls there were in each month. [235356]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the Acting Chief Executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many calls were received by Jobcentre Plus call centres in each of the last 24 months; what the average waiting time was for such calls to be dealt with in each month; and how many dropped calls there were in each month. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus currently has 31 contact centres offering telephony services to our customers.

The following table provides information on:

the number of calls offered and answered by Jobcentre Plus contact centres for the past 24 months.

the number of 'abandoned' calls each month for the past 24 months. This is the number of callers who hang up (terminate the call) whilst waiting in the queue for their call to be answered.

average speed of answer times. This is the average length of time it takes for a call to be answered.

| | *2008* | | | *2007* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *October* | *November* | *December* | *January* | *February* | *March* |
| Calls offered | 1,486,560 | 1,098,507 | 837,978 | 1,627,416 | 1,527,087 | 1,705,681 |
| Calls answered | 1,436,797 | 1,057,997 | 805,560 | 1,593,687 | 1,476,997 | 1,647,370 |
| Percentage of calls answered | 96.6 | 96.4 | 97.5 | 97.6 | 96.2 | 96.3 |
| Calls abandoned | 49,763 | 40,510 | 22,419 | 34,329 | 37,089 | 43,311 |

| | April | May | June | July | August | 2007 September |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Calls offered | 1,267,502 | 1,490,654 | 1,381,732 | 1,486,522 | 1,770,187 | 1,460,400 |
| Calls answered | 1,191,101 | 1,429,822 | 1,300,032 | 1,350,761 | 1,622,580 | 1,362,994 |
| Percentage of calls answered | 94 | 95.9 | 94.1 | 90.9 | 91.7 | 93.3 |
| Calls abandoned | 76,401 | 60,832 | 81,700 | 135,761 | 147,607 | 97,406 |

| | October | 2007 November | December | January | 2008 February | March |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Calls offered | 1,348,901 | 1,618,436 | 851,229 | 1,987,101 | 1,441,739 | 1,340,837 |
| Calls answered | 1,285,827 | 1,516,795 | 797,772 | 1,862,192 | 1,374,644 | 1,118,666 |
| Percentage of calls answered | 95.3 | 93.7 | 93.7 | 93.7 | 95.3 | 83.4 |
| Calls abandoned | 63,074 | 101,641 | 53,457 | 124,909 | 67,095 | 222,171 |

| | April | May | June | July | August | 2008 September |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Calls offered | 1,373,527 | 1,599,042 | 1,558,995 | 1,881,447 | 1,392,754 | 1,514,106 |
| Calls answered | 1,258,862 | 1,482,936 | 1,195,905 | 1,622,186 | 1,304,201 | 1,360,135 |
| Percentage of calls answered | 91.7 | 92.7 | 76.7 | 86.2 | 93.6 | 89.8 |
| Calls abandoned | 114,665 | 116,106 | 363,090 | 259,261 | 88,553 | 153,971 |
| Average speed of answer | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1 minute 30 seconds | 1 minute 17 seconds | 1 minute 45 seconds |

Jobcentre Plus contact centres have only been able to collate information on speed of answer times centrally since July 2008, following the introduction of a new telephony platform which enabled this information to be recorded.

I hope this information is helpful.

### Jobseeker's Allowance

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1233W, on jobseeker's allowance, how many of those jobseekers allowance claimants aged 25 years or over who terminated their claim more than 17 months but less than 18 months since their initial claim, moved onto *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* income support within (i) one week, (ii) one month, (iii) three months, (iv) six months and (v) one year of such termination. [221725]

**Kitty Ussher:** The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a departmental procedural error it was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

The available information is in the following tables.

*Number of jobseeker's allowance terminations aged 25 or over, who terminate their claim between 17 and 18 months, then flow on to incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance*

| Quarter ending | Number of jobseeker's allowance terminations | Flowed on to incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | All | Within 1 week | More than a week but less than 1 month | More than a month but less than 3 months | More than 3 months but less than 6 months | More than 6 months but less than a year | More than 1 year |
| 2005 | | | | | | | | |
| August | 1,500 | 400 | 200 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| November | 1,300 | 400 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| 2006 | | | | | | | | |
| February | 1,000 | 500 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| May | 1,700 | 900 | 300 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 100 | n/a |
| August | 1,800 | 900 | 300 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 100 | n/a |
| November | 1,900 | 900 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| 2007 | | | | | | | | |
| February | 1,800 | 300 | 200 | 100 | 0 | 0 | n/a | n/a |
| May | 2,000 | 400 | 300 | 0 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| August | 2,000 | 200 | 200 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

*Notes:*
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Data commence in 2005 to ensure capture of information on people flowing on to incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance up to 12 months after the termination of their claim.
3. Figures for the latest quarter do not include any late notifications and are subject to major changes in future quarters. Figures for previous quarters may also be subject to revisions in future quarters.
*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample and 5 per cent. terminations dataset

*Number of jobseeker's allowance terminations aged 25 or over, who terminate their claim between 17 and 18 months, then flow on to income support*

| *Quarter ending* | *Number of jobseeker's allowance terminations* | *Flowed on to income support* | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *All* | *Within 1 week* | *More than a week but less than 1 month* | *More than a month but less than 3 months* | *More than 3 months but less than 6 months* | *More than 6 months but less than a year* | *More than 1 year* |
| *2005* | | | | | | | | |
| August | 1,700 | 400 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| November | 1,200 | 300 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| *2006* | | | | | | | | |
| February | 1,800 | 300 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| May | 1,700 | 500 | 200 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 100 | n/a |
| August | 1,800 | 400 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 | n/a |
| November | 1,900 | 300 | 200 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| *2007* | | | | | | | | |
| February | 1,800 | 300 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a | n/a |
| May | 2,000 | 400 | 300 | 0 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| August | 2,000 | 100 | 100 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

*Notes:*
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Data commence in 2005 to ensure capture of information on people flowing on to income support up to 12 months after the termination of their claim.
3. Figures for the latest quarter do not include any late notifications and are subject to major changes in future quarters. Figures for previous quarters may also be subject to revisions in future quarters.
*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample and 5 per cent. terminations dataset

## Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the letter from his Department's central Freedom of Information team to the hon. Member for Yeovil dated 8 October 2008, which 25 questions from the hon. Member for Yeovil and 36 questions from other hon. Members were colour-coded red during his Department's use of a colour coding system for answering parliamentary questions; and if he will make a statement. [227724]

**Jonathan Shaw:** For the early part of the 2006-07 session, Ministerial Private Offices in the Department trialled an informal system of colour coding parliamentary questions to help improve internal processes for answering them.

No formal monitoring system was in place during the period of the trial. Nor did the trial extend to all Ministerial Private Offices or to all parliamentary questions. The Department discontinued the trial in February 2007.

Nevertheless, as part of an investigation by the Information Commissioner, the Department was able to collate partial figures based on the limited information available while making it clear that they could not be considered definitive.

On the basis of this partial information the Hansard references for the parliamentary questions from the right hon. Member for Yeovil colour coded red during the period of the trial are set out in the following table.

| *Hansard Date* | *Hansard Ref* | *PQ Ref* |
|---|---|---|
| 11 December 2006 | 1994-1995W | 102274 |
| 12 December 2006 | 1019-1020W | 102136 |
| 12 December 2006 | 1019W | 102170 |
| 12 December 2006 | 1019W | 102171 |
| 18 December 2006 | 1566-1567W | 102156 |
| 18 December 2006 | 1567-1568W | 102194 |
| 18 December 2006 | 1568-1569W | 102195 |
| 18 December 2006 | 1570-1571W | 102202 |
| 18 December 2006 | 1573-1574W | 102205 |
| 19 December 2006 | 1987-1988W | 102174 |

| Hansard Date | Hansard Ref | PQ Ref |
|---|---|---|
| 19 December 2006 | 1992W | 102193 |
| 19 December 2006 | 1992-1994W | 102206 |
| 19 December 2006 | 1994W | 102243 |
| 19 December 2006 | 2004-2005W | 102225 |
| 8 January 2007 | 191-192W | 102223 |
| 10 January 2007 | 637-638W | 102241 |
| 11 January 2007 | 646-647W | 102268 |
| 24 January 2007 | 1871W | 102240 |
| 31 January 2007 | 395W | 102254 |
| 7 February 2007 | 1051W | 102117 |
| 8 February 2007 | 1222-1224W | 102198 |
| 8 February 2007 | 1209-1210W | 104255 |
| 18 February 2007 | 1575W | 102108 |
| 14 March 2007 | 374W | 102122 |
| 20 February 2007 | 618W | 102139 |

The Information Commissioner has decided that the colour coding of individual parliamentary questions constitutes that Member's personal information. The information related to the questions from other Members cannot therefore be disclosed without their consent.

### National Insurance: Foreign Workers

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new national insurance numbers were issued to non-EU nationals in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* local authority and *(b)* constituency of residence. [236207]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The available information has been placed in the Library.

### New Deal Schemes: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled people in Enfield North constituency started work following participation in the New Deal in each year since 1998. [235448]

**Mr. McNulty:** The new deal programme started in 2001. The available information for people on the new deal for disabled people is in the table.

*New deal—jobs (spells): Enfield, North parliamentary constituency by time series cumulative data for new deal for disabled people to May 2008*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2001 | — |
| 2002 | 10 |
| 2003 | 10 |
| 2004 | 20 |
| 2005 | 20 |
| 2006 | 30 |
| 2007 | 40 |
| 2008 | 20 |
| Total | 140 |

— = Nil or negligible

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and therefore may not sum.
2. Parliamentary constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS Postcode Directory and customer's postcode.
3. Time series—year of entering job; the calendar year that the job was gained.
4. Latest data are to May 2008.
5. NDDP—Started July 2001

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Enfield North constituency entered work through the New Deal programme in each year since its introduction. [235449]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information is as follows.

*Time series—year of job gained—new deal jobs (spells): Enfield, North parliamentary constituency by time series: cumulative data to May 2008*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 140 |
| 1999 | 270 |
| 2000 | 300 |
| 2001 | 300 |
| 2002 | 290 |
| 2003 | 420 |
| 2004 | 460 |
| 2005 | 500 |
| 2006 | 490 |
| 2007 | 560 |
| 2008 (part year) | 220 |
| Total | 3,930 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and therefore may not sum.
2. Parliamentary constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS Postcode Directory and customer's postcode.
3. Time series—year of entering job; the calendar year that the job was gained.
4. Latest data are to May 2008.
5. New deal for young people started in January 1998.
6. New deal 25+ started in July 1998
7. New deal for lone parents started in October 1998
8. New deal for disabled people started in July 2001
9. New deal 50+ statistics from April 2003
10. New deal for partners statistics from April 2004
11. New deal 50+ and new deal for partners is for starters by individuals because spell data are unavailable

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

### New Deal Schemes: Standards

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the performance of *(a)* all designated New Deal providers and *(b)* the Shaw Trust against the objectives set for delivery of the New Deal. [236217]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Department continuously reviews the performance of providers including new deal providers.

The Department has implemented a number of initiatives to improve the management of contracts and of providers to achieve better performance and quality of delivery in all contracted employment provision including new deal. Formal processes are in place to deal with performance issues.

For individual organisation performance, a revised Contract Management Framework has been implemented which sets out the processes for monitoring DWP contracts, enabling early identification of poor performance so remedial action can be put in place.

A supplier relationship management team was also established in April this year. Their remit is to develop strong, positive relationships with providers in order to improve delivery of services to customers. In addition, all providers in England and Wales are subject to inspection.

Shaw Trust has one new deal contract to deliver. The contract is managed using standard contract management procedures to ensure performance meets contractual expectations. Any issues arising are addressed in this context.

## Pension Credit

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of pensioners who *(a)* are not claiming and *(b)* have been refused pension credit because a gross rather than a post-tax net level of state retirement pension was used for the assessment. [234198]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not available.

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many foreign nationals resident in the UK are in receipt of pension credit. [235306]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is not available.

## Pension Credit: Carers

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people claimed *(a)* carer's allowance and *(b)* pension credit for being a carer in each of the last five years; [233299]

(2) what the *(a)* budget for and *(b)* expenditure on pension credits for carers was in each of the last five years; [233302]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of people eligible for pension credit for being a carer in each of the last five years; and how many of them claimed the credit. [233303]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Pension credit ensures a guaranteed minimum income for all people aged 60 and over. People who are entitled to carer's allowance—whether or not carer's allowance is in payment—may benefit from the additional amount for carers in pension credit. The pension credit standard minimum guarantee of £124.05 for single pensioners (£189.35 for couples) is increased by £27.75 where the additional amount for carers is payable. (If both members of a couple are entitled to carer's allowance, the additional amount is doubled.)

The guarantee element of pension credit tops income up to the appropriate guarantee level, which means that people entitled to the additional amount for carers could receive either more or less than the additional amount for carers depending on their circumstances. It is not therefore possible to specify what element of pension credit expenditure relates specifically to the additional amount for carers.

Pension credit is part of the Department's annually managed expenditure (AME). Forecasts of the expenditure for each benefit which is part of AME are produced twice a year and published on the Department's website. The forecasts are used to assess the expected provision required for each benefit which is part of AME. However, none of the elements which comprise the forecast for a particular benefit is budgeted for separately. In addition, all eligible benefit claims are met and so AME benefits are not budgeted for in the same way as other departmental expenditure.

The latest estimates of take-up of means-tested benefits in Great Britain, covering income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income-based) are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07". Estimates of the number of people eligible for the additional amount for carers in pension credit are not available.

The number of people in receipt of pension credit and carer's allowance over the last five years is shown in table 1 and all pension credit expenditure on recipients entitled to the extra amount for carers is shown in table 2.

*Table 1: Pension credit and carer's allowance*

| | | Pension credit | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *As at February each year* | *Carer's allowance* | *Total pension credit recipients* | *Recipients with the additional amount for caring* |
| 2004 | 656,310 | 2,292,300 | 95,200 |
| 2005 | 721,610 | 2,654,670 | 153,810 |
| 2006 | 777,910 | 2,709,220 | 187,830 |
| 2007[4] | 823,820 | 2,730,940 | 215,050 |
| 2008 | 872,080 | 2,723,140 | 237,700 |

*Notes.*
1. Carer's allowance figures include those people who are entitled to carer's allowance but who do not receive a payment as a result of the overlapping benefit rules.
2. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Pension credit recipients are people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
4. From February 2005, estimates are derived from Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data. Prior to this, information on receipt of carer's addition in pension credit is not available from the same source, so estimates are derived from 5 per cent. sample data.

*Source:*
DWP: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

*Table 2: Pension credit expenditure*

£ million

| | *Expenditure in cash terms* | *Expenditure in 2008-09 prices* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 (part year) | 143 | 164 |
| 2004-05 | 447 | 500 |
| 2005-06 | 583 | 649 |
| 2006-07 | 717 | 762 |

*Table 2: Pension credit expenditure*

£ million

| | Expenditure in cash terms | Expenditure in 2008-09 prices |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 856 | 881 |

*Notes:*
1. Pension credit was introduced October 2003, so expenditure figures for 2003-04 are part year figures.
2. Estimates represent the expenditure on total pension credit for those claimants who are entitled to the additional amount for carers. Depending on the claimant's income, this may be either higher or lower than the nominal value of the additional amount for carers. It is not possible to specify what part of expenditure relates to the additional amount for carers.
3. From February 2005, estimates are derived from Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data. Prior to this, information on receipt of carer's addition in pension credit is not available from the same source, so estimates are derived from 5 per cent. sample data.
4. Expenditure has been converted from cash terms to 2008-09 prices using GDP deflators which were published alongside the 2008 Budget report.
*Source:*
DWP: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data, 5 per cent. sample data and DWP Accounting Systems.

## Pensions: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* in the City of York local authority area and *(b)* City of York constituency receive (i) the basic state pension and (ii) pension credit; and what the average weekly value of the pension credit issued was in the last period for which figures are available. [236881]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is in the following tables.

*Pension credit household recipients and average weekly amount of benefit—May 2008*

| | Households in receipt | Pension credit Average weekly amount of benefit (£) |
|---|---|---|
| York Local Authority | 6,720 | 45.45 |
| City of York Parliamentary Constituency | 4,420 | 46.35 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
3. Average amounts are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

*Basic state pension recipients—September 2007*

| | Basic state pension recipients |
|---|---|
| York Local Authority | 36,200 |
| City of York Parliamentary Constituency | 18,300 |

*Notes:*
1. Data are taken from 5 per cent. extract of PSCS, therefore figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. September 2007 are the latest data currently available.
*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate

## Personal Pensions

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps he has taken to encourage the use of personal private pensions. [238382]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government are keen to encourage more people to save more for their retirement by contributing to pensions (including personal pensions).

The current Pension Bill builds on the Pensions Act 2007 through a set of reforms, primarily to the private pensions system, that will enable and encourage more people to build up a private pension income to supplement that received from the state. The reforms will simplify pension saving and enable individuals to take responsibility for their own retirement. All eligible workers will be automatically enrolled into a qualifying workplace pension-helping to overcome barriers to saving such as inertia.

## Post Office Card Accounts

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Oral Statement of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 965-82W, on the Post Office Card Account, what *(a)* legal and *(b)* economic factors were taken into account in taking the decision to cancel the tender. [237001]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* At all stages we have taken the proper course of action based on the Government's wider social and public policy, legal advice and economic factors pertaining at the time.

Income from the Post Office card account has come to form an increasingly important part of the Post Office's income, as well as providing vital footfall to sub-postmasters. The loss of this business would mean there would be a real risk of a significant number of unplanned closures which would impact most on those vulnerable customers who rely on the Post Office and do not have easily accessible alternatives.

Global economic events have made people, particularly the most vulnerable in our society, more concerned about financial transactions. The Post Office is a trusted brand, and is seen as a safe, secure and reliable provider of services in these turbulent times. Now is not the time for the Government to do anything to put the network at risk, particularly as Post Offices are often the only providers of financial services in remote areas.

Taking all of these factors into account, we believe that awarding Post Office Ltd another contract is the right thing to do in public policy terms, because it will help maintain the existing Post Office network which provides vital services to vulnerable customers in areas where there is often little or no alternative provision. We are also clear that it represent best value overall to the taxpayer.

We recognise the importance of competition in the awarding of public contracts, but we have concluded that, in these exceptional circumstances, protecting vulnerable groups by preserving a viable Post Office network justifies the award of a contract outside the competitive process. These are exceptional times and we believe that this is a proper and proportionate response.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many written representations he has received on the Post Office card account. [238375]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** My ministerial colleagues and I received a number of such representations from hon. Members and others.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department was paid for the advertising to potential bidders of the Post Office Card Account contract. [238390]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** My Department has received no payment for the advertising to potential bidders of the Post Office card account contract.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have a Post Office card account. [238391]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** There are 3.8 million active Post Office card accounts.

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many customers in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency had active Post Office card accounts in each year since their introduction. [220395]

**Kitty Ussher:** The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error was not published in the *Official Report*. The answer is as follows:

The requested information is not available.

The information available was provided in the written answer I gave to the hon. Member on 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 648W.

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236910]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department holds information on the number of complaints of racial abuse investigated by its central team of investigators.

During the last 12 months, the Department has investigated 18 cases of racial abuse. Of these, four cases were upheld on the grounds of racial abuse.

The Department takes all forms of racial abuse very seriously and publishes its Harassment, Discrimination and Bullying policy on the Department's intranet, which is accessible by all its employees. In addition this policy complies with the Department's commitment to embrace diversity and promote equality of opportunity.

### Remploy

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people formerly employed in Remploy factories which have been closed down in the last two years have found new jobs; and if he will make a statement. [238669]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The current position concerning the 234 former Remploy disabled factory employees who opted to remain with Remploy is shown in the following table:

*Former Remploy disabled factory employees who opted to remain with Remploy*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Permanent job | 40 |
| Job placements, which may lead to a permanent job | 131 |
| Job ready. Waiting to be placed by Remploy on a secure job placement | 16 |
| Undertaking development activity to help them become job ready | 17 |
| Undergoing occupational health assessments or re-assessments | 30 |

A further 1,784 employees opted to take voluntary redundancy or early retirement with a voluntary redundancy payment. Remploy has written out to all employees who opted to take voluntary redundancy or early retirement to offer Remploy support if they wished to return to work. So far 153 of its former employees have used Remploy's services to find new employment and have obtained jobs.

Remploy has continued to offer support to other former employees. The remainder have not currently accepted the company's help to find alternative work or have advised Remploy they do not wish to return to work.

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Remploy factories are operating; and how many people are employed in each factory. [238671]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Remploy operates 54 factories employing 2,987 people. The number of people currently employed in each factory is shown in the table.

| *Site* | *Number of disabled people employed* | *Number of non-disabled employed* | *Total number of employees* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdare | 49 | 2 | 51 |
| Aberdeen | 27 | 1 | 28 |
| Abertillery | 39 | 0 | 39 |
| Acton | 37 | 5 | 42 |
| Ashington | 33 | 5 | 38 |
| Barking | 75 | 18 | 93 |
| Barrow | 34 | 1 | 35 |
| Birkenhead | 40 | 1 | 41 |
| Birmingham | 84 | 13 | 97 |
| Blackburn | 49 | 3 | 52 |
| Bolton | 56 | 5 | 61 |
| Bridgend | 66 | 3 | 69 |
| Bristol | 44 | 1 | 45 |
| Burnley | 44 | 2 | 46 |
| Chesterfield | 67 | 5 | 72 |
| Cleator Moor | 23 | 2 | 25 |
| Clydebank | 54 | 31 | 85 |
| Coventry | 96 | 14 | 110 |
| Cowdenbeath | 48 | 4 | 52 |
| Crosspenmaen | 52 | 2 | 54 |
| Derby | 36 | 8 | 44 |
| Dundee | 50 | 9 | 59 |

| Site | Number of disabled people employed | Number of non-disabled employed | Total number of employees |
|---|---|---|---|
| Edinburgh | 36 | 2 | 38 |
| Gateshead | 20 | 1 | 21 |
| Huddersfield | 34 | 5 | 39 |
| Leeds | 68 | 1 | 69 |
| Leicester | 20 | 2 | 22 |
| Leven | 35 | 2 | 37 |
| Manchester | 23 | 3 | 26 |
| Merythr Tydfil | 47 | 2 | 49 |
| Motherwell | 27 | 4 | 31 |
| Neath | 74 | 3 | 77 |
| Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 87 | 4 | 91 |
| North London | 26 | 2 | 28 |
| North Staffs | 130 | 11 | 141 |
| Norwich | 41 | 21 | 62 |
| Oldham | 131 | 26 | 157 |
| Penzance | 45 | 0 | 45 |
| Pontefract | 39 | 2 | 41 |
| Poole | 19 | 0 | 19 |
| Porth | 99 | 4 | 103 |
| Portsmouth | 23 | 6 | 29 |
| Preston | 30 | 1 | 31 |
| Radcliffe | 51 | 7 | 58 |
| Sheffield | 123 | 9 | 132 |
| Southampton | 30 | 3 | 33 |
| Spennymoor | 43 | 0 | 43 |
| Springburn | 56 | 8 | 64 |
| Stirling | 43 | 3 | 46 |
| Sunderland | 48 | 0 | 48 |
| Swansea | 58 | 5 | 63 |
| Wigan | 39 | 1 | 40 |
| Worksop | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| Wrexham | 52 | 2 | 54 |

*Source:*
Remploy

### Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on demand for child care services and on the availability of child care services of the Social Security (Lone Parents and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008; what steps he has taken to assess the adequacy of the availability of services; and if he will make a statement. [234625]

**Kitty Ussher:** We will be monitoring the effect of the lone parent changes on demand for child care services as the policy is implemented.

We can, however, state that the availability of child care places has improved significantly. The stock of registered child care is now approaching 1.3 million places, more than double the 1997 level, representing an increase of well over 17 per cent. or 194,000 places, since March 2004.

The Childcare Act 2006 places a legal duty on local authorities in England and Wales to secure, as far as practicable, sufficient childcare to meet the needs of working parents, in particular for those on low incomes and with disabled children. The position in Wales is slightly different in that the duty is an enabling power which the Welsh Assembly Government has the option of enacting. We have a published commitment that by 2010 there will be a child care place for all children in England aged between 3 and 14 years old, between the hours of 8am to 6pm each weekday.

### Social Security Benefits: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* City of York constituency and *(b)* the City of York local authority area received (i) the winter fuel payment and (ii) the free television licence entitlement in 2007-08. [236886]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 869W for the information on winter fuel payments.

TV Licensing, which administers free television licences for people aged 75 or over as agents for the BBC, is not able to provide geographical breakdowns of the number of free licences issued.

### SOS List

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the meaning of the term SOS List is in referring to hon. Members who table Questions to him; what the purpose of the SOS List is; and if he will make a statement. [235842]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The designation "SoS list" is a purely administrative marking to indicate the correspondence addressed to the Secretary of State which should normally receive a reply from the Secretary of State. The designation has no other significance in relation to how correspondence is handled by the Department.

Because the Department uses a single database for both correspondence and parliamentary questions, the marking also appears on internal documents relating to questions. It has no significance whatsoever in relation to the handling of parliamentary questions.

### State Retirement Pensions: Females

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 868-69W, on the state retirement pension, if he will estimate the number of women who will be entitled to *(a)* lump sum pension backpayments only, *(b)* lump sum backpayments and home responsibilities protection (HRP) and *(c)* HRP only by the end of the special exercise; and what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse in each case at the end of the exercise. [235941]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The information requested is not available because it is too early in the special exercise to allow the results to date to be reliably extrapolated.

## UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when the Government plan to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities; and if he will make a statement; [238282]

(2) what assessment he has made of the compatibility of UK legislation with the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [238283]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Ministry of Defence, Home Office and Department for Children, Schools and Families are finalising the texts of the small number of reservations/interpretative declarations that they want in their policy areas, to enable us to move towards ratification of the convention. We are continuing to explore whether there are any compatibility issues in respect of measures relating to the exercise of legal capacity, and my Department is considering the need for a reservation in this area in respect of the review of arrangements for benefit appointees. Issues in respect of aspects of mental health legislation; choice of place of residence; and cultural services (interpretative measures) to which reference was made in the written statement of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 30WS, "UN Convention on Disability Rights", made by my predecessor as Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire, have been resolved. Reservations/interpretative declarations will not be needed for these.

My ambition is that we will ratify this convention in spring 2009.

## Unemployment

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Vale of York constituency and *(b)* the UK were classified as unemployed and actively seeking work in each of the last five years. [237096]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about what estimate has been made of the number of people in (a) Vale of York constituency and (b) the UK who were unemployed and actively seeking work in each of the last five years. (237096)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions, which includes the requirement for people to be actively seeking work to be classed as unemployed.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of people aged 16+, resident in (a) the Vale of York constituency and (b) the UK who were unemployed in each of the last five years. Estimates are provided for the 12 month period ending in February 2004 from the annual LFS, and for 12 month periods ending in March from 2005 to 2008 from the APS.

The UK estimates in the table have been compiled using the same source as those for the Vale of York and are different from the unemployment figures published in the Labour Market First Release.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

*Table 1: Persons in unemployment[1] in (a) the Vale of York and (b) the United Kingdom in each of the last five years*

| *12 months ending* | *Vale of York* | *Thousand United Kingdom* |
|---|---|---|
| February 2004 | 1 | 1,464 |
| March 2005 | 1 | 1,412 |
| March 2006 | 1 | 1,527 |
| March 2007 | 1 | 1,629 |
| March 2008[2] | ****1 | *1,590 |

[1] Levels of unemployment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality as follows:

*Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

*Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness*

* 0 ≤ CV < 5 Estimates are considered precise.

** 5 ≤ CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** 10 ≤ CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

*Source:*

Annual Population Survey and annual Labour Force Survey

## Unemployment Benefits: Foreigners

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many foreign *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU nationals have obtained (i) jobseeker's allowance, (ii) incapacity benefit and (iii) income support in each of the last 10 years; and how much each category of person has received of each type of support in each of those years. [233685]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* The information requested is not available.

## Winter Fuel Payments: Bolsover

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Bolsover constituency received the winter fuel payment in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005, *(d)* 2006 and *(e)* 2007. [238081]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The number of people in Bolsover receiving winter fuel payments is as follows:

| | *Bolsover constituency* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 18,955 |
| 2003-04 | 19,230 |
| 2004-05 | 19,185 |
| 2005-06 | 19,380 |
| 2006-07 | 19,690 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures rounded to the nearest five up to 2004-05 and nearest . from 2005-06 onwards.

2. Parliamentary constituencies, local authorities and Government office regions are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*

Information directorate 100 per cent data.

Information relating to winter fuel payments for 2007-08 is not yet available.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who have been in receipt of the education maintenance allowance have not gained a qualification and are no longer in education and training. [226486]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about applications made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 20 November 2008:*

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 226486 that asked:

"How many pupils who have been in receipt of the education maintenance allowance have not gained a qualification and are no longer in education and training."

Unfortunately the Learning and Skills Council are unable to supply this information as the Individual Learner Record returns for the 2007/08 year, which contains this information, have not at this time been finalised. However in 2007 the Institute for Fiscal Studies carried out an evaluation of the impact of EMA on attainment using new data sets. The study found that EMA had increased attainment at levels 2 and 3 by around 2 percentage points for male learners and 2.5 percentage points for female learners — this calculation included all learners, both EMA and non- EMA.

Further calculations suggest that attainment rates at levels 2 and 3 will be higher for those learners who received EMA compared to those with similar characteristics who did not—7 percentage points for female EMA learners and 5 percentage points for male EMA learners.

The research and consultancy group RCU also carried out an independent evaluation of the impact of EMA on the success of 16 year old learners following the national rollout of the scheme in 2004 and found that the success rates were 1.2 percentage points higher on the learning aims of those learners in receipt of EMA, compared to those who were not in receipt of EMA.

### Education Maintenance Allowance: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people received education maintenance allowance in the London Borough of Enfield in each year since it was introduced. [235441]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, has written to the right hon. Member for Enfield North with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 20 November 2008:*

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 235441 that asked;

"How many people received education maintenance allowance in the London Borough of Enfield in each year since they were established."

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

In the first year of national roll out EMA was available to all 16 year olds across England and to 17 and 18 year olds in former pilot areas (young people who are 19 are entitled to receive EMA in certain circumstances). In 2005/06 EMA roll out continued and EMA was available to all 16 and 17 year olds nationally. In 2006/07 EMA was available to all 16,17 and 18 year olds nationally.

EMA take-up for Enfield Local Authority area during each academic year since inception is as follows:

2004/05—1,337

2005/06—2,639

2006/07—3,499

2007/08—3,764

2008/09—774 (to end October 08)

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08 is available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA take up.htm.

### Educational Maintenance Allowance: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people *(a)* are eligible for and *(b)* claim education maintenance allowance in Crosby constituency. [236677]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about applications made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member for Crosby with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 20 November 2008:*

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 236677 that asked;

"How many people (a) are eligible for and (b) claim education maintenance allowance in Crosby constituency".

We do not hold data on the number of learners potentially eligible for education maintenance allowance (EMA). Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received EMA is available at Local Authority Level, but not at Constituency Level.

In the 2008/09 academic year to date a total of 2,897 Notices of Entitlement (NOEs) have been issued across the Sefton Local Authority area and of these 2,594 young people have received at least one payment.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08 is available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http.7/www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA take up.htm.

### Lone Parents: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children under the age of 11 live in single-parent families in the Tamworth constituency. [237339]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many children under the age of 11 live in single-parent families in the Tamworth constituency. (237339)

The number of children living in lone parent families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Using this source, it is estimated that there were 2,000 children under the age of eleven living in lone parent families in the Tamworth constituency in 2007.

### New Manton Primary School

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department has on the number of books per pupil there were in New Manton Primary School in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [238194]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** This information is not collected centrally; it is for schools to decide how best to spend their budgets and what resources they secure for their pupils.

### Performance Appraisal

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235230]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** In the Department, 54 (2 per cent.) employees did not achieve the acceptable performance assessment in their annual report for 2007-08.

### Schools: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been *(a)* built and *(b)* rebuilt in Crosby constituency in the last 10 years. [236674]

**Jim Knight:** In 2007, the Department gathered information from all authorities on the improvements to their school buildings over the previous 10 years. These data are summarised in the report "School Building Investment Data", available in the parliamentary Libraries and at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=11413

However, parliamentary constituencies are not identified in the data.

### Teachers: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average cost was of suspending *(a)* a head teacher, *(b)* a deputy head teacher and *(c)* a mainstream teacher for each month of suspension in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average length of time of such suspensions was in each category in the last 12 months; [238400]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that suspensions of head teachers, deputy head teachers and teachers are for as short a time as possible; [238401]

(3) what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on *(a)* dealing with the media and *(b)* communication with parents in cases of suspension of teaching staff. [238402]

**Jim Knight:** The operation of disciplinary procedures, including those that result in suspension, is a matter for local determination. To support schools in this area there are a variety of sources of advice available to help governing bodies with their responsibilities. The DCSF's 'A Guide to the Law for School Governors and Staffing' guidance set out the statutory responsibilities falling to schools as employers. This guidance is available through www.governornet.co.uk and www.teachernet.co.uk. These sources also provide access to an extensive range of additional guidance material including materials from the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service. Schools are therefore able to draw from a wide variety of guidance when devising their policies and handling disciplinary cases.

Our guidance concentrates on making schools aware of their responsibilities so that they can deal with the media and inform parents appropriately. It does not go into detail about issues such as the length of any suspension. Decisions of this nature are best left to schools to determine, drawing on the guidance that is available and where appropriate on advice and support from local authorities.

The information requested about the average cost of suspending teachers and the average length of time of such suspension is not held centrally.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Copyright: EU Action

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the European Commission's 2005 Recommendation on collective cross-border management of copyright; and what plans his Department has to implement the recommendation. [234894]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Government have considered the European Commission's Recommendation of 18 October 2005 on collective cross-border management of copyright and related rights for legitimate online music services and there is no requirement for it to be implemented. Industry continues to work to implement the recommendation and therefore the Government do not believe it is appropriate to press for legislative action at this time.

### Copyright: Works of Art

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of the implementation of the

Artists Re-sale Right Regulations 2006 on the UK art industry since 2006; and what assessment he has made of the performance of the art markets in *(a)* the United States and *(b)* Switzerland since 2006 for benchmarking purposes. [238154]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Government commissioned the Intellectual Property Institute to produce an independent report on the effect on the UK art market of the introduction of artist's resale right. That report, published in April 2008 and available in the Library of the House (I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement on 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 59-60WS, by my hon. Friend Ian Pearson, the then Minister of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills), compares the values of the art markets in the UK, the United States and Switzerland, over three specific periods, as follows:

£

| Country | Value | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *1 March 2003 to 29 February 2004* | *15 February 2006 to 31 July 2006* | *1 August 2006 to 31 July 2007* |
| Switzerland | 22,390,414 | 50,309,480 | 46,941,692 |
| UK | 470,497,370 | 478,416,115 | 1,310,276,980 |
| USA | 635,555,500 | 685,667,748 | 1,827,900,290 |

**Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy on the Artist's Resale Right is; what account he has taken of the evidence received on the subject during the UK-IPO consultation; and what his policy is on the future of the right after 2010. [238280]

**Mr. Lammy:** The UK implemented directive 2001/84/EC on artist's resale right into its law in 2006. It needs to decide, before the end of this year, whether or not to seek to extend from 2010 to 2012 the current derogation under the directive which applies artist's resale right only to sales of the works of living artists. It launched a consultation on this issue in June and is currently considering, in the light of the responses, what decision should be made.

## Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [237472]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department has one member of staff who works on branding and this accounts for 15-20 per cent. of their time; during the first six months of the Department's existence in 2007, a larger percentage of time was spend on branding issues. The total staff cost on branding activity in 2007-08 was approximately £12,000.

In addition the staff member's line manager is responsible for multiple areas of work, therefore it is not possible to quantify any specific branding element within this role.

## Further Education: Debts

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidance is provided to further education colleges on *(a)* taking on commercial debt to fund the costs of renovating or constructing buildings and *(b)* the use by the general public of buildings constructed using commercial debt. [235331]

**Mr. Simon:** The guidance provided to further education (FE) colleges on *(a)* taking on commercial debt to fund the costs of renovating or constructing buildings; and (b) the use of buildings constructed using commercial debt by the general public, is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The LSC's Chief Executive, Mark Haysom, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 20 November 2008:*

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions that asked: what proportion of payments by the Learning and Skills Council were made within 30 days of the receipt of the invoice in the last period for which figures are available, and what the level of total debt taken out by further education colleges at commercial rates of interest has been in each year since 2001, and what guidance is provided to further education colleges on (a) taking on commercial debt to fund the costs of renovating or constructing buildings and (b) the use of buildings constructed using commercial debt by the general public.

In the financial year April 2007 to March 2008, the LSC paid 95.3 per cent of its invoices within 30 days. This information forms part of the LSC's annual report, which has been audited by the National Audit Office.

The level of total debt is as follows:-

*Total debt levels of FE colleges between 2001 to 2007*

£000

| | *2001/02* | *2002/03* | *2003/04* | *2004/05* | *2005/06* | *2006/07* | *2007/08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Summary* | | | | | | | |
| Total Debt Level | 250,110 | 365,290 | 431,789 | 546,280 | 663,781 | 815,396 | 965,417 |
| Percentage Change in Debt Level | — | 46 | 18 | 27 | 22 | 23 | 18 |

*Assumptions*

Above data is based on 2001/02 to 2006/07 audited college financial records submitted in Dec of each respective year

2007/08 data is based on the forecast Financial Plan 2008-11 submitted in July 2008

College sample sizes per year: 408 (2001/02), 399 (2002/03), 392 (2003/04), 377 (2004/05), 380/380 (2005/06), 374/376 (2006/07), 359/364 (2007/08).

Total debt level comprises overdrafts, short-term loans and long-term loans for the purpose of this exercise

(a) It is normally expected that colleges will have long-term borrowings (15-25 years typical) within the range 30-40% of annual turnover. This produces interest charges around 2% of turnover and annual capital repayments at a similar level, thus debt charges (interest plus capital repayments) are normally about 4% of annual turnover. This is considered reasonable, has proven not to have caused undue financial hardship to the sector, and is in line with the level of borrowings guidance to the Higher Education sector. It has also enabled many more colleges to be rebuilt at a far faster rate than would have been the case without the requirement to borrow.

The LSC's policy since 2003 has been to assess the level of capital grant support on the basis of affordability. It is intended to continue using the same criteria in that assessment process going forward, there is no reason to assume that those colleges that still require capital investment will not be as financially sound as those that have already invested in their estates. The key elements of that affordability judgement are a reasonable level of commercial bank borrowings within a financial forecast that demonstrates robust financial health by the third year after project completion and improving still further beyond then, with a robust risk management plan in place to demonstrate financial solvency against a range of downside scenarios going forward. This is carefully assessed before the LSC gives consent for a college to enter into a capital project.

(b) The LSC issues no specific guidance on the use of buildings constructed using commercial debt by the general public. FE colleges are, however, encouraged to offer the use of their facilities, when not being used for their primary purposes of providing education and training, for both community uses and commercial income generating purposes such as conferences.

## Higher Education: Admissions

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of students studying at each higher education institution in the 2007-08 academic year were from *(a)* state schools and *(b)* socio-economic groups 4-7, broken down by ethnic origin; and how much quality-related research funding each institution received for that year. [238088]

**Mr. Lammy:** The latest available information for the 2006-07 academic year is given in the table. Figures for 2007-08 will become available in June 2009. The figures that have been provided are not available broken down by ethnicity.

For each institution, the state school proportion and the NS-SEC 4-7 proportion are each shown against a benchmark. This is a sector average which is adjusted for each institution to take into account the following factors: subject of study, qualifications on entry and age on entry. The benchmarks can be used to show how a university is performing compared to the sector as a whole, and also help to determine whether a meaningful comparison can be drawn between two or more universities.

The proportion of students, from state schools and low socio-economic classes has been calculated using information on students whose state school/socio-economic class background is known. A significant proportion of students' social backgrounds are unknown and so exact numbers cannot be determined.

For figures relating to quality-related research funding I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Northampton South (Mr. Binley) on 28 October, *Official Report*, column 994W.

*Proportion of UK domiciled young full-time first degree entrants from state schools and NS-SEC 4-7 UK higher education institutions academic year 2006-07*

| | Percent from state schools | Benchmark | Percent from NS-SEC 4-7 | Benchmark |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Total UK* | 87.8 | .. | 29.8 | .. |
| *Total England* | 87.2 | .. | 29.8 | .. |
| Anglia Ruskin University | 97.8 | 93.2 | 36.6 | 35.2 |
| Aston University | 91.5 | 87.2 | 36.2 | 29.8 |
| Bath Spa University | 94.9 | 91.7 | 29.5 | 32.2 |
| The University of Bath | 76.2 | 81.8 | 18.0 | 23.2 |
| University of Bedfordshire | 98.8 | 95.7 | 41.6 | 38.4 |
| Birmingham City University | 97.5 | 93.4 | 45.1 | 35.0 |
| Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies | 98.9 | 94.7 | 48.8 | 40.0 |
| The University of Birmingham | 78.1 | 81.2 | 22.1 | 23.7 |
| Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln | 100.0 | 94.6 | 43.0 | 34.2 |
| The University of Bolton | 98.9 | 95.3 | 45.8 | 37.3 |
| The Arts Institute at Bournemouth | 95.3 | 94.8 | 33.2 | 31.4 |
| Bournemouth University | 94.5 | 92.0 | 29.6 | 34.2 |
| The University of Bradford | 93.9 | 92.3 | 40.0 | 35.3 |
| The University of Brighton | 93.0 | 90.8 | 29.6 | 32.5 |
| The University of Bristol | 63.1 | 78.4 | 14.3 | 21.0 |
| Brunel University | 92.5 | 90.0 | 37.7 | 31.9 |
| Buckinghamshire New University | 96.8 | 95.8 | 36.0 | 37.5 |
| The University of Buckingham | 70.5 | 91.1 | .. | .. |
| The University of Cambridge | 57.6 | 77.4 | 11.5 | 19.1 |
| Canterbury Christ Church University | 96.9 | 93.1 | 34.5 | 35.4 |
| The University of Central Lancashire | 96.9 | 93.0 | 37.7 | 35.2 |

*Proportion of UK domiciled young full time first degree entrants from state schools and NS SEC 4 7 UK higher education institutions academic year 2006 07*

| | Percent from state schools | Bench mark | Percent from NS SEC 4 7 | Bench mark |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Central School of Speech and Drama | 82.9 | 92.4 | 17.9 | 28.0 |
| University of Chester | 98.6 | 92.2 | 36.4 | 34.1 |
| The University of Chichester | 98.4 | 94.2 | 35.3 | 34.8 |
| The City University | 88.5 | 89.5 | 39.7 | 31.9 |
| Conservatoire for Dance and Drama | 86.9 | 94.2 | | |
| Courtauld Institute of Art | 42.9 | 72.1 | 22.5 | 19.0 |
| Coventry University | 98.6 | 92.9 | 39.4 | 35.1 |
| The University College for the Creative Arts at Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham, Maidstone, Rochester | 98.2 | 93.7 | 34.3 | 33.1 |
| Cumbria Institute of the Arts | 99.0 | 95.0 | 29.0 | 33.5 |
| Darlington College of Arts | 98.2 | 94.2 | 25.2 | 32.0 |
| De Montfort University | 97.0 | 93.6 | 41.9 | 35.5 |
| University of Derby | 98.4 | 93.6 | 38.0 | 36.1 |
| University of Durham | 61.8 | 79.3 | 14.8 | 20.8 |
| The University of East Anglia | 87.3 | 84.6 | 23.8 | 26.9 |
| The University of East London | 98.8 | 95.8 | 45.6 | 37.6 |
| Edge Hill University | 98.3 | 95.0 | 39.9 | 37.0 |
| The University of Essex | 95.2 | 88.8 | 31.8 | 30.7 |
| The University of Exeter | 72.8 | 81.2 | 16.7 | 23.9 |
| University College Falmouth | 97.6 | 94.5 | 31.7 | 31.1 |
| University of Gloucestershire | 95.2 | 93.2 | 32.1 | 34.8 |
| Goldsmiths College | 91.6 | 88.5 | 30.2 | 29.3 |
| The University of Greenwich | 97.8 | 94.8 | 46.4 | 38.2 |
| Guildhall School of Music and Drama | 61.5 | 94.6 | | |
| Harper Adams University College | 88.8 | 87.2 | 61.0 | 38.8 |
| University of Hertfordshire | 97.9 | 94.3 | 39.5 | 36.9 |
| Heythrop College | 84.9 | 80.9 | 24.7 | 25.2 |
| The University of Huddersfield | 97.5 | 93.0 | 41.9 | 34.5 |
| The University of Hull | 92.6 | 88.8 | 30.8 | 30.6 |
| Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine | 62.0 | 78.9 | 18.3 | 20.4 |
| Institute of Education | | | | |
| The University of Keele | 90.8 | 86.2 | 26.5 | 29.0 |
| The University of Kent | 91.9 | 87.5 | 24.6 | 29.7 |
| King's College London | 71.3 | 79.6 | 21.5 | 22.9 |
| Kingston University | 95.6 | 93.5 | 36.7 | 35.5 |
| The University of Lancaster | 90.3 | 83.0 | 21.9 | 25.0 |
| Leeds College of Music | 88.2 | 93.3 | 20.0 | 30.7 |
| Leeds Metropolitan University | 92.5 | 92.3 | 31.9 | 34.7 |
| The University of Leeds | 75.3 | 82.0 | 19.7 | 24.0 |
| Leeds Trinity and All Saints | 95.7 | 91.6 | 32.5 | 31.7 |
| The University of Leicester | 89.5 | 82.9 | 26.0 | 25.7 |
| The University of Lincoln | 97.5 | 92.1 | 36.1 | 33.7 |
| Liverpool Hope University | 98.1 | 94.6 | 41.4 | 36.2 |
| Liverpool John Moores University | 96.1 | 93.3 | 40.4 | 35.6 |
| The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts | 88.0 | 92.2 | 21.5 | 27.8 |
| The University of Liverpool | 84.8 | 82.1 | 24.7 | 25.3 |
| University of the Arts, London | 95.1 | 94.4 | 26.6 | 29.6 |
| London Metropolitan University | 97.3 | 93.3 | 42.9 | 35.9 |
| London South Bank University | 98.3 | 94.8 | 44.2 | 38.6 |
| London School of Economics and Political Science | 65.9 | 77.4 | 18.2 | 20.4 |
| Loughborough University | 88.7 | 86.7 | 21.7 | 28.1 |
| The Manchester Metropolitan University | 94.7 | 91.5 | 35.7 | 33.7 |
| The University of Manchester | 77.2 | 80.6 | 21.3 | 23.0 |
| Middlesex University | 97.7 | 95.8 | 47.7 | 38.9 |
| The University of Newcastle upon Tyne | 78.0 | 81.1 | 20.1 | 24.0 |
| Newman College of Higher Education | 100.0 | 95.0 | 45.2 | 36.6 |
| The University of Northampton | 98.7 | 94.5 | 35.5 | 36.7 |
| The University of Northumbria at Newcastle | 91.3 | 90.4 | 31.9 | 32.4 |
| Norwich School of Art and Design | 97.8 | 95.8 | 34.3 | 34.8 |
| The University of Nottingham | 67.4 | 79.4 | 17.4 | 22.4 |
| The Nottingham Trent University | 92.6 | 91.8 | 35.5 | 33.1 |
| Oxford Brookes University | 72.9 | 88.2 | 41.3 | 31.3 |
| The University of Oxford | 53.0 | 76.7 | 9.8 | 17.9 |

*Proportion of UK—domiciled young full—time first degree entrants from state schools and NS—SEC 4—7—UK higher education institutions academic year 2006—07*

| | *Percent from state schools* | *Bench mark* | *Percent from NS—SEC 4—7* | *Bench mark* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| University College Plymouth St Mark and St John | 97.5 | 94.4 | 44.0 | 36.7 |
| The University of Plymouth | 93.8 | 90.3 | 31.1 | 33.0 |
| The University of Portsmouth | 94.8 | 90.7 | 31.1 | 32.8 |
| Queen Mary and Westfield College | 85.8 | 84.5 | 32.6 | 26.9 |
| Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication | 94.1 | 96.3 | 37.2 | 35.1 |
| The University of Reading | 82.4 | 84.9 | 23.9 | 27.5 |
| Roehampton University | 96.5 | 94.1 | 35.7 | 35.1 |
| Rose Bruford College | 94.2 | 93.6 | 26.2 | 30.4 |
| Royal Academy of Music | 42.3 | 89.7 | 22.4 | 25.5 |
| Royal Agricultural College | 37.5 | 84.8 | 39.2 | 31.6 |
| Royal College of Music | — | — | — | — |
| Royal Holloway and Bedford New College | 78.5 | 82.9 | 24.0 | 24.6 |
| Royal Northern College of Music | — | — | — | — |
| The Royal Veterinary College | 76.7 | 70.6 | 24.5 | 22.8 |
| St George's Hospital Medical School | 81.8 | 80.5 | 23.3 | 25.1 |
| St Martin's College | 98.4 | 94.1 | 39.0 | 36.2 |
| St Mary's University College, Twickenham | 95.4 | 93.5 | 33.3 | 34.4 |
| The University of Salford | 96.5 | 91.8 | 40.2 | 33.7 |
| The School of Oriental and African Studies | 74.9 | 78.6 | 20.3 | 22.5 |
| The School of Pharmacy | 84.8 | 86.5 | 39.8 | 28.0 |
| Sheffield Hallam University | 95.5 | 91.6 | 33.2 | 34.2 |
| The University of Sheffield | 85.3 | 80.1 | 21.3 | 22.8 |
| Southampton Solent University | 96.7 | 94.8 | 36.0 | 36.2 |
| The University of Southampton | 83.2 | 82.3 | 19.9 | 24.6 |
| Staffordshire University | 97.7 | 93.9 | 39.2 | 36.3 |
| The University of Sunderland | 98.2 | 94.4 | 48.0 | 36.5 |
| The University of Surrey | 90.9 | 87.9 | 22.3 | 29.6 |
| The University of Sussex | 86.1 | 81.3 | 22.3 | 23.9 |
| The University of Teesside | 99.1 | 94.4 | 47.1 | 37.5 |
| Thames Valley University | 98.0 | 96.6 | 38.9 | 37.5 |
| Trinity Laban | 81.2 | 91.7 | 15.3 | 27.7 |
| University College London | 66.6 | 78.4 | 18.9 | 21.1 |
| The University of Warwick | 76.4 | 79.5 | 17.6 | 20.8 |
| University of the West of England, Bristol | 89.0 | 91.4 | 28.9 | 33.6 |
| The University of Westminster | 95.6 | 93.9 | 44.4 | 36.6 |
| The University of Winchester | 96.8 | 93.0 | 31.8 | 32.8 |
| The University of Wolverhampton | 99.0 | 96.0 | 51.3 | 39.2 |
| The University of Worcester | 98.1 | 94.5 | 33.6 | 36.5 |
| Writtle College | 94.8 | 94.8 | 35.1 | 35.1 |
| York St John University | 93.2 | 91.2 | 29.0 | 31.9 |
| The University of York | 79.9 | 78.9 | 16.9 | 20.7 |
| *Total Wales* | 93.1 | | 30.1 | |
| Aberystwyth University | 94.9 | 88.6 | 28.4 | 30.5 |
| Bangor University | 95.5 | 90.4 | 32.8 | 31.9 |
| Cardiff University | 85.8 | 83.0 | 21.5 | 25.6 |
| University of Wales Institute, Cardiff | 94.9 | 93.0 | 29.8 | 34.8 |
| University of Glamorgan | 98.4 | 93.9 | 42.0 | 36.2 |
| The University of Wales, Lampeter | 92.8 | 87.9 | 38.7 | 30.0 |
| The North—East Wales Institute of Higher Education | 99.7 | 95.0 | 46.2 | 37.7 |
| The University of Wales, Newport | 99.0 | 96.2 | 38.1 | 35.7 |
| Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama | 90.4 | 92.2 | 19.0 | 29.8 |
| Swansea Institute of Higher Education | 97.9 | 94.8 | 42.7 | 37.7 |
| Swansea University | 93.1 | 88.6 | 29.0 | 31.1 |
| Trinity College, Carmarthen | 99.6 | 95.5 | 40.8 | 36.6 |
| *Total Scotland* | 86.6 | | 25.9 | |
| The University of Aberdeen | 81.8 | 85.0 | 25.3 | 26.8 |
| University of Abertay Dundee | 96.8 | 91.7 | 36.9 | 34.3 |
| Bell College | 99.1 | 93.9 | 43.6 | 37.4 |
| The University of Dundee | 88.3 | 84.0 | 25.7 | 26.6 |
| Edinburgh College of Art | 82.8 | 93.0 | 20.6 | 32.6 |

*Proportion of UK—domiciled young full—time first degree entrants from state schools and NS—SEC 4—7—UK higher education institutions academic year 2006—07*

| | Percent from state schools | Bench mark | Percent from NS—SEC 4—7 | Bench mark |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| The University of Edinburgh | 68.0 | 80.0 | 15.7 | 21.4 |
| Glasgow Caledonian University | 96.2 | 90.7 | 35.0 | 33.4 |
| Glasgow School of Art | 87.0 | 86.2 | 18.0 | 25.4 |
| The University of Glasgow | 86.6 | 81.8 | 21.9 | 23.7 |
| Heriot—Watt University | 91.8 | 87.0 | 27.6 | 28.6 |
| Napier University | 96.0 | 93.3 | 33.3 | 35.5 |
| The University of Paisley | 98.9 | 93.4 | 37.1 | 35.2 |
| Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh | 94.7 | 90.8 | 30.1 | 32.2 |
| The Robert Gordon University | 94.9 | 92.7 | 33.1 | 35.6 |
| The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama | 87.1 | 95.7 | — | — |
| The University of St Andrews | 58.7 | 78.1 | 15.7 | 20.1 |
| The University of Stirling | 93.5 | 88.5 | 27.1 | 31.0 |
| The University of Strathclyde | 92.3 | 83.1 | 26.7 | 23.7 |
| UHI Millennium Institute | 100.0 | 92.6 | 52.5 | 34.3 |
| *Total Northern Ireland* | 99.6 | — | 41.7 | — |
| The Queen's University of Belfast | 99.1 | 84.1 | 35.2 | 26.8 |
| St Mary's University College | 100.0 | 92.7 | 52.4 | 33.6 |
| Stranmillis University College | 100.0 | 95.1 | 33.5 | 35.2 |
| University of Ulster | 100.0 | 92.2 | 47.6 | 35.7 |

*Note:*
Percentages have been suppressed where based on populations of less than 20 and are denoted by '—'
*Source:*
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by HESA.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, (1) column 1394W, on higher education: admissions, if he will break down the information given by *(a)* year of study and *(b)* part-time or full-time status; [238791]

(2) columns 1394-7W, on higher education: admissions, if he will break down the information given by domicile of students *(a)* in the UK, *(b)* elsewhere in the EU and *(c)* outside the EU. [238798]

**Mr. Lammy:** Table 1 shows the figure from the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1394W, on higher education: admissions, broken down by year of study and mode of study.

*Table 1: UK domiciled undergraduate enrolments by year of study and mode of study: English higher education institutions, 2006/07 academic year*

| Year of study | Full-time | Part-time | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 313,330 | 277,050 | 590,380 |
| 2 | 264,705 | 89,690 | 354,395 |
| 3 | 216,375 | 45,820 | 262,195 |
| 4 | 61,255 | 28,195 | 89,445 |
| 5 | 11,395 | 16,450 | 27,845 |
| 6 | 3,020 | 8,855 | 11,875 |
| 7 | 435 | 4,400 | 4,835 |
| 8 | 125 | 2,595 | 2,725 |
| 9 | 35 | 1,445 | 1,480 |
| 10 | 20 | 1,020 | 1,035 |
| Over 10 | 10 | 2,670 | 2,685 |
| Missing | 10 | 7,155 | 7,165 |
| Total | 870,720 | 485,335 | 1,356,055 |

*Note:*
Figures are on a HESA standard registration population (SRP) basis and are rounded to the nearest five therefore components may not sum to the total.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 2 shows figures from the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1394-7W, on higher education: admissions, broken down by domicile of student.

*Table 2: Doctorate enrolments[1] by higher education institution and domicile English higher education institutions, 2006/07 academic year*

| Higher education institution | UK | EU | Non-EU | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Open University | 740 | 0 | 40 | 780 |
| Cranfield University | 475 | 265 | 225 | 960 |
| Royal College of Art | 20 | 15 | 5 | 40 |
| Royal College of Nursing | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College | 30 | 0 | 10 | 45 |
| Central School of Speech and Drama | 5 | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| University of Chester | 35 | 0 | 5 | 40 |
| Canterbury Christ Church University | 275 | 5 | 25 | 310 |
| York St. John University | 25 | 0 | 0 | 25 |
| College of St. Mark and St. John | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Dartington College of Arts | 35 | 5 | 5 | 45 |
| Edge Hill University | 20 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| University College Falmouth | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Harper Adams University College | 10 | 5 | 10 | 25 |
| University of Winchester | 75 | 0 | 5 | 80 |
| Liverpool Hope University | 15 | 0 | 5 | 25 |
| University of the Arts, London | 60 | 10 | 10 | 80 |
| University of Bedfordshire | 60 | 20 | 55 | 135 |
| University of Northampton | 75 | 10 | 25 | 105 |
| Newman College of Higher Education | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Roehampton University | 90 | 15 | 30 | 140 |
| Royal Academy of Music | 5 | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| Royal College of Music | 10 | 5 | 5 | 20 |

*Table 2: Doctorate enrolments[1] by higher education institution and domicile*
*English higher education institutions, 2006/07 academic year*

| Higher education institution | UK | EU | Non-EU | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Southampton Solent University | 15 | 0 | 10 | 25 |
| St. Martin's College | 20 | 5 | 25 | 50 |
| St. Marys University College, Twickenham | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Leeds Trinity and All Saints | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| University of Worcester | 85 | 5 | 10 | 95 |
| Anglia Ruskin University | 150 | 10 | 140 | 295 |
| Bath Spa University | 55 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| University of Bolton | 65 | 10 | 30 | 110 |
| Bournemouth University | 110 | 25 | 35 | 170 |
| University of Brighton | 215 | 30 | 55 | 300 |
| University of Central England in Birmingham | 75 | 10 | 25 | 110 |
| University of Central Lancashire | 225 | 20 | 40 | 290 |
| University of Gloucestershire | 125 | 10 | 20 | 155 |
| Coventry University | 145 | 20 | 120 | 285 |
| University of Derby | 140 | 25 | 30 | 200 |
| University of East London | 575 | 40 | 70 | 690 |
| University of Greenwich | 150 | 15 | 45 | 210 |
| University of Hertfordshire | 285 | 50 | 65 | 400 |
| University of Huddersfield | 215 | 10 | 80 | 300 |
| University of Lincoln | 185 | 25 | 30 | 240 |
| Kingston University | 265 | 50 | 65 | 385 |
| Leeds Metropolitan University | 150 | 50 | 70 | 270 |
| Liverpool John Moores University | 205 | 15 | 50 | 270 |
| Manchester Metropolitan University | 340 | 60 | 65 | 465 |
| Middlesex University | 265 | 25 | 55 | 345 |
| De Montfort University | 170 | 70 | 155 | 395 |
| University of Northumbria at Newcastle | 295 | 30 | 125 | 450 |
| Nottingham Trent University | 265 | 70 | 105 | 440 |
| Oxford Brookes University | 140 | 25 | 85 | 250 |
| University of Plymouth | 345 | 75 | 120 | 540 |
| University of Portsmouth | 295 | 65 | 100 | 460 |
| Sheffield Hallam University | 300 | 45 | 115 | 460 |
| London South Bank University | 145 | 10 | 50 | 205 |
| Staffordshire University | 125 | 15 | 65 | 205 |
| University of Sunderland | 170 | 15 | 65 | 250 |
| University of Teesside | 180 | 15 | 30 | 225 |
| Thames Valley University | 40 | 5 | 10 | 55 |
| University of the West of England, Bristol | 460 | 45 | 135 | 640 |
| University of Chichester | 15 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| University of Westminster | 115 | 25 | 70 | 205 |
| University of Wolverhampton | 120 | 15 | 50 | 185 |
| Aston University | 175 | 60 | 100 | 335 |
| University of Bath | 470 | 140 | 310 | 920 |

*Table 2: Doctorate enrolments[1] by higher education institution and domicile*
*English higher education institutions, 2006/07 academic year*

| Higher education institution | UK | EU | Non-EU | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| University of Birmingham | 2,005 | 330 | 855 | 3,190 |
| University of Bradford | 175 | 45 | 240 | 460 |
| University of Bristol | 1,335 | 265 | 625 | 2,220 |
| Brunel University | 445 | 155 | 360 | 960 |
| University of Cambridge | 2,555 | 965 | 1,935 | 5,455 |
| City University | 365 | 140 | 190 | 695 |
| University of Durham | 875 | 175 | 480 | 1,535 |
| University of East Anglia | 770 | 145 | 335 | 1,250 |
| University of Essex | 460 | 260 | 495 | 1,215 |
| University of Exeter | 750 | 135 | 405 | 1,285 |
| University of Hull | 455 | 55 | 195 | 705 |
| University of Keele | 390 | 50 | 95 | 535 |
| University of Kent | 300 | 65 | 105 | 470 |
| University of Lancaster | 565 | 135 | 290 | 990 |
| University of Leeds | 1,415 | 265 | 790 | 2,465 |
| University of Leicester | 885 | 155 | 690 | 1,735 |
| University of Liverpool | 920 | 90 | 305 | 1,320 |
| Birkbeck College | 330 | 50 | 85 | 465 |
| Goldsmiths College | 355 | 115 | 145 | 615 |
| Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine | 680 | 235 | 240 | 1,155 |
| Institute of Education | 240 | 45 | 95 | 380 |
| King's College London | 1,125 | 250 | 315 | 1,690 |
| London Business School | 5 | 15 | 50 | 70 |
| London School of Economics and Political Science | 295 | 320 | 435 | 1,050 |
| London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine | 60 | 10 | 65 | 135 |
| Queen Mary and Westfield College | 475 | 85 | 220 | 780 |
| Royal Holloway and Bedford New College | 570 | 150 | 210 | 930 |
| Royal Veterinary College | 105 | 20 | 25 | 150 |
| St. George's Hospital Medical School | 165 | 15 | 20 | 200 |
| School of Oriental and African Studies | 265 | 140 | 340 | 745 |
| School of Pharmacy | 75 | 35 | 45 | 150 |
| University College London | 1,015 | 200 | 225 | 1,440 |
| University of London (Institutes and activities) | 60 | 20 | 40 | 120 |
| Loughborough University | 535 | 125 | 435 | 1,100 |
| University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne | 1,270 | 235 | 885 | 2,390 |
| University of Nottingham | 1,700 | 405 | 1,235 | 3,335 |
| University of Oxford | 2,390 | 755 | 1,895 | 5,040 |
| University of Reading | 570 | 165 | 380 | 1,110 |
| University of Salford | 315 | 50 | 210 | 570 |
| University of Sheffield | 1,225 | 200 | 555 | 1,985 |
| University of Southampton | 1,510 | 340 | 650 | 2,500 |
| University of Surrey | 865 | 175 | 410 | 1,445 |
| University of Sussex | 670 | 190 | 330 | 1,190 |
| University of Warwick | 1,020 | 280 | 605 | 1,905 |
| University of York | 760 | 220 | 445 | 1,425 |
| Institute of Cancer Research | 55 | 20 | 25 | 100 |
| Norwich School of Art and Design | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 |

*Table 2: Doctorate enrolments[1] by higher education institution and domicile*
*English higher education institutions, 2006/07 academic year*

| Higher education institution | UK | EU | Non-EU | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Royal Agricultural College | 10 | 0 | 5 | 15 |
| Conservatoire for Dance and Drama | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Courtauld Institute of Art | 60 | 20 | 30 | 110 |
| London Metropolitan University | 150 | 40 | 70 | 255 |
| University of Buckingham | 10 | 5 | 25 | 40 |
| University of Manchester | 2,490 | 440 | 1,540 | 4,470 |
| Heythrop College | 35 | 0 | 5 | 35 |
| University College for the Creative Arts at Canterbury | 25 | 5 | 10 | 35 |
| Total | 46,130 | 10,385 | 23,980 | 80,490 |

[1] Figures cover enrolments on full-time and part-time courses.
*Note:*
Figures are on a HESA standard registration population (SRP) basis and are rounded to the nearest five therefore components may not sum to the total.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

### Higher Education: Finance

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the National Union of Students on higher education funding. [237945]

**Mr. Lammy:** We will start to consider the future of higher education funding next year after we have published our framework for the development of higher education over the next 10 to 15 years. We have asked the National Union of Students for its perspective on the issues raised by that framework and we look forward to considering its views in due course.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much of the funding reassigned from equivalent or lower qualification students to support additional student numbers has been made available to universities providing additional *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time places. [238881]

**Mr. Lammy:** All of the £24 million in institutional funding reassigned from equivalent and lower level qualification students in 2008-09 has been made available to support additional new entrants to higher education but no funding was ring-fenced specifically for either part-time or full-time students. The actual numbers of total full-time and part-time students recruited by institutions will become available later in the academic year.

### Intellectual Property

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the contribution of intellectual property to the UK economy. [238358]

**Mr. Lammy:** Intellectual Property (IP) plays a central role in capturing the value of knowledge and creativity and is essential to the UK's future economic prosperity. For example, it has been estimated that the service sector accounts for over two-thirds of the UK's Gross Value Added (GVA) and trade marks play a key role in this sector in securing the value of brands. Patents underpin technological innovation, critical to the manufacturing sector which has been estimated to contribute £150 billion a year to our economy. Our pharmaceutical, sector which is a world leader and had an estimated GVA in 2007 of £7.5 billion, is particularly reliant on patents for inventions which may take many years to reach the market.

Copyright underpins much of the creative sector, for example the literary, musical and film industries. The creative economies were estimated to account for 7.3 per cent. of the UK's GVA in 2005 and have grown at approximately 6 per cent. per annum. The Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) are due to publish an update of these figures by the end of this year.

The White Paper 'Innovation Nation' published in March 2008 recognised the important role of IP in the UK's innovation framework and set out specific initiatives to improve awareness of IP and to facilitate IP transactions between businesses and also to improve the exploitation of IP arising from research.

The Government established the new Strategic Advisory Board on Intellectual Property Policy in June 2008 with a £500,000 research budget. It has also initiated a programme of research into economics and IP in the Intellectual Property Office. These initiatives will reinforce the economic evidence base underpinning IP policy making.

### Intellectual Property: Crime

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effect of intellectual property crime on the UK economy. [238361]

**Mr. Lammy:** There is not yet consensus among UK IP rights holders on how to best assess the extent and impact of IP crime within the UK. However, the 'Rogers Review: National enforcement priorities for local authority regulatory services', published by the Cabinet Office in March 2007, was established to collect and collate evidence in defining and prioritising regulatory service policy areas. That review estimated that theft of intellectual property cost £1.3 billion per year.

### Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what role Ministers in his Department had in shortlisting companies bidding to provide electric and low carbon vehicles to public bodies under the Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform. [234718]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1168W.

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236898]

**Mr. Simon:** No complaints of racial abuse were investigated in the Department in the last 12 months. Formal complaints of racial abuse would be investigated quickly and thoroughly and, where complaints were upheld, appropriate disciplinary action would be taken. All cases are treated seriously.

The Department believes that each and every individual has the right to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect. As such, we do not tolerate unacceptable behaviour towards others. The overall aim of our harassment and bullying policies is to prevent such unacceptable behaviour occurring but, where it does occur, to ensure that appropriate and effective action is taken to deal with it and prevent it happening again. This applies to everyone in the Department. Every individual is personally responsible for their own behaviour, and every manager is responsible for enforcing the policies in accordance with the guidance and procedures provided.

### Training: Interpreters

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress he has made towards the implementation of Lord Justice Auld's recommendation that the Government should consider central funding of further education establishments to equip them, where necessary, to provide courses for lesser known languages for the Diploma in Public Service Interpreting; and if he will make a statement. [224872]

**Mr. Simon:** The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for funding further education (FE) courses in England. Public funding is prioritised towards basic literacy and numeracy, full level 2 and full level 3 qualifications as well as a range of first steps provision offering opportunities for progression below level 2. In addition, the LSC funds English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses, often as a component of other prioritised courses. ESOL courses both promote community cohesion and equip a significant number of learners with the language skills needed for employment.

This is part of a planned and continuing strategy to provide adults with the skills they need for sustained employment and progression in learning.

In line with our response to the Leitch review of skills we are committed to increasing funding through demand-led routes to ensure that funding is responsive to learner and employer needs. While FE colleges receive funding for a full range of qualifications in line with Government priorities, it is for them to decide how this is targeted on particular courses such as those in "lesser" known languages in line with demand. In line with this the LSC does not provide central funding for specific courses.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Admiralty House

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1805W, on Admiralty House, what catering services have been provided to Lord Malloch Brown's residence on a re-charge basis since he took up occupation. [230474]

**Gillian Merron:** None.

### Afghanistan: Drugs

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has taken account of the counter-narcotics tactics used in Thailand by the government of that country in developing his counter-narcotics policy in Afghanistan. [232230]

**Gillian Merron:** Our counter-narcotics policy on Afghanistan aims to achieve an Afghan drugs trade divided from the insurgency and prevented from undermining security, governance and the economy, to the point where the Government of Afghanistan can take responsibility for delivery of its own counter-narcotics effort. This approach reflects some of the experience of the Government of Thailand in their own campaign against illicit narcotics production. For example we know that short-term approaches such as eradication cannot offer a solution unless they are combined with a longer term commitment to Afghan institutions, alternative livelihoods for farmers, and improved law enforcement capabilities.

### Afghanistan: Politics and Government

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Afghanistan. [234653]

**Bill Rammell:** Since 2001 there has been considerable political progress in Afghanistan. There is now an elected President and Parliament, and local governance structures continue to improve. With international support, Afghan led presidential, parliamentary, provincial and district council elections are due to take place in 2009 and 2010. Voter registration is on track and is now entering its second phase. These elections offer the Afghan people yet another chance to have a stake in their Government and a choice about their political future. The UK and our international partners continue to provide development assistance and work with the Afghan National Security Forces to ensure the political space exists for Afghanistan to continue to develop democratically.

### Afghanistan: Prisoners

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to his Afghan counterpart on the 20 year jail sentence imposed on Afghan journalist Sayed Pervez Kambaksh. [232160]

**Bill Rammell:** We share your concern about the case of journalism student Sayed Perwiz Kambakhsh—whose death sentence we opposed. President Karzai has been aware of our concerns for some time and noted these at the joint press conference with my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on 7 February 2008.

Regardless of the case in question, we oppose the death penalty in all circumstances and together with EU colleagues regularly make our views knows to the Afghan Government. For states that insist on maintaining the death penalty, the UK considers it very important that internationally recognised minimum standards are respected.

While it is positive that Kambakhsh no longer faces the death penalty, we are disappointed about the verdict reached on 21 October 2008. We have serious concerns about the fairness of this and the original trial.

The Afghan state must comply with the international human rights standards, to which it is a party—this includes the right to a fair trial. We also support the right to freedom of expression, which is protected by the Afghan Constitution—the Afghan judiciary and Government are obliged by law to respect these commitments. We are following the case closely and, in conjunction with our international partners, are raising it with the relevant Afghan authorities.

### Airwave Service

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234701]

**Gillian Merron:** Foreign and Commonwealth (FCO) Services provide radio communications throughout the FCO and its overseas missions. FCO Services do not use Airwave handsets and have no plans to do so.

### Algeria: Politics and Government

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on proposals to change the Algerian constitution to allow presidents to serve for a third term. [237856]

**Bill Rammell:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have received reports on the proposed changes to the Algerian constitution from our ambassador to Algeria. I understand that on 12 November a joint session of the Parliament approved changes to the constitution removing the limits to the number of presidential terms. The changes also addressed the protection of the symbols of the revolution, the promotion of women's political rights and the replacement of the position of Head of Government by the creation of the formal role of Prime Minister.

### Argentina: Foreign Relations

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Falkland Islands government on the Argentinian response to the new Falkland Islands constitution. [238372]

**Gillian Merron:** On 6 November, our embassy in Buenos Aires received an official protest from the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the making of the Falkland Islands Constitution Order 2008. This was the latest in a series of protests that the Argentine government has made about the Falkland Islands constitutional review, either directly or indirectly, to which the British Government is responding, making clear that the principle of self-determination continues to underline our position on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands and that in contributing to and agreeing the new constitution, the Falkland Islanders have reaffirmed their wish to maintain their status as a British overseas territory. We have consulted the Falkland Islands government about our reply.

During the drafting of the new constitution we worked openly and constructively with the Falkland Islands government.

### Ballistic Missile Defence

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Answer to the right hon. Member for Richmond of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 237W, on missile defence systems, what further discussions have taken place with the US on missile defence since the developments referred to in the Answer. [232284]

**Caroline Flint:** The issue of ballistic missile defence (BMD) is routinely discussed both bilaterally with the US, and in various North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) forums. Since the Bucharest summit, NATO has been carrying out work looking at extending the coverage of the US BMD system to cover the whole of the NATO homeland region. It is anticipated that this work will culminate in a report being presented to the Strasbourg summit in April 2009, with a view to NATO Ministers making a political decision on the future of BMD in Europe.

### Bangladesh: Overseas Residence

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to investigate reports of assaults against British nationals of Bangladeshi origin in Bangladesh. [235493]

**Bill Rammell:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office cannot investigate assaults on British nationals in Bangladesh: such investigations are the responsibility of the Bangladeshi authorities. However, the UK takes any allegation of abuse seriously and we have consistently urged Bangladesh's Government, Army and law enforcement agencies to act impartially and proportionately, with respect for public safety, human rights, media freedoms and rule of law. We have called on Bangladesh's Caretaker Government (CTG) to investigate incidents thoroughly and take appropriate actions. We have co-ordinated these messages with the EU, and delivered them at highest levels.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many investigations his Department has conducted into assaults against British nationals of Bangladeshi origin in Bangladesh in each of the last five years. [235494]

**Bill Rammell:** I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer (235493).

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of assaults against British nationals of Bangladeshi origin in Bangladesh in each of the last five years. [235495]

**Bill Rammell:** The number of assaults on British nationals in the last five years reported to the British High Commission in Bangladesh are as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2008 | 3 |
| 2007 | 1 |
| 2006 | 1 |
| 2005 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 |

Our statistics do not differentiate by British nationals' ethnic origins.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice his Department has issued to British nationals of Bangladeshi origin intending to travel to Bangladesh. [235496]

**Bill Rammell:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides advice on travel to all countries on their website:

www.fco.gov.uk

or on 0845 850 2829 (Monday to Friday 0900 to 1800).

We do not provide advice differentiated according to ethnic origin.

### Belarus: Children

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if his Department will hold discussions on the resumption of the exchange programme of Belarus children from the Chernobyl area with the Ambassador of Belarus. [231291]

**Caroline Flint:** Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials meet with the ambassador of Belarus on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues, including, as appropriate, the programme of visits by Belarus children from the Chernobyl area. Our ambassador to Belarus has been in close contact with the authorities in Minsk in recent weeks, raising our concerns about the decision to suspend these programmes. UK arrangements have worked well, with a high standard of care and safe return of the children to their guardians. We hope to find an amicable resolution of the issue to allow the resumption of these programmes.

### British Council: Finance

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training in finance and fraud detection the Country Directors of the British Council have had. [230860]

**Caroline Flint:** All British Council country directors receive regular, professional, in-house training on finance and business risk management. In addition, the British Council has introduced a new fraud detection component into its training for country directors.

### Burma: UN Security Council

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions have been held with UN Security Council counterparts on the UN Secretary General's visit to Burma in December 2008 and his objectives for the visit, including specific benchmarks that the military regime must meet. [232117]

**Bill Rammell:** We have regular discussions with our Security Council partners and other influential countries on how best to support the UN Secretary General's efforts to break the current deadlock in Burma. Most recently my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Burma with world leaders at the Asia-Europe Meeting in Beijing on 24 and 25 October. He also spoke directly to the UN Secretary General about Burma on the 23 October. Should Ban Ki Moon decide to visit Burma, he would have our full support.

The UN Security Council set clear objectives for progress in Burma in its Presidential Statement of 11 October 2007, which it reaffirmed unanimously in May this year. These demands include the early release of all political prisoners, the start of genuine and inclusive dialogue with the opposition and ethnic groups, and full co-operation with the UN.

### Canada: Overseas Residence

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals took up residence in Canada in each of the last 10 years. [231766]

**Bill Rammell:** According to Canadian sources, the number of UK nationals who took up residence in Canada in each of the last 10 years, was as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 22,9[illegible] |
| 1998 | 10,367 |
| 1999 | 7,045 |
| 2000 | 8,840 |
| 2001 | 11,731 |
| 2002 | 8,046 |
| 2003 | 6,797 |
| 2004 | 7,533 |
| 2005 | 7,258 |
| 2006 | 7,140 |
| 2007 | [1]8,200 |

Moreover, the following are estimates of the number of new permanent residents in Canada, in each of the last 10 years, where the UK was the country of last permanent residence.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 4,657 |
| 1998 | 3,899 |
| 1999 | 4,478 |
| 2000 | 4,649 |
| 2001 | 5,360 |

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 4,724 |
| 2003 | 5,193 |
| 2004 | 6,062 |
| 2005 | 5,864 |
| 2006 | 6,542 |
| 2007 | [1]8,100 |

[1] Approximate data and subject to change.

### Capital Punishment

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make to other countries to seek to ensure the number of signatories to the moratorium for the death penalty increases at this year's United Nations General Assembly. [232239]

**Gillian Merron:** Last year's ground breaking United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for a moratorium on executions was a huge achievement. We want to secure another successful resolution on the death penalty at this year's General Assembly, and we are currently working to increase the number of signatories to the resolution by assisting the EU presidency in a lobbying campaign in New York and relevant capitals.

### China: Human Rights

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether a date has been set for the next session of the UK-China human rights dialogue; and whether it will take place before the end of 2008. [235407]

**Bill Rammell:** A date has not yet been set for the next round of the UK-China human rights dialogue. We continue to press the Chinese to agree dates as soon as possible. The human rights dialogue is one element of our multi-layered approach to China human rights. It offers us a way to discuss our human rights concerns in detail. We continue to pursue the other elements of high-level political messaging, and project work to support practical human rights progress on the ground.

### Climate Change

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what public diplomacy work on climate change is undertaken by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [225369]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) work on climate change is part of concerted cross-Whitehall activity to achieve Public Service Agreement (PSA) 27 on "Leading the Global Effort to avoid dangerous climate change." We work with partners across the public, private and non-governmental organisations (NGO) sectors in the UK and overseas, making extensive use of our network of posts. Our specific contribution, as identified in the PSA, is to build "the necessary social, economic and political conditions and mobilising key constituencies to influence the major emitters."

Our work is directed to mobilising a global shift to the low carbon economy and creating the right political climate for an ambitious international deal on climate change at Copenhagen at the end of 2009. To achieve this, we need to convince key decision makers and opinion formers across the world that: taking urgent action on climate change is in their national economic and security interests; it is essential if we are to achieve the millennium development goals; and globally there exist sufficient resources and the right technology to succeed.

Public diplomacy efforts at priority posts (including the US, Canada, Australia, China and India) are focused in particular on the themes of prosperity, security and equity and are targeted at a wide range of opinion formers, including government, business and civil society. We are working closely with the British Council and other partners across government as well as with key groupings such as the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE). We also raised these issues at ministerial level as appropriate.

### Czech Republic: Treaty of Lisbon

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his *(a)* Czech and *(b)* Austrian counterpart on ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon. [218633]

**Caroline Flint:** I apologise for the delay in replying.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have regular contact with our EU counterparts in other member states. These discussions include a wide range of bilateral, European and international issues.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of allegations that Rwandan forces are involved in the fighting in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [232094]

**Gillian Merron:** There have been reports of Rwandan forces in North Kivu, but we have no firm evidence to confirm these. During the recent fighting, UN observers reported that shots had been fired across the border between Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda in both directions.

We continue to monitor events in eastern DRC closely. We encourage the governments of the two states to co-operate to resolve threats to regional security.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate has been made of the number of abductions and attacks against civilians by the Lord's Resistance Army along the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Central African Republic borders; and if he will make a statement. [232120]

**Gillian Merron:** The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have carried out numerous attacks in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), south Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR) in recent months. It is difficult to obtain an accurate number of all abductions and attacks which have occurred, as there are several armed groups operating in the region.

The LRA are currently more active in the DRC than they are in the rest of the region. Attacks against Congolese civilians have been taking place continually since 17 September, in at least 10 different locations north of Dungo. The DRC armed forces have commenced an operation to contain the LRA with the support of UN peace keepers.

In southern Sudan, the last reported LRA attack took place on 17 September in Sakure Payam. A number of inhabitants were abducted and at least two people were killed. South Sudan is also affected by refugees fleeing areas due to LRA attacks. Although there have been fewer attacks in south Sudan, the LRA remain a continuing source of insecurity.

The LRA are suspected to be responsible for a number of attacks in south east CAR in February and March of this year.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to encourage a peaceful resolution in Democratic Republic of Congo. [233675]

**Gillian Merron:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Tanzania from 1-2 November with his French counterpart, Bernard Kouchner. During meetings with President Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo and President Kagame of Rwanda, he stressed the need to pursue a political solution to the problems of the eastern DRC, including full implementation the Nairobi Accord.

My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, participated in the Nairobi Summit on 7 November. We welcome the outcome of the Summit which established a follow-up mechanism to drive implementation of the Nairobi Communiqué and Goma Accord, which offer a political solution to the problems of the region. Regional leaders also endorsed former President Obasanjo as UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes with a mandate to lead this follow-up work.

Lord Malloch-Brown will also use his visit to the DRC and Rwanda on 17-20 November to press for early progress by both governments towards a long term solution.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports that the Congolese army co-operates with the FDLR; and what discussions he has had with Congolese authorities on the continued operations of the FDLR in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [235205]

**Gillian Merron:** We believe there has been on-going co-operation between the Congolese army and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) for some time. The UK and EU partners continue to raise the issue with the Congolese authorities, pressing them to end co-operation and abide by United Nation Security Council Resolution 1804 and their commitments under the Nairobi Communiqué.

**Democratic Republic of Congo: Arms Trade**

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Rwandan Government on the provision of arms and supplies to rebel military forces operating in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo in the last three years; and what representations are planned. [235202]

**Gillian Merron:** The Minister maintains a regular and close dialogue with the Government of Rwanda on all aspects of regional security under the terms of the memorandum of Understanding signed between the UK and the Government of Rwanda in 2006. This includes the issue of the provision of arms and supplies to military forces operating in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised these issues when he visited Kigali on 1 November.

**Democratic Republic of Congo: Human Rights**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports that members of the armed forces in Democratic Republic of Congo have been involved in serious human rights abuses in recent weeks; and if he will make a statement. [237247]

**David Miliband:** We are deeply concerned about the level of human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Major human rights abuses are committed by the state security agents as well as militia groups and other actors. We continue to lobby the DRC Government on this issue and push for improved defence, police and justice reform to ensure that the Congolese army protects the population and country rather than being a source of destabilisation and fear.

**Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations**

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government supports proposals for an increase in the number of UN troops deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [232240]

**Gillian Merron:** We fully support the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) efforts to reinforce its presence in and around Goma by moving troops and resources from other areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The head of the UN's Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO) briefed the UN Security Council on MONUC's current position on 11 November 2008. The UN Secretary General will provide the UN Security Council in his next report with a full analysis and recommendations on resources required by MONUC to inform UN Security Council discussion. We expect this report by 19 November 2008 and would support a properly evidenced request for additional capacity.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the French proposal for a European deployment of up to 1,500 troops in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to put an end to the violence there; and if he will make a statement. [233070]

**David Miliband:** My French colleague and I both agree that the best option is to ensure that the 17,000 troops in the UN mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo are correctly deployed and effectively mandated to provide some immediate security in the east of the country.

The EU's principal concern in the longer term is to provide support to efforts seeking a political solution, as the only effective way of ensuring an end to violence.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what shortcomings have been identified in the current troop levels and resources of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with particular regard to airlift capacity. [233072]

**David Miliband:** The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Alan Doss, identified a number of areas where the UN mission may require additional assistance on 3 October, including additional troops and air mobility. This request was reiterated by the Secretary-General in a letter to UN Security Council members on 31 October and again in a briefing by the UN Head of Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, on 11 November. In response to Alan Doss's briefing, the Security Council requested that the UN Secretary-General come back in his next report with a full analysis and recommendations on resources required by the UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC). We expect this report by 19 November. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced, we support the UN Secretary-General's request to the UN Security Council for extra resources.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is UK policy that changes are needed to the mandate of the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and what changes are under discussion. [233076]

**David Miliband:** We believe that the mandate of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) correctly focuses on the key challenges facing the country. The Mission is mandated to protect civilians, including humanitarian personnel; to assist in humanitarian access and return of internally displaced persons; to assist in the protection of human rights; to support operations to disarm enemy combatants; and to support and facilitate the disarmament, demobilisation and repatriation of Congolese and foreign combatants. The UN Security Council regularly reviews the mandate of MONUC, most recently at a meeting on 11 November. This will be discussed again in further consultations before the current mandate expires on 31 December 2008. The UK will play an active part in these discussions and will consider carefully any proposed changes.

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plan to take at the United Nations to strengthen the UN peacekeeping force's mandate in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [235203]

**Gillian Merron:** We believe that the mandate of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) focuses on the key challenges facing the country. The mission is mandated, inter alia; to protect civilians, including humanitarian personnel; to assist in humanitarian access and return of internally displaced persons; to assist in the protection of human rights; to support operations to disarm enemy combatants; to support and facilitate the disarmament, demobilisation and repatriation of Congolese and foreign combatants. The UN Security Council regularly reviews the mandate of MONUC and will do so again before the current mandate expires on 31 December 2008. The UK will play an active part in these discussions and will give due consideration to any proposed changes.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the involvement of *(a)* the Rwandan government and *(b)* Rwandan troops in the current crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [233069]

**David Miliband:** There have been reports of Rwandan forces in North Kivu. During the recent fighting, UN observers reported that shots had been fired across the border between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, in both directions.

We continue to monitor events in Eastern DRC closely, and encourage the governments of the two states to co-operate to resolve threats to regional security.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Violence

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of incidents of rape and violence against women in Democratic Republic of Congo in recent weeks; and if he will make a statement. [237314]

**Gillian Merron:** The UK remains very concerned by the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the recent unconfirmed reports of armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) soldiers raping and killing civilians. Unfortunately there are not yet any comprehensive statistics for such incidents in 2008. With the ongoing conflict in Eastern DRC, sexual violence is used to humiliate and intimidate women and sometimes men of all ages, tearing up families and whole communities. With UK support, the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the DRC (MONUC) mandate was amended in December 2007 to include a requirement to protect civilians against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The UN has appointed a Senior Adviser on Sexual Violence, who is working with international partners and the DRC government to develop a plan of action and coordinate initiatives to deal with the problem. The UK also took the lead in drafting UN Security Council Resolution 1820 which recognises SGBV as a peace and security issue.

### Departmental Advertising

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which of his Department's initiatives have been advertised to the public in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such campaign was. [192224]

**Caroline Flint:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) largest expenditure on initiatives involving paid advertising to the public in the UK have been on a major travel advice campaign, and advertising for the recruitment of staff.

The FCO spent the following on the 'Know Before You Go' campaign, aimed at promoting safe and trouble-free travel to British public before they visit overseas countries:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 683,900 |
| 2005-06 | 940,570 |
| 2006-07 | 964,076 |
| 2007-08 | 922,222 |

The following was spent on external recruitment advertising for the FCO and FCO Services (trading fund of the FCO):

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 401,153 |
| 2004-05 | 513,392 |
| 2005-06 | 547,649 |
| 2006-07 | 460,359 |
| 2007-08 | 471,593 |

Figures stretching back 10 years are not readily available as they pre-date the introduction of our computerised accounting system, PRISM. Information on smaller initiatives that used paid advertising as a communication channel is not held centrally. The Department could obtain this information from its UK Departments and 250 overseas posts only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Aviation

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many individual domestic air flights were undertaken within Great Britain by representatives of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available; and at what cost. [215555]

**Gillian Merron:** In the period January to October 2008, a total of 459 individual domestic air flights were taken by representatives of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and its agencies at a cost of £45,174.

### Departmental Cars

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [233193]

**Gillian Merron:** None. Government cars are not provided to special advisers.

### Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 211W, on departmental conditions of employment, whether the start of the 10 to 14 day decompression break begins *(a)* in theatre while waiting for transportation out of theatre or *(b)* upon arriving at the final destination of the decompression break. [234292]

**Gillian Merron:** Decompression breaks start upon arriving at the final destination of the decompression break.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many external consultants are undertaking work for his Department. [233190]

**Gillian Merron:** Responsibility for procuring external consultants has been devolved to individual directorates, departments and overseas posts within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), with the provision of central advice and guidance. Details from each directorate, department and post could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, annual expenditure on external consultants or consultancies as a whole is published in the FCO's annual departmental reports, copies of which are available at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/departmental-report/

### Departmental Domestic Visits

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what visits he made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197166]

**Gillian Merron:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs visited the Bournemouth International Conference Centre in September 2007 to attend the Labour Party Conference.

There are no records held for the time period in question when my right hon. Friend was Minister of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government. Information for my right hon. Friend's time as Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will be published separately as soon as possible.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies. [230043]

**David Miliband:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) currently employs 16 full-time press officers (15 plus one job-share) based in London.

A figure for the number of staff with a communications role at our overseas posts is not held centrally and would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Wilton Park, an executive agency of the FCO, does not employ any press officers.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of maintaining his Department's website was in 2007-08; and what that cost is expected to be in 2008-09. [233194]

**Caroline Flint:** The cost of maintaining our 232 departmental websites on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s previous web platform in 2007-08 was approximately £870,000. The cost of maintaining the 240 departmental websites on the FCO's new web platform in 2008-09 is expected to be £1,386,000. These figures cover hosting and support costs, but are not directly comparable because of the extensive changes in the way the web platform is managed in 2008-09, compared to 2007-08. The costs do not include staff time spent updating the website. It is not possible to calculate the individual cost of the 'parent' website:

www.fco.gov.uk

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visits his Department's website had in 2007-08. [233195]

**Caroline Flint:** In 2007-08, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's web platform had 146,327,875 page views and 30,519,364 visits. These figures include page views and hits to all of our 232 departmental websites. The figures do not include views or visits to our previously independent post sites which were not part of our FCO web platform in 2007-08, but are on our platform in 2008-09.

### Departmental Liability

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates in each of the last five years his Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to his Department or its non-departmental public bodies. [232719]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no record of any incidences, in the past five years, where the Department has been required to inform the House of contingent liabilities. There are ongoing indemnities, in respect of British Council artwork, and these are included in the Department's main estimates and revised in the annual resource accounts.

In addition the Department has reported, in its resource accounts, contingent liabilities arising out of its normal course of business, and information is included in the notes to the resource accounts for those years, available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website address:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/annual-reports/resource-accounts1

### Departmental Lost Property

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data was lost by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231443]

**Gillian Merron:** The information required is held separately by our Financial Compliance Unit, Resource Accounting Department, Information and Technology Directorate and Security and Estates Directorate, all of whom hold records relating to various losses and thefts of both personal property and official furnishings, including IT equipment losses. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Personal data losses are reported to the Information Commissioner. These were reported in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office 's(FCO) Departmental Report 2007-08. To date in 2008-09, the FCO has not reported any further losses.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238948]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not keep a central record of amounts spent on publicity and advertising. The information required to answer this question could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Meetings

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location and *(c)* purpose was of each meeting he attended with the Prime Minister in the week commencing (i) 12 November, (ii) 19 November and (iii) 26 November 2007. [179084]

**Gillian Merron:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly meets with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and other Cabinet colleagues. It is standard practice not to disclose details of internal Government meetings.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on entertainment by his Department in 2007-08; and how much of that sum was accounted for by expenditure on *(a)* food, *(b)* alcohol, *(c)* staff and *(d)* accommodation. [233189]

**Gillian Merron:** The total spent against the entertainment budget in financial year 2007-08 was £6,470,379.11. This expenditure was spent on entertainment of official contacts in furtherance of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s objectives. This expenditure would include the costs of food, drink and sundries when official

contacts were entertained at an officer's home, the costs of employing extra domestic staff solely for a representational event, and the cost of entertaining official contacts at external venues (e.g. restaurants, hotels etc.). Additional expenditure on entertainment may have been put to other budgets, but it is not possible to identify this separately. Expenditure on entertainment is not broken down into the requested categories, and to obtain this information would require analysis of each individual invoice. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The FCO is committed to ensuring that all expenditure, including that on entertainment, is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

**Departmental Official Visits**

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228770]

**Gillian Merron:** From 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 UK Civil Servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services, based in the United Kingdom claimed £1,443,221 for expenditure on overnight accommodation in the UK and overseas.

Expenditure on overnight accommodation by staff based overseas is processed locally. To provide this information would require a manual check of claims made in each post. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

**Departmental Older Workers**

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people recruited by his Department in 2007-08 were aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years; and what percentage this represented of the number of new recruits in each case. [235245]

**Gillian Merron:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 880W.

**Departmental Overtime**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of overtime payments paid to staff in his Department was in each of the last 12 months, broken down by pay grade. [221294]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) paid the following amounts in overtime to staff by grade during the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008:

| *CO Grade* | *Civil Service Grade* | *£* |
|---|---|---|
| A1 | AA | 107,407.70 |
| A2 | AO | 664,064.44 |
| B3 | EO | 779,004.52 |
| C4 | HEO | 1,208,965.07 |
| C5 | SEO | 763,577.70 |
| D6 | Grade 7 | 565,686.24 |
| D7 | Grade 6 | 290,835.99 |
| Cleaner | — | 36,602.50 |

Overtime is not paid to staff in the Senior Management Structure/Senior Civil Service.

**Departmental Pay**

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what bonuses are paid to staff in his Department for working in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [235420]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) uses non-consolidated, non-pensionable bonuses to encourage high performance. We pay annual bonuses to staff based on appraisal evidence of performance. High bonus awards are given only where performance has significantly exceeded challenging objectives and may have radically transformed delivery of policy and services.

Bonus payments for FCO staff in the delegated grades (all except senior managers) are based on performance not location. Staff in Iraq or Afghanistan are eligible for performance bonuses; but service in these theatres does not automatically earn a specific bonus.

**Departmental Pensions**

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil servants working in his Department and its agencies have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229552]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) publishes the cash equivalent transfer value (cetv) of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme pensions of FCO Ministers and of Civil Servants, who are members of the FCO board of management, in their annual resource accounts. A copy can be found online at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/pdf8/fco-resource-accounts-07-08.

We do not routinely calculate the cetv of the pensions of other members of staff. To carry out the individual calculations in order to determine which members of staff might have pensions with a cetv of more than £1 million would incur disproportionate cost.

**EC Common Foreign and Security Policy: Somalia**

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent on 30 October 2008 by the European Union to the Somali Transitional Government, making an offer of collaboration, which contains proposals on the exercise of jurisdiction against persons apprehended in the territorial waters of Somalia. [235422]

**Gillian Merron:** The letter was sent by the European Council Secretary General Javier Solana. We have, therefore, requested permission from the European Council Secretariat

to place a copy of the letter in the Library. If that permission is forthcoming, a copy of the letter will be made available.

### European Parliament Members

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the 2007 intergovernmental agreement on the number of members of the European Parliament is expected to be in force for the European Parliament elections in June 2009; and if he will make a statement. [232529]

**Caroline Flint:** Current UK legislation provides for the European Parliament elections to go ahead under the provisions of the existing European treaties. It is unclear, following the Irish referendum, whether or not the Lisbon Treaty will be in force ahead of the elections in June 2009. The Lisbon Treaty will be discussed at the December European Council, after which the my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister will make a statement to the House.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on proposed changes to the number of MEPs for each region in the UK. [233496]

**Caroline Flint:** The most recent discussions on the overall composition of the European Parliament took place at the European Council in June 2007 in the context of agreeing the mandate for the Intergovernmental Conference on the Lisbon treaty. The next steps on the Lisbon treaty will be discussed again the December European Council, after which the Prime Minister will make a statement to the House.

If the Lisbon treaty is not in force in time for the June European Parliament elections, the current treaty provisions will continue to apply. Current UK legislation provides for next year's European Parliament elections to take place under the provisions of the existing treaties.

### European Union

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to fulfil the objectives of the 2001 Laeken Declaration to bring Europe closer to its peoples. [235162]

**Caroline Flint:** The 2001 Laeken Declaration set out the need to reform the EU's institutional structure and to reconnect the EU with its citizens. This led to the establishment of the Convention on the future of Europe and ultimately the Constitutional Treaty. Following the rejection of the Constitutional Treaty by the French and Dutch voters, the constitutional concept was abandoned.

The Lisbon Treaty, which resulted from a fresh set of negotiations, takes forward objectives of making the EU more transparent and accountable, for example by giving national Parliaments—for the first time—a direct say in EU law-making, thereby helping to deliver the objective of bringing Europe closer to its peoples.



### European Union: Civil Servants

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil servants work in offices representing the United Kingdom at the European Union; and what the total costs were of each office in which such staff were employed in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* staff, *(b)* office rental and *(c)* other costs. [234379]

**Caroline Flint:** As at 7 November 2008, there were 105 UK civil servants working at the UK Permanent Representation to the EU. The total cost of the office in the financial year 2007-08 was £17,376,124. This figure is broken down by: £5,253,588 for staff; £1,024,000 for office rental and; £11,098,536 for other costs.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not have direct responsibility for any civil servants who represent Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. However, on 7 November 2008 the FCO was aware of 19 UK civil servants at the devolved administrations' representations. We do not hold information about the costs of these offices.

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Government officials are based at the European Union institutions and not subject to the UK domestic income tax regime. [234723]

**Gillian Merron:** As at 10 November 2008, there were 229 officials from the UK Government at the European Union. 105 of these were working at the UK Permanent Representation to the EU, 124 were seconded to EU institutions.

The salaries of all 229 of these officials are subject to UK domestic income tax. The secondees receive an allowance from the host institution. Those officials who have not been supported by their parent Department in moving their effects can also receive either a one-off allowance from the host institution, or receive a monthly removal allowance. These allowances are not subject to UK or Belgian income tax.

### European Union: Economic Situation

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met the President of the European Council to discuss the economic situation in the European Union. [234860]

**Caroline Flint:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no recent meetings with the President of the European Council specifically on this subject. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister is the Government's main interlocutor with the President of the European Council, and has travelled to Paris four times in recent weeks to meet President Sarkozy. In addition, my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary both attended the October European Council, where discussion focused on this area.

### Exchange Rates

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to mitigate the impact of recent exchange rate changes on the overseas activities of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the British Council. [231549]

**Gillian Merron:** The information is as follows:

*(a) Foreign and Commonwealth Office*

The sharp fall in the value of sterling between October last year when our comprehensive spending review was agreed and the start of the new financial year this April has reduced the purchasing power of local budgets for many overseas posts. In order to give posts certainty about their budgets the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is taking the following steps to mitigate the impact of recent exchange rate changes:

*Hedging*

A hedging strategy is being applied whereby forward purchases of foreign exchange are being made. These forward purchases (through the Bank of England) provide certainty of the volumes of currency that will be delivered on a given date for a contracted price, thereby supporting planning and budgeting.

US Dollars and Euros account for approx 90 per cent. of our foreign exchange purchases, and to date we have forward purchased 80 per cent. of our forecast net exposure in these currencies through to October 2009. Currently this cover is being extended each month by one month, to ensure there is a minimum of 12 months rolling cover. The same technique is being applied for Japanese Yen.

*Overseas Price Movement (OPM) mechanism*

The full amount of extra resource required by posts to offset exchange rate movements and overseas inflation is being funded. So far this year, this amounts to around £30 million.

*(b) British Council*

Recent movements in exchange rates and the late removal of the OPM mechanism have resulted in an £8 million reduction in the purchasing power of the British Council's core grant for the current financial year. To minimise the impact on programmes, the British Council has centralised the impact of exchange rate fluctuations on operations, so that exchange rate losses and gains can be offset where possible. In addition, the British Council has policies in place to ensure a minimum level of cash balances are held in foreign currency bank accounts in overseas locations.

### Friends of Pakistan

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how often the Friends of Pakistan group of which the UK is a member meets; what its objectives are; and if he will make a statement. [232114]

**Bill Rammell:** The Friends of Democratic Pakistan initiative brings together countries and multilateral organisations which are committed to Pakistan's long-term development in an effort to help the new government to tackle Pakistan's serious development, security and economic problems.

The inaugural Friends meeting agreed to work in strategic partnership with the government of Pakistan to promote: Pakistan's stability, social and economic development; a comprehensive solution to the tribal belt; better energy provision; democracy; economic reform; rule of law; good governance; and counter-extremism. The group also agreed to appoint a special representative. To date, there has been one meeting. But there are plans to hold a second meeting in Abu Dhabi in November.

### Government Communications

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [215105]

**Gillian Merron:** It is only possible to make a rough estimate of the number of people working in communications across the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) global network because Heads of Mission, diplomats and many of our local staff are professional communicators.

An internal FCO evaluation in 2008 estimated the number of people specifically engaged in communications around the world at around 390, using 2006-07 data.

These numbers are in addition to some 100 staff employed directly in London on communications-related activities. The responsibilities of the London team include: press office, all web-related work, internal communications, stakeholder relations, events, publications and public diplomacy (including managing the FCO relationship with the British Council, BBC World Service, Wilton Park, British Satellite News and the FCO's scholarship programmes).

The FCO's agencies, FCO Services and Wilton Park, have seven positions between them dedicated to communication work.

All civil servants who work in a communication role can access the Government Communication Network.

### Gulf of Aden: Piracy

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of *(a)* Kenya, *(b)* Sudan and *(c)* Somalia on the destination of the cargo aboard the Ukrainian freighter Faina which was seized by pirates in the Gulf of Aden in September 2008; and if he will make a statement. [232121]

**Caroline Flint:** Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have discussed the hijack of the Ukrainian freighter Faina and the destination of its cargo with members of the government of Kenya and of the government of southern Sudan. Officials from both governments have stated publicly that the cargo is for the government of Kenya.

We are concerned over the increase in acts of piracy and the opportunities this gives to armed groups in Somalia to finance and arm themselves. I look forward to a peaceful end to the hijack, and am looking at scope for further co-operation with the government of Kenya on bringing pirates to justice.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the mandate will be for the EU counter-piracy naval operation in the Gulf of Aden; and if he will make a statement. [232684]

**Caroline Flint:** The test of the joint action is currently being agreed, but we expect the EU operation to launch

in early December. The aim of the operation is to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 1814, 1816 and 1838 by improving the maritime security situation in the region within the wider efforts of the EU to promote stability in Somalia. The objectives are twofold—the protection of World Food programme shipping, a vital element of the humanitarian objective of UNSCR 1814, and the protection of vulnerable shipping in area by deterring and disrupting piratical activity in the Gulf of Aden.

The legal basis for the EU led mission will be a joint action adopted under Articles 14, 25 (third subparagraph) and 28 (paragraph 3) of the treaty on European Union, to give effect to resolutions 1814/2008, 1816/2008 and 1838/2008 of the UN Security Council.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the capacity of the government of Yemen to assist with or otherwise facilitate international counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden; and if he will make a statement. [233060]

**David Miliband:** The Government of Yemen, despite enthusiasm among the Yemeni coastguard, currently has little capacity to assist with international counter-piracy efforts in the Gulf of Aden. However, they have made progress in providing security in the Bab-el Mandeb Strait, which is key to the safe passage of the UK's energy resources from the middle east.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which EU member states have committed to providing naval vessels and personnel for the EU counter-piracy operation in the Gulf of Aden; and if he will make a statement. [233061]

**David Miliband:** The UK will be providing the operation commander and operation headquarters at the multinational headquarters Northwood.

There have been informal offers from several EU member states contributing naval resources and personnel, although details will not be confirmed until the first formal force generation conference scheduled for 17-18 November 2008.

### Hong Kong Special Administrative Region: Tourism

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government is taking steps to promote tourism between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the United Kingdom. [231762]

**Bill Rammell:** The non-departmental Government body, Visit Britain, works closely with UK Trade and Investment, the British Council and the British Consulate-General in Hong Kong to promote tourism between Hong Kong and the UK. They are running two campaigns in Hong Kong, 'Classic Britain' and 'Dynamic Britain', which highlight tourism opportunities around British lifestyle elements such as shopping, eating-out, the countryside, sports, cultural events and performances. There is a high level of awareness about Britain in Hong Kong; 80 per cent. of Hong Kong visitors are repeat visitors.

### Hong Kong: Overseas Residence

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* British citizens and *(b)* British overseas citizens are registered as living in Hong Kong. [231760]

**Bill Rammell:** There are currently just under 900 British nationals registered with us as living in Hong Kong, although it is not compulsory for British nationals living overseas to register with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. We estimate that approximately 250,000 British citizens live in Hong Kong, of whom 25,000 to 30,000 are expatriates. There are approximately 3.7 million British Nationals (Overseas) living in Hong Kong.

### International Criminal Court: Public Appointments

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome was of the election of five judges to the International Criminal Court by the UN General Assembly on 6 November 2008; what steps the Government took in *(a)* proposing and *(b)* supporting candidates for election to the Court; and if he will make a statement. [234967]

**Bill Rammell:** I believe my hon. Friend is referring to the election of judges to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

On 6 November, Professor Christopher Greenwood was elected to the ICJ by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. French, Jordanian, Brazilian and Somali candidates were also elected.

Professor Greenwood was nominated to stand for election by the UK National Group in the Permanent Court of Arbitration, acting independently of government, and by 19 other National Groups, in accordance with article 4 of the court's statute.

The Government fully supported Professor Greenwood's candidature.

### Iraq: Civil Servants

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* allowance and *(b)* bonus entitlements of UK civil servants working in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan are. [234314]

**Gillian Merron:** The average level of allowances over twelve months for a member of staff working in Iraq is £79,514. The equivalent figure for Afghanistan is £61,713. These figures are an average of allowances currently received by all staff at those posts. Allowances include a hazard conditions allowance, diplomatic service compensation allowance, a transfer grant, an overseas location allowance plus allowances for a travel package, heavy baggage, unaccompanied air freight and cost of living.

Staff have no automatic entitlement to a bonus.

### Iraq: Diplomatic Service

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether locally-engaged staff at the British Embassy in Baghdad are subject to UK employment laws. [233221]

**Gillian Merron:** Locally-engaged staff at the British embassy in Baghdad, and at all British missions worldwide, are subject to local labour laws.

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines on the procedures to follow in the case of a formal complaint by a member of the locally-engaged staff at the British Embassy in Baghdad. [233225]

**Gillian Merron:** I have placed a copy of the grievance procedures for locally-engaged staff at the British embassy in Baghdad in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many official complaints have been submitted to London headquarters by *(a)* departmental and *(b)* locally-engaged staff working in the British Embassy in Baghdad since 1 January 2004. [233228]

**Gillian Merron:** There have been no official complaints submitted to London by departmental and or locally-engaged staff working in the British embassy in Baghdad, since 1 January 2004.

### Iraq: Weapons

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the draft of the Iraq dossier by Mr. John Williams dated 9 September 2002, whether *(a)* Mr. Williams and *(b)* any other communications official contributed further drafting material. [233924]

**Bill Rammell:** The Iraq Dossier by Mr. John Williams was written solely by Mr. Williams.

### Israel: EU External Trade

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what the Government's policy is on the labelling of produce from Israel and the Palestinian territories; and if he will make a statement; [238066]

(2) what discussions he had during his recent visit to Israel on the labelling of produce from Israel and the Palestinian territories; and if he will make a statement; [238067]

(3) what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the labelling of food and food products originating in *(a)* Israel, *(b)* Israeli settlements on the West Bank and East Jerusalem, *(c)* Israeli-controlled territory on the West Bank and *(d)* areas of the West Bank under the control of the Palestinian authority in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [238068]

**Bill Rammell:** Produce should be labelled clearly; consumers have the right to know what they are buying. Labelling goods as "Produce of the West Bank" means that consumers do not know whether they are buying goods from a Palestinian producer or from an illegal Israeli settlement. The Government support consumers' right to be able to make that choice.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the labelling of produce from Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories with Israeli Prime Minister Olmert and Israeli Foreign Minister Livni during his recent visit to Israel.

The UK recently circulated a non-paper on illegal Israeli settlement produce to the EU as part of our contribution of proposals to forward the peace process. The UK is working with EU colleagues to find a way to give retailers and manufacturers clearer guidance on labelling best practice, against the background of our European Commission and World Trade Organisation obligations. The aim is to enable consumers to see whether a product is from an illegal Israeli settlement.

### Kosovo

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what basis in international law the Government recognised the independence of Kosovo. [235163]

**Caroline Flint:** The normal criteria that we apply for recognition as a state remain as described in the written answer dated 16 November 1989, *Official Report*, column 494 by then Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Sainsbury. In reaching our decision to recognise, which my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary announced to the House in his statement of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 21WS, we considered that Kosovo satisfied these criteria.

### Kyrgyzstan: Entry Clearances

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* discussions he has held and *(b)* correspondence he has received relating to the failure of the Kyrgyzstan Ambassador to the UK to secure visas for musicians and performers from Kyrgyzstan to visit the UK at the Ambassador's invitation; and if he will make a statement. [235551]

**Caroline Flint:** We regret that the musicians and performers in question were unable to receive visas in time to attend the event organized by the Kyrgyz ambassador in London. Our Charge d'Affaires in Astana has written to the ambassador apologising for the inconvenience caused and explaining that two separate and critical IT failures were responsible for frustrating the best efforts of the entry clearance team in Almaty to issue visas in time. We remain committed to encouraging closer cultural and other links between our two countries, as underlined by the visit to the Kyrgyz Republic last month by HRH The Duke of York.

### Libya

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the five bilateral agreements signed with Libya on 17 November 2008. [237910]

**David Miliband:** The agreements with Libya on mutual legal assistance, extradition, prisoner transfer and judicial co-operation in civil and commercial matters were signed on 17 November. In accordance with the requirements of the Ponsonby Rule, they will shortly be published as Command Papers and laid before Parliament with an Explanatory Memorandum in the usual way. The agreement on the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion, which was also signed on 17 November, is not subject to the Ponsonby Rule since such agreements are appended to the Order in Council which implements the agreement in UK domestic law. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs have arranged for a copy to be placed in the Library.

### Middle East: Peace Negotiations

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the involvement of the Arab League in the Middle East peace process; and if he will make a statement. [R] [233926]

**Bill Rammell:** The Government support a comprehensive approach to the Middle East Peace Process, building on the Annapolis conference, the Quartet process, and the Arab Peace Initiative, and leading to a final settlement with two states living side by side in peace and security. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had positive discussions on this subject with Israeli, Palestinian and other interlocutors, including with the Secretary-General of the Arab League on 3 November. We welcome the constructive role that the Arab League has played and is continuing to play in the Middle East Peace Process.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent steps the Government has taken to promote peace in the Middle East; [237678]

(2) what plans he has to discuss the prospects for peace in the Middle East with other governments. [237679]

**Bill Rammell:** During his recent visit to the middle east, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary held discussions with key Israeli and Palestinian officials on advancing the peace process. Discussion centred around the need for a comprehensive approach to the middle east peace process, and the need to build support for peace by addressing the humanitarian situation in Gaza and illegal Israeli settlement activity.

The UK continues to discuss the prospects for peace with other governments through various forums, including: monthly United Nations Security Council meetings on the situation in the middle east; with our EU partners at meetings of the General Affairs and External Relations Council, the European Council and the Political Security Committee; and through officials based in our overseas posts.

### Ministerial Duties

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the official duties of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in his Department are; how many overseas territories he has visited since appointment; which overseas territories he plans to visit; what plans he has to visit countries in *(a)* the Caribbean, *(b)* South East Asia and *(c)* Central America; and what role he has in determining who lays a wreath on behalf of the overseas territories at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. [188721]

**Gillian Merron:** The responsibilities of the Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) include the Overseas Territories, South America, Caribbean/Central America, Australasia and the Pacific region, consular policy, Africa, human rights, global issues and the Commonwealth in the House of Commons. Since being appointed in October 2008 I have visited Jamaica and Trinidad.

When the parliamentary question was tabled in February, the portfolio of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the FCO covered the Overseas Territories, Caribbean/Central America, South East Asia, consular policy, UKTI, protocol, human resources and diversity in the FCO, as well as leading on Africa, human rights, global issues and the Commonwealth in the House of Commons.

Overseas engagements for Government Ministers are kept under constant review. However, owing to the importance of our diplomatic relations with other states, it is not practice to announce ministerial visits until they are confirmed.

The question of Overseas Territory representatives laying a wreath at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday from 2009 is currently under consideration by the relevant Government Departments, including the FCO.

### NATO

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has held with NATO counterparts on the possible accession of *(a)* Georgia and *(b)* Ukraine to NATO. [235169]

**Caroline Flint:** At the Bucharest Summit in April, NATO Heads of State and Government agreed that Georgia and Ukraine would become members of NATO. On 19 August NATO Foreign Ministers met in extraordinary session to discuss the situation in Georgia, and reaffirmed the Bucharest decision. In December, NATO Foreign Ministers will make a first assessment of Georgia and Ukraine's progress towards membership.

### Oil: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on proposals for a tracking system for oil similar to the Kimberley process. [232236]

**Gillian Merron:** The theft of oil ('oil bunkering') from producing states deprives governments and their people of the benefit of their natural resource and can exacerbate the risk of conflict. This is particularly so in the Niger Delta: although overall volumes of stolen oil are relatively small (estimated at about 2 per cent. of total production), oil bunkering is an enabler of militant activity.

The Government are determined to explore solutions to this problem and are aware there are parallels with efforts to tackle 'blood diamonds'. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is investigating the development of a tracking system for identifying stolen crude oil, similar to the Kimberley Process, which would certify the origin of crude exports. There are two significant initial challenges to be overcome: establishing the scientific capability and the commercial viability of such a process.

FCO Strategic Programme Funding is enabling research into a technical solution by the University of Plymouth. This three-year project intends to establish a biometric database of Nigerian crude oils and develop a protocol to enable testing of crude oil specimens against this database. The FCO is also lobbying the international oil companies to contribute technical expertise to this research and to reduce the commercial barriers to such testing being introduced on a wide scale.

**Performance Appraisal**

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235224]

**Gillian Merron:** Under the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's performance improvement procedures unacceptable performance has to be addressed as soon as it occurs rather than waiting for the appraisal cycle to be completed. Annual report markings therefore only record cases of poor performance current at the end of the appraisal year.

For the appraisal period 2007-08 15 staff (0.25 per cent.) did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report. The FCO does not centrally hold records on the appraisal markings of locally employed staff at its posts overseas. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Russia: Nuclear Weapons**

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of Russian redeployment of ballistic missiles to sites close to NATO member countries' borders; and if he will make a statement. [235709]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North Essex (Mr. Jenkin) today (Question 234947).

**Rwanda: Armed Conflict**

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Rwandan Government on the activities of CNDP forces. [233318]

**Gillian Merron:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met President Kagame on 1 November with his French counterpart Bernard Kouchner, during which he urged President Kagame to back efforts to find a political solution to the problems in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

**Rwanda: Trade**

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Rwanda on the control of cross-border trade between Rwanda and North Kivu; and what reports he has received on whether such trade provides revenues for Laurent Nkunda's CNDP forces. [235201]

**Gillian Merron:** There have been on-going discussions with the governments of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo on the issue of control of cross border trade, including discussion about methods to encourage such trade out of the shadow economy and into the formal economy.

**Somalia: Armed Conflict**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of the continuing presence of Ethiopian troops in Somalia on the security situation in the country; and if he will make a statement. [233058]

**David Miliband:** Ethiopian troops have maintained a presence in Somalia since their intervention in December 2006 at the invitation of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia. Ethiopian troops work alongside Somali and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) security forces protecting the airport, seaport, presidential palace and other key locations in the city. They are a key target for insurgents and those hostile to the Transitional Federal Government and to the presence of foreign troops in Somalia.

The international community has urged Ethiopia to withdraw its troops as soon as possible. The Ethiopian Government have confirmed their wish to do so. Ethiopian discussions with the Somalis on managing troop withdrawal have contributed to the Djibouti Agreement and the decision by the key parties to implement a cease-fire from 5 November 2008.

**Somalia: Peace Negotiations**

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department is providing to peace negotiations between the transitional federal government and opposition groups in Somalia. [233315]

**Gillian Merron:** The peace negotiations between the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and the main political opposition group, the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia began in late May 2008 and are ongoing. The Djibouti Agreement, reached on 9 June and signed on 19 August 2008, presents the best hope for peace in Somalia for many years. On 26 October, the parties to the agreement announced plans to form a Unity Government and to implement a ceasefire from 5 November 2008.

The Government have provided political support and encouragement to the parties by engaging with key interlocutors and participants in the talks through staff at the British High Commission in Nairobi and the British Embassy in Addis Ababa. Our staff work closely

with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General, who brokered the talks, and the UN Political Office for Somalia, based in Nairobi, as well as directly with the Somalis.

During the current financial year, the Government have committed £1 million to support dialogue in Somalia, of which £500,000 has been allocated to local dialogue projects implemented by the non-governmental organisation Interpeace and £500,000 has been allocated through the UN to supporting the national level Djibouti peace process.

### Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in increasing the number of African Union troops in Somalia over the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [233059]

**David Miliband:** Approximately 1,800 Ugandan troops formed the initial deployment of the African Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). In February 2008 a Burundian battalion arrived in Mogadishu, with a second battalion arriving in October 2008. The additional troops have increased the total number of AU troops to approximately 3,500.

### Somalia: Politics and Government

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the UN on the situation in Somalia. [235164]

**Gillian Merron:** The UK engages regularly with various UN agencies, including those concerned with human rights, humanitarian affairs, peacekeeping operations, safety and security and with the UN Development Programme, as well as other members of the UN Security Council, on Somalia. We also have close working relations with the UN Political Office for Somalia, based in Nairobi.

Most recently, my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown discussed Somalia with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Somalia in Nairobi on 7 November.

### Sri Lanka: EU External Trade

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the proposed extension of the European Union's Generalised System of Preference Plus agreement with Sri Lanka when it expires in December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [236546]

**Mr. Thomas:** I have been asked to reply.

On 18 October the European Commission initiated an investigation into Sri Lanka's effective implementation of certain human rights conventions required in order to benefit from the special incentive arrangement for good governance and sustainable development (Generalised System of Preference Plus (GSP+)).

As set out in the Generalised System of Preference (GSP) Regulation, GSP+ preferences shall continue to be granted from 1 January 2009 to any country subject to an investigation until the date of conclusion of such investigation.

In order that the GSP+ scheme continues as a credible instrument for promoting good governance we are committed to ensuring that recipient countries effectively implement the core human rights conventions.

### Stem Cells: Research

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the report of the seminar on stem cell research organised by the British Embassy in Israel on 26 and 27 March 2008 to be published; and if he will make a statement. [217910]

**Bill Rammell:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has no plans to publish this report. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) take the lead on the issue. My officials have contacted DIUS to confirm whether the report will be officially published.

### Sudan: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the final report of the Ceasefire Joint Monitoring Commission into the events of May 2008 in Abyei to be published; and if he will make a statement. [235409]

**Gillian Merron:** The Force Commander of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) has prepared a draft Ceasefire Joint Monitoring Commission (CJMC) report into the events of May in Abyei. We understand agreement and publication of the report has been delayed by representatives on the CJMC from both sides, the National Congress Party and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement.

### Sudan: Arms Trade

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the level of compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1556 on the provision of arms to Sudan; what recent reports he has received on the maintenance of the arms embargo; and if he will make a statement. [232935]

**Gillian Merron:** In its latest report of 3 October 2007, the UN Panel of Experts (which was established by UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1591 to monitor UNSCR 1556 on the provision of arms to Darfur) assessed that violations of the arms embargo continued, both by the Government of Sudan and non-state armed groups, during the period of the report (29 September 2006 to 29 August 2007). The panel reported that heavy weapons (artillery pieces), small arms, ammunition and other military equipment was entering Darfur from other countries. The panel further reported that the Government of Sudan had not submitted the necessary requests for approval to the UN to enable the movement of weapons, ammunition or other military equipment into Darfur, thereby knowingly violating the provisions of the Resolution.

The UK continues to request that the UN extend its arms embargo on Darfur to all of Sudan, but not all Security Council members agree. The EU has implemented an arms embargo on the whole of Sudan via Common Position 2005/411/CFSP.

### Syria

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had during his recent visit to Syria about Syrian support for *(a)* Hamas and *(b)* Hezbollah; and if he will make a statement. [238065]

**Bill Rammell:** During his visit to Damascus on 17-18 November, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised with his interlocutors the importance of all actors in the region working for peace and stability. He stressed that those who sought to achieve political goals through the use of violence, and those who supported them in doing so, were an obstacle to peace. He specifically raised Hamas and Hezbollah in this context.

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings he had with trades union officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trades unions. [179854]

**Gillian Merron:** Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

### Treaty of Lisbon

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on implementation of the Lisbon Treaty. [235160]

**Caroline Flint:** I wrote to the Chairs of the Lords Select Committee and the European Scrutiny Committee on 30 October confirming that technical discussions on detailed Lisbon Treaty implementation issues have been suspended. Under the Slovenian presidency in the first half of 2008 a series of technical issues were identified for implementation work—as has happened on every EU amending treaty to date. The Government will continue to keep Parliament updated if and when a presidency proposes to restart any such discussions.

### Turkey: Prisoners

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Turkish authorities on the imprisonment of Abdullah Ocalan in the last two years. [233692]

**Caroline Flint:** We have not had any discussions with the Turkish authorities specifically on the imprisonment of Abdullah Ocalan in the last two years.

However, we continue to encourage Turkey to make the reforms necessary to ensure the full implementation of EU human rights standards, including conditions of detention. To this end, we regularly urge Turkey to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), which sets out a system of independently monitoring prisons with the aim of preventing torture or inhuman treatment.

Moreover, the EU is providing financial support and expert advice for reforms to the prison system planned by the Turkish authorities through the Judicial Modernisation and Penal Reform programme, jointly with the Council of Europe.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports of the ill-treatment of Abdullah Ocalan in Turkey. [233693]

**Caroline Flint:** We are aware of ongoing allegations of the ill-treatment of Abdullah Ocalan in Turkey, but have seen no conclusive evidence to substantiate them.

We note that the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) sent a delegation to Turkey in May 2007 which assessed the conditions of detention of Mr. Ocalan. This visit was the fourth by the CPT to Imrali High-Security Closed Prison and while they noted that there remained scope for improvement, the conditions did not constitute ill-treatment.

As part of our ongoing bilateral dialogue, we continue to encourage the Turkish government to ensure that the treatment of all prisoners is in line with EU human rights standards. Standards of detention form part of the criteria examined in the EU accession process.

### Turks and Caicos Islands: Overseas Investment

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage greater investment in the Turks and Caicos Islands. [238368]

**Gillian Merron:** Responsibility for investment promotion has been devolved to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and is undertaken by TCInvest.

### Turks and Caicos Islands: Overseas Residence

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of former UK residents who have taken up residence in the Turks and Caicos Islands in the last five years. [238232]

**Gillian Merron:** Figures provided by the Turks and Caicos Islands Immigration Board show that 28 British citizens received temporary residence permits during the period 2004-07 and a further 175 received work permits.

Information for previous years is not available.

### Turks and Caicos Islands: Tourism

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people from the Turks and Caicos Islands visited the UK in 2007. [238367]

**Gillian Merron:** Statistics from the Home Office show that people holding Turks and Caicos Islands passports made 110 journeys into the United Kingdom in 2007. Of these, 55 entered the United Kingdom on British citizen passports.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department plans to take to encourage tourism between the UK and the Turks and Caicos Islands. [238369]

**Gillian Merron:** There are no plans to encourage tourism between the UK and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Responsibility for tourism has been devolved to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

### Uganda: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the final peace agreement between the Lord's Resistance Army and the Government of Uganda to be signed; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the time taken to sign the agreement on security and stability in the region, including Greater Equatoria and Southern Sudan. [235410]

**Gillian Merron:** The UN special envoy to northern Uganda and Southern Sudan, Joaquim Chissano and the chief mediator to the Juba Peace Process, Dr. Riek Machar, have called on the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) leader, Joseph Kony, to sign the Final Peace Agreement by the 29 November. There can be no guarantee, however, that Kony will sign.

The LRA poses an increasingly serious threat to security in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), southern Sudan and the Central African Republic. It has carried out numerous attacks against both civilians and military forces in recent months. The civilian attacks have resulted in more abductions. The majority of attacks have been within the DRC. However, the LRA has also been active along the border with southern Sudan, resulting in refugees fleeing into southern Sudan. The LRA attacked a village in southern Sudan in September.

### United Nations Day

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he took to mark United Nations Day on 24 October 2008. [232191]

**Bill Rammell:** To mark United Nations Day on 24 October 2008, my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown took part in a debate on the United Nations on 23 October, organised by the Global Development Forum. The Minister also issued a statement on 24 October recognising and applauding the UN's achievements.

Sir John Sawers, our Permanent Representative to the United Nations, marked UN Day by giving a keynote speech in Boston entitled "Today's United Nations—Tomorrow's Challenges" to the United Nations Association of Greater Boston.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office was also represented at senior official level at an event hosted by the United Nations Association - UK entitled "Lobby for the UN" on 24 October.

### Western Sahara: Politics and Government

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what dates have been set for further UN talks intended to bring about a negotiated solution to the dispute in Western Sahara. [234952]

**Bill Rammell:** The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1754 adopted in April 2007 called on the parties to the dispute over Western Sahara to enter into negotiations without preconditions. The UN Secretary-General's then Personal Envoy Peter Van Walsum chaired the negotiations between the parties in June and August 2007, and in January and March of this year. No date has been set as yet for the next round of talks.

Nevertheless, UN Security Council adopted UN Security Council Resolution 1813 on 30 April called on the parties to show greater political will and to enter into more intensive and substantive negotiations towards a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

The UK has welcomed these negotiations and has encouraged the parties to maintain their commitment to the process. We hope a further round of negotiations will be held soon.

### Zimbabwe: Asylum

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of Zimbabwean refugees who have fled to Botswana since March 2008; what assessment he has made of their security and safety; and if he will make a statement. [232118]

**Gillian Merron:** Zimbabwe's social and economic decline has forced many Zimbabweans to leave the country during the last few years. The vast majority of these migrants do so through irregular means, thus making it impossible to estimate numbers accurately. The post election violence saw a significant increase in requests for formal asylum and refugee status in neighbouring countries, especially in Botswana. We are aware that 822 Zimbabweans have been granted refugee status in Botswana, the majority of whom are accommodated at the Dukwi refugee settlement. The government of Botswana have worked very closely with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and ensured that those received in Botswana are provided with the necessary protection for their safety and security. In response to the increased number of Zimbabweans crossing into Botswana, the UK provided funds to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to assist with upgrading sanitation/hygiene facilities at the refugee centre.

### Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department plans to take alongside the UN Security Council in monitoring and working towards a resolution of the situation in Zimbabwe. [222631]

**Gillian Merron:** We continue to monitor the situation in Zimbabwe closely. Along with other EU member states, we have condemned Robert Mugabe's unilateral allocation of ministerial portfolios. We continue to press for the formation of a government agreed by all parties. This should reflect the will of the people of Zimbabwe as expressed in the outcome of the 29 March elections which gave Morgan Tsvangirai and the MDC a clear majority.

We will assess the new government by the way in which it brings about change and reform. If it does so, the UK and the rest of the international community stands ready to provide support. Early steps must include tough measures to stabilise the economy, unrestricted access to humanitarian aid for all who need it and the removal of oppressive legislation. In the meantime, we will continue to provide humanitarian support to address the immediate needs of the long-suffering people of Zimbabwe. The UN's humanitarian agencies continue to follow the humanitarian situation carefully.

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of former employees of the Southern Rhodesian Government living in the UK and not receiving pensions from the Zimbabwean Government; and if he will make a statement. [232570]

**Gillian Merron:** We do not maintain records of former employees of the Southern Rhodesian Government. The Overseas Service Pensioners' Association estimate there are some 350 such pensioners currently living in the UK.

Our consular officials met the Director of the Zimbabwe Pensions Service on 16 October and again reminded him of the Government of Zimbabwe's legal obligation to pay these pensions.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 24 November 2008*

## WALES

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237447]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** In the financial year 2006-07 my Department spent £224.16 on two flat screen televisions and £67.97 on a DVD recorder and player. No purchases were made in 2005-06 or 2007-08 on the above equipment.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work for and *(b)* provide assistance to his Department. [237145]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Wales Office has three full-time press officers.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many page hits from how many visitors his Department's website received in 2007-08; [237146]

(2) what the cost of maintaining his Department's website was in 2007-08; and what forecast has been made of the costs of maintaining websites within his responsibility in 2008-09. [237147]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** Hits on the Wales Office websites have only been collated since the new websites were launched in February 2008. Since then

www.walesoffice.gov.uk

and

www.swyddfa.cymru.gov.uk

have received 58,947 page hits from 16,590 visitors.

The cost of maintaining the websites for 2007-08 was £5,875 and for 2008-09 will be £6,900.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent on entertainment by his Department in Gwydyr House in 2007-08; and how much of that was accounted for by food. [237642]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** My Department spent £7,890.43 on entertainment in Gwydyr House in 2007-08, of which, £5,197.19 was spent on food.

### Environment Protection

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he plans to lay before Parliament the draft Environmental Pollution and Waste Management (National Assembly for Wales) Legislative Competence Order. [238890]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** Discussions are continuing between the UK Government and the Welsh Assembly government on the proposed order for legislative competence. Once those discussions have concluded, I shall submit the proposed order for pre-legislative scrutiny.

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236908]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** None.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Big Lottery Fund: Public Participation

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many responses the Big Lottery Fund has received to its Big Thinking consultation. [238146]

**Barbara Follett:** The Big Lottery Fund have advised that 'BIG Thinking', the UK-wide Big Lottery Fund consultation, was launched on 17 November 2008 and will run until the end of February 2009. As of 19 November 2008, 85 full responses have been received.

### Buildings: Protection

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* buildings and *(b)* other monuments were on the At Risk register in each year since 1997. [238152]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested has been provided by English Heritage and is set out in the following table. The Buildings at Risk Register started in 1998.

| | *Number of Grade I and II* listed building entries* | *Number of structural scheduled monument entries* | *Total number of entries on the register* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 1,068 | 249 | 1,317 |
| 1999 | 1,158 | 270 | 1,428 |
| 2000 | 1,167 | 284 | 1,451 |
| 2001 | 1,148 | 281 | 1,429 |
| 2002 | 1,117 | 281 | 1,398 |
| 2003 | 1,100 | 273 | 1,373 |
| 2004 | 1,058 | 280 | 1,338 |
| 2005 | 1,029 | 273 | 1,302 |
| 2006 | 1,001 | 272 | 1,273 |
| 2007 | 966 | 269 | 1,235 |
| 2008 | 977 | 265 | 1,242 |

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency have spent on Christmas (a) cards, (b) parties and (c) decorations in the last 12 months. [237490]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department has spent the following in the last 12 months:

(a) Christmas cards: £2,284 (including typesetting and print);

(b) Parties: £11,600 for Secretary of State Christmas Reception at The Royal Festival Hall and £1,637 journalists drinks reception;

(c) Decorations: £541 Christmas trees for three sites plus decorations.

The Royal Parks Agency has spent the following in the last 12 months:

(a) Christmas cards: £2,526 (Christmas e-card, including design);

(b) Parties: zero spend;

(c) Decorations: zero spend.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [237457]

**Barbara Follett:** Brand activity is spread across the Department's Corporate Communications team. The estimated time spent on brand activity was 0.75 full-time equivalent staff. The staff cost was £36,346 in 2007-08.

### Departmental Research

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what projects have been commissioned using his Department's Joint Research Budget; and what the estimated total cost of each project is. [238030]

**Andy Burnham:** To date no projects have been commissioned.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department completed its strategic analysis of the first six months of its Joint Research Budget; and if he will place a copy of the report in the Library. [238149]

**Andy Burnham:** No strategic analysis of the Joint Research Budget has been undertaken. The budget is a source of funding for the commissioning of strategic research to underpin the development of policy in culture and sport.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what dates *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department received media training during the last 12 months. [238034]

**Andy Burnham:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* 19 March 2008 and 7 October 2008.

*(b)* No other media training has been undertaken by other DCMS Ministers.

### Digital Switchover Help Scheme: East Midlands

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the percentage of households in the East Midlands that will qualify for assistance under the Digital Switchover Help Scheme. [237905]

**Andy Burnham:** The Digital Switchover Help Scheme assesses the numbers of eligible households by ITV region, which in this case is the Central ITV region, and includes the West and East Midlands. The Digital Switchover Help Scheme advises that 1,030,000 households in the region are eligible to receive assistance from the scheme. Figures for the total number of households in the region, and therefore the percentage eligible, are unavailable.

### European Year of Intercultural Dialogue

**Mr. Francois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what projects have been undertaken in England as part of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. [237589]

**Barbara Follett:** Almost 100 projects have been undertaken as part of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in the UK with over 80 of these taking place in England.

Liverpool's project, 'Intercultural City', which forms part of Liverpool's Capital of Culture programme, was chosen by the European Commission as the representative UK national project for the year, and received funding from the Commission. This is a year long project throughout 2008.

I am arranging for a copy of the full list of projects to be deposited in the Library of both Houses.

### Museums, Libraries and Archives Council: Employment Agencies

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council spent on recruitment consultants in each of the last five years; and which companies provided these services. [231344]

**Andy Burnham:** The Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has provided the information in the following table for spend on recruitment consultants.

| *Financial year* | *Cost of recruitment agencies £* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | [1]Not available |
| 2004-05 | [1]Not available |
| 2005-06 | 119,949 |
| 2006-07 | 262,742 |
| 2007-08 | 167,127 |
| Total | 549,818 |

[1] The MLA has advised that the figures for 2003-04 and 2004-05 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The recruitment companies used were:

Convent Garden Bureau

Ethnic Media Group

Evening Standard

GWT Media Services
Guardian Newspaper
Inst of Field Archaeologists
Michael Page
Millennium Three Consultancy Ltd.
MJ Magazine Recruitments
MKH Advertising, Museum Ass
Odgers Ray & Berndston
Pearson Press Ltd.
People Management Services
Reed Learning
Route Productino Ltd.
Robert Half
Tribal Resourcing Ltd.
Vee Tee Ay (Media Resources)
Workmates Consulting Hr Cons.
Yourable Ltd.
<1000.

## National Lottery: Play

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of the funding available under the Big Lottery Fund Children's Play initiative has been *(a)* committed and *(b)* spent. [238362]

**Barbara Follett:** The Big Lottery Fund has now committed all funding under the Children's Play Initiative. The Big Lottery Fund has provided the following committed and spent details:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *Committed* | |
| Children's Play Portfolio | 123,093,923 |
| Playful Ideas | 12,076,642 |
| Play Infrastructure | 15,288,077 |
| *Paid to date* | |
| Children's Play Portfolio | 28,792,390 |
| Playful Ideas | 3,704,517 |
| Play Infrastructure | 7,609,205 |

## Remembrance Day

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday 2008; by whom they were laid; on whose behalf they were laid; and whether wreaths were laid directly or indirectly on behalf of *(a)* the Isle of Man, *(b)* Jersey, *(c)* Guernsey, *(d)* Alderney and *(e)* Sark. [236849]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* A list of those who laid wreaths at the Cenotaph as part of the national ceremony of Remembrance 2008 on 9 November is as follows. This list is also available on the DCMS website at:

www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/historic_environment/3333.aspx.

Her Majesty laid a wreath on behalf of the whole nation, including the Crown dependencies.

A number of other wreaths were laid throughout the day.

*Wreath layers*

Her Majesty the Queen
HRH The Duke of Edinburgh
HRH The Prince of Wales
HRH Prince William of Wales
HRH The Duke of York
HRH The Earl of Wessex
HRH The Princess Royal
HRH The Duke of Kent
The Prime Minister
The Leader of the Opposition
The Leader of the Liberal Democrats
The Leader of the Democratic Unionist Party
The Representative of Plaid Cymru (also on behalf of the Scottish National Party)
The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Their Excellencies the High Commissioners, or their deputies, for:
Antigua and Barbuda
Australia
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belize
Botswana
Brunei
Cameroon
Canada
Commonwealth of Dominica
Cyprus
Fiji
Ghana
Grenada
Guyana
India
Jamaica
Kenya
Lesotho
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Malta
Mauritius
Mozambique
Namibia
New Zealand
Nigeria
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Sierra Leone
Singapore
South Africa
Sri Lanka
St Christopher and Nevis
St Lucia
St Vincent and the Grenadines
Swaziland

Tanzania
The Gambia
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Zambia
Admiral Sir Jonathon Band, First Sea Lord
General Sir Richard Dannatt, Chief of the General Staff
Air Chief Marshal Sir Glenn Torpy, Chief of the Air Staff
Captain James Alan Hofton, (Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets)
Wing Commander Eric Viles (Merchant Air Service)
Sir Ken Knight, HM Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor, (Civilian Services).

## Swimming

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations his Department has received from local authorities on the financial effects of the plans for free swimming for over-60s on local authorities. [236618]

**Andy Burnham:** We are collating final responses but have received to date approximately 30 representations from local authorities on the financial effects of proposals for free swimming for over-60s.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding has been made available to local authorities to implement the Government's free swimming initiative over the next 12 months. [235636]

**Andy Burnham:** Over the next three years, the Government will be investing £140 million in the Free Swimming Programme. This will be broken down across those years as follows:

| | *Capital* | *Revenue* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| 2009-10 | 25 | 40 | 65 |
| 2010-11 | 25 | 40 | 65 |

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what proportion of local authorities have implemented the Government's free swimming initiative to date; [235637]

(2) which local authorities have not implemented the Government's free swimming initiative to date; and if he will make a statement. [235638]

**Andy Burnham:** The Government's Free Swimming Programme will roll out on 1 April 2009. The closing date for local authorities to confirm their participation in all elements of the programme has now passed. We are collating responses and I will be issuing a statement shortly.

## Theatre: Finance

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what public funding his Department made available to theatre companies in the East Midlands in each year between 1999 and 2007. [237804]

**Barbara Follett:** Information from Arts Council England is that it has provided funds for theatres in the East Midlands as set out in the table.

£

| | *Regularly funded organisation scheme* | *Additional national lottery funding for theatre-related activities* |
|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 2,477,560 | 149,817 |
| 2000-01 | 2,637,995 | 1,770,033 |
| 2001-02 | 2,722,040 | 636,211 |
| 2002-03 | 3,280,915 | 202,391 |
| 2003-04 | 4,295,240 | 1,622,334 |
| 2004-05 | 4,522,621 | [1]2,945,972 |
| 2005-06 | 4,797,915 | 1,138,548 |
| 2006-07 | 4,798,035 | 783,933 |
| 2007-08 | 5,067,256 | 583,998 |

[1] Includes £12,200,000 award to the construction of The Curve—Leicester Theatre Trust Ltd.

## Tourism

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which 10 destinations in England were most frequently visited by domestic tourists in each of the last 10 years. [238301]

**Barbara Follett:** Visit Britain has provided the following list of the top ten English destinations for UK resident tourists for 2006 and 2007, taken from the United Kingdom Tourism Survey. There is no comparable data available for the years prior to 2006.

*Top 10 trips of one+ nights (including business trips)*

| | *Destination* | *Number (thousand)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | | |
| 1 | London | 10,959 |
| 2 | Manchester | 2,490 |
| 3 | Birmingham | 2,287 |
| 4 | Bristol | 1,825 |
| 5 | Blackpool | 1,787 |
| 6 | Leeds | 1,436 |
| 7 | Scarborough | 1,383 |
| 8 | Newcastle upon Tyne | 1,298 |
| 9 | Liverpool | 1,257 |
| 10 | York | 1,247 |
| 2007 | | |
| 1 | London | 10,144 |
| 2 | Manchester | 2,330 |
| 3 | Birmingham | 2,293 |
| 4 | Blackpool | 1,873 |
| 5 | Bristol | 1,553 |
| 6 | Scarborough | 1,488 |
| 7 | Leeds | 1,403 |
| 8 | York | 1,191 |
| 9 | Sheffield | 1,137 |
| 10 | Newcastle upon Tyne | 1,094 |

*Notes:*
1. Please note that the United Kingdom Tourism Survey is a national and regional survey and is therefore only robust at this level.
2. All data in this table should be used with caution as sample sizes can be low.

*Source:*
United Kingdom Tourism Survey 2006 and 2007

*Top 10 holidays of one+ nights*

| | *Destination* | *Number (thousand)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006 | | |
| 1 | London | 5,698 |
| 2 | Blackpool | 1,502 |
| 3 | Manchester | 1,331 |
| 4 | Scarborough | 1,255 |
| 5 | Birmingham | 994 |
| 6 | Skegness | 933 |
| 7 | Bristol | 930 |
| 8 | Isle of Wight | 908 |
| 9 | York | 846 |
| 10 | Bournemouth | 732 |
| 2007 | | |
| 1 | London | 5,047 |
| 2 | Blackpool | 1,605 |
| 3 | Scarborough | 1,365 |
| 4 | Birmingham | 973 |
| 5 | Isle of Wight | 920 |
| 6 | Manchester | 910 |
| 7 | Bournemouth | 771 |
| 8 | York | 767 |
| 9 | Bristol | 744 |
| 10 | Skegness | 743 |

*Notes:*
1. Please note that the United Kingdom Tourism Survey is a national and regional survey and is therefore only robust at this level.
2. All data in this table should be used with caution as sample sizes can be low.

*Source:*
United Kingdom Tourism Survey 2006 and 2007

### UK Film Council: East Midlands

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent by the UK Film Council in the East Midlands in each of the last five years. [237908]

**Barbara Follett:** The UK Film Council provides funding both directly, through targeted funding schemes, and indirectly through funded partners such as Regional Screen Agencies, the BFI and Skillset. The UK Film Council have informed us that the amount of funding spent over the last five years in the East Midlands is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 1,471,489 |
| 2004-05 | 1,485,255 |
| 2005-06 | 2,865,108 |
| 2006-07 | 1,757,803 |
| 2007-08 | 1,574,516 |

### Visit Britain: Finance

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what financial contribution Visit London made to Visit Britain in each of the last five years. [236669]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* Visit Britain have advised that they do not receive any direct funding from Visit London. Visit London is financed by the London Development Agency and private business and is accountable to the Mayor of London.

Visit Britain does however engage in joint ventures with Visit London where Visit London contributes to costs. The following contributions have been made in the last five years.

| *Financial year ending 31 March* | *Contribution (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 1,242,000 |
| 2005 | 1,007,000 |
| 2006 | 1,172,000 |
| 2007 | 974,000 |
| 2008 | 800,000 |

## TRANSPORT

### Aviation

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what projections he has made of the change in the number of flight movements at *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* all UK airports between 2030 and 2050. [237620]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport projected annual air traffic movements (ATM) for all UK airports to 2050, including 2030 figures, in its "UK Air Passenger Demand and $CO_2^{\circ}$ Forecasts" (2007) report, page 49. This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

The Department for Transport also stated its projected annual ATM for Heathrow to 2030 in its "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation document, page 209. This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/heathrowconsultation/consultationdocument/

With maximum use of its existing runways, there are projected to be 480,000 ATMs at Heathrow in 2030. This is assumed to remain constant between 2030 and 2050.

With additional capacity at Heathrow, there are projected to be 702,000 ATMs in 2030. This is assumed to remain constant between 2030 and 2050.

### Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the changes to aviation policy which will be necessary as a result of *(a)* inclusion of the aviation sector in the Climate Change Bill and *(b)* the decision to set a target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 80 per cent. by 2050. [237619]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government's policy for the sustainable, long-term development of the aviation industry was set out in the 2003 Air Transport White Paper. This included a comprehensive approach to addressing aviation's environmental impacts.

International aviation emissions are not included within the system of greenhouse gas budgets and targets provided by the Climate Change Bill, as there is no agreement as to how to allocate such emissions to individual countries;

emissions from domestic aviation are included. The Bill does provide for the inclusion of international aviation emissions at a later date, which will allow the Government to maintain consistency with international practice.

As a result of Government amendments to the Bill, both the Government and the Committee on Climate Change will be required to take account of projected emissions from international aviation in setting, and advising on, carbon budgets, respectively.

In taking this approach, the Government have followed the recommendation of the shadow Committee on Climate Change in their interim advice in October this year.

### Aviation: Passengers

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to ensure that in all cases air passengers stranded abroad as a result of airline failure are able to be repatriated; and what consideration he is giving to a statutory scheme to achieve this. [239021]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The air travel organiser's licence (ATOL) scheme run by the Civil Aviation Authority already ensures that anyone on a package holiday including a flight can finish their holiday and return home as planned in the event of their tour operator or airline becoming insolvent. This requirement comes from the EU Package Travel Directive.

As part of the Department for Transport's work to learn the lessons of XL's failure, we are examining how those not covered by the ATOL scheme got home including via other airlines, some of whom offered discount repatriation fares.

### Brussels

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on visits by its staff to Brussels in 2007-08; and how many such visits were made by *(a)* air and *(b)* rail. [239418]

**Mr. Hoon:** The Department for Transport (central) and four of its agencies (Driving Standards Agency, Government Car and Despatch Agency, Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Vehicle and Operator Services Agency) do not record details of journeys by destination, and could provide the information only at disproportionate cost

Highways Agency staff made eight visits by air at a cost of £2,170, and eight visits by rail at a cost of £1,597.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency recorded nine return flights at a cost of £3,129, and no rail journeys.

Vehicle Certification Agency spent £4,507 on return travel to Brussels, but cannot differentiate between air and rail journeys, except at disproportionate cost.

### Bus Services: Competition

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what strategies his Department employs to ensure competition between local bus operators to encourage better services for passengers. [238809]

**Paul Clark:** The Local Transport Bill contains various measures, building on those in the Transport Act 2000, to enable stronger, more effective partnership working between local authorities and bus operators to deliver services that better meet the needs of passengers. It includes a tailored competition test and enforcement regime that would apply to voluntary partnership agreements between authorities and operators, and to certain other agreements between operators. Further details are contained in the Explanatory Notes to the Bill, and the Office of Fair Trading has recently consulted on draft guidance to support these provisions in the Bill.

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from Torbay local authority since April 2007 on funding for the national concessionary bus fares scheme. [239002]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport received representations from Torbay council last autumn when over 200 responses were received to the Department's consultation on the formula distribution for the special grant for the new England-wide concession. Also, in July 2008 a senior public transport officer of Torbay council wrote expressing his concern about the allocation of special grant funding. In September 2008 the mayor of Torbay wrote on this issue to the Department for Communities and Local Government. The correspondence was answered by officials in the Department for Transport.

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to raise the age of eligibility for concessionary bus travel in line with changes to the pensionable age between 2010 and 2020. [239275]

**Paul Clark:** We have no current plans to do so. At present eligibility for the national concessionary bus pass is defined as 60 years old, or over, rather than linked to the actual pension age.

### Buses: Accidents

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving bus passengers were reported in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* constituency and *(b)* service provider; and if he will make a statement. [237848]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of reported personal injury accidents with at least one bus passenger casualty in each of the last five years is given in the table which has been deposited in the Libraries of the House. Information on the service provider is not collected by the Department.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (a) cards, (b) parties and (c) decorations in the last 12 months. [237479]

**Mr. Hoon:** The information is set as follows.

| *Christmas:* | *£ (inc. VAT) (a) Cards* | *(b) Parties* | *(c) Decorations* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Central Department | 1,737 | 0 | 1,077 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | 4,126 | 0 | 0 |
| Driving Standards Agency | 2,200 | 0 | 0 |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | 0 | 6,875 | 0 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 0 | 1,961 | 0 |
| Government Car and Despatch Agency | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Highways Agency | 0 | 0 | [1] |

[1] Christmas trees are provided at the HA as part of the internal planting contract, but the sum is small and cannot be disaggregated.

### Crossrail: Finance

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether an agreement has been made with BAA on the exact amount of funding BAA will contribute to Crossrail. [237835]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport and BAA announced on 4 November that agreement had been reached about the terms on which BAA will make a contribution worth £180 million in 2007 prices. The contribution, which will be paid in two instalments, is subject to indexation and so the actual amount paid will depend on its timing (and the first payment cannot be earlier than April 2013). Certain conditions will have to be met that may affect the timing or size of the contribution: for example, the contribution is subject to progress with construction of new viaducts at Stockley to improve the capacity and reliability of rail access to the airport; and it is also subject to the regulatory approval of the CAA.

### Cycling England: Finance

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what payments Cycling England has *(a)* made in the last 12 months and *(b)* is contracted to make, to public affairs consultants; and for what purposes. [238466]

**Paul Clark:** Blue Rubicon has been contracted through the Central Office of Information since 2005 to provide PR consultancy services to Cycling England. The agency delivers a programme of activity targeting consumers and engaging stakeholders with the aim to get more people cycling, more safely, more often.

Expenditure for the period November 2007-November 2008 has been £969,759. Spend so far this financial year is £390,766. This includes costs for running a general press office; website development and maintenance; development and promotion of Bikeability (Cycling England's flagship award scheme, teaching children to cycle safely and responsibly); event management; commissioning research into and promoting the benefits of cycling. The estimated spend for the rest of the current financial year is £341,996. The contract ends in March 2009 and is due to be retendered in January.

### Cycling: Accidents

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pedestrians have been killed in accidents involving cyclists and no other vehicles in each of the last 10 years. [237748]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of pedestrians killed in reported personal injury road accidents involving a pedal cycle and no other vehicle in each of the last 10 years are given in the table.

| | *Number of pedestrian fatalities* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 2 |
| 1999 | 5 |
| 2000 | 1 |
| 2001 | 0 |
| 2002 | 3 |
| 2003 | 4 |
| 2004 | 1 |
| 2005 | 3 |
| 2006 | 3 |
| 2007 | 3 |

### Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Road Traffic

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the average delay caused by congestion at the Dartford River Crossing to users during *(a)* morning peak times and *(b)* afternoon peak times on (i) week days and (ii) weekends to users travelling from (A) junction 2 of the M25, (B) junction 3 of the M25, (C) junction 29 of the M25, (D) the A2 travelling eastbound heading on to the A282, (E) the A2 travelling westbound and then heading on to the A282, (F) the A13 travelling eastbound and then heading on to the A282 and (G) the A13 travelling westbound and then heading on to the A282. [236311]

**Paul Clark:** The Department has not made estimates to the level of detail requested.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237425]

**Mr. Hoon:** The Department for Transport does not subsidise food or drink sold at its main London HQ buildings. The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and the Government Car and Despatch Agency provide subsidised catering facilities. The Department's other executive agencies do not.

### Departmental Civil Servants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil servants have been employed by each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [239103]

**Mr. Hoon:** I refer the hon. Member to the Department for Transport Annual Report 2008, Appendix A, Table A6. Copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

The information requested for non-departmental bodies can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many external consultants work for his Department. [237139]

**Mr. Hoon:** The following table shows the number of consultants working in the Department as recorded in the Department's Human Resources systems:

| *Location* | *Consultants*[1] |
|---|---|
| DfT Central | 114 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | 0 |
| Highways Agency | 184 |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | 12 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 0 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | 25 |
| Government Car and Despatch Agency | 3 |
| Total | 338 |

[1] *Notes:*
The totals for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Vehicle and Operator Services Agency include both consultants and contractors as it is not possible to separately identify consultants.
These figures show the position at the end of September 2008 except for the Highways Agency and the Government Car and Despatch Agency where this is the position at November 2008.
The Driving Standards Agency could provide only the information requested at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [239062]

**Mr. Hoon:** Total expenditure by the central Department and its agencies on consultants in each financial year since it was formed in May 2002 is shown in the following table:

*£ million*

| | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DfT Central | 57.2 | 58.5 | 65.2 | 64.0 | 53.6 | 51.0 |
| Highways Agency | 157.5 | 169.7 | 115.0 | 2.4 | 1.7 | 2.0 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | 4.0 | 3.4 | 4.8 | 1.9 | 18.0 | 18.4 |
| Driving Standards Agency | 4.2 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 1.2 | 5.1 | 3.5 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 1.4 | 1.0 | 3.7 |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | 1.2 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.5 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Government Car and Despatch Agency (joined DfT from 2005-06) | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Total | 227.5 | 239.5 | 193.3 | 72.1 | 82.9 | 80.3 |

The Business Units within the Department currently use separate accounting systems which record expenditure differently. The totals include a mixture of committed spend (i.e. orders raised) and actual spend incurred. The Professional Services Forum definition of consultancy has been applied since 2005-06 resulting in more accurate coding of expenditure.

Expenditure figures from 2005-06 exclude Central Department and Highways Agency spend on technical transport related consultancy. Expenditure by the Highways Agency on engineering consultancy is scored as outsourced procurement of specialist services.

Expenditure by non-departmental public bodies on external consultancy can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Contracts

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the value of these contracts is in the current financial year, including VAT and disbursements; how long each contract lasts; to which of his Department's programmes or projects each contract relates; and what the forecast total expenditure under each contract is. [239023]

**Mr. Hoon:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work for and *(b)* provide assistance to his Department. [237140]

**Mr. Hoon:** The most recently compiled press officer numbers in the central Department and Executive Agencies are set out in the following table. All figures are average or estimated full-time equivalent (FTE) staff employed on press officer activities in 2007-08.

| *Staff FTE* | *2007-08 Press Officer activities* |
|---|---|
| DfT Central | 13.8 |
| DSA | 2 |
| DVLA | 5 |
| GCDA | 0 |
| HA | 12.2 |
| MCA | 2 |
| VGA | 0 |
| VOSA | 2 |
| DfT Agencies | 23.2 |

The Department procures the services of the Central Office of Information to provide assistance with regional media but because of the nature of this support work it is not possible to quantify this in full-time equivalents.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of maintaining his Department's website was in 2007-08; and what forecast has been made of the costs for maintaining websites within his responsibility in 2008-09. [237142]

**Mr. Hoon:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 31W, regarding the maintenance costs for the Departments websites.

Tables have been placed in the Libraries of the House showing forecast maintenance costs for the Department for Transport websites 2008-09.

Where annual maintenance costs are not available, this is due to a number of reasons; either the costs are part of a much larger contract and cannot be itemised; or the costs cannot be calculated without incurring disproportionate costs. Costs provided do not include staff costs.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for each of the sites owned by his Department which are registered on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land; what construction projects are planned for each site; and when he expects each site to be returned to use. [236441]

**Mr. Hoon:** Once sites have been declared surplus for operational purposes and placed on the register, there is a 40 working day window for public sector agencies and Departments to identify new uses for this land. If the sites can be used beneficially elsewhere in the public sector they will be sold at market value in accordance with guidance in HM Treasury's guidance and brought back into beneficial use. Ultimately local planning authorities are responsible for preparing regional strategies and local development frameworks and these take account of the suitability of particular sites in their area for the development of housing. Disposing Departments have no locus in the planning decision-making process.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and at what cost in each year. [239089]

**Mr. Hoon:** Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the number of *(a)* special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information, I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town, (Jim Fitzpatrick) to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2212-14W.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [237466]

**Mr. Hoon:** Branding activities in the Department for Transport are not carried out by staff or units solely dedicated to this purpose.

Identifying staff time that may have been spent on brand maintenance would incur disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238939]

**Mr. Hoon:** The Department for Transport and Executive Agencies' major areas of publicity and advertising spend were in support of our marketing activities on the THINK! road safety campaign, Act on $CO_2$ campaign, Concessionary Bus Fares campaign, aviation security and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's continuous registration campaign. Marketing expenditure, including publicity and advertising costs, since the 2002-03 fiscal year, when the Department was formed, are outlined in the following table.

£

*Marketing costs*

| *Department for Transport* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DfT Central | 17.6 million | 16.4 million | 16.2 million | 20.4 million | 26.5 million | 26.7 million |
| Driving Standards Agency | n/a | 1.276 million | 985,000 | 782,000 | 1.150 million | 2.174 million |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | 9.461 million | 13.71 million | 10.946 million | 9.256 million | 9.73 million | 10.4 million |
| Highways Agency | 411,000 | 1.696 million | 2.347 million | 3.146 million | 2.4 million | 1.6 million |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | 44,000 | 28,000 | 45,000 | 25,000 | d/c | 57,000 |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | 1.141 million | 1.322 million | 1.102 million | 1.262 million | 1.56 million | 1.075 million |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 39,000 | 43,000 | 40,000 | 37,000 | 22,900 | 80,500 |

£

| Department for Transport | Marketing costs 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Government Car and Despatch Agency | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60,000 | 171,800 |

n/a = Figures not available
d/c = Figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost.
*Note:*
Figure from May 2002 because of accounting changes.

Following departmental reorganisations, total publicity and marketing expenditure figures for prior to 2002-03 fiscal year would involve disproportionate costs.

**Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers**

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237499]

**Mr. Hoon:** Two civil servants support the special advisers. Both provide support of a non-political nature in accordance with the code of conduct for special advisers.

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned.

**Departmental NDPBs**

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236933]

**Mr. Hoon:** The Department publishes details of all its NDPBs in its Annual Report; I therefore refer the hon. Gentleman to chapter 12 of my Department's 2008 Annual Report.

In regard to the budgets for the Department's NDPBs I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answers given on the 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 417W, and on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1035W.

**Departmental Press Releases**

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many press releases have been issued by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238992]

**Mr. Hoon:** Total number of national press releases issued by Department for Transport 'central' and its executive agencies is as follows. Information prior to 2003 is not held centrally and can be obtained only through disproportionate cost.

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | [1]2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DFT (C) | 172 | 156 | 146 | 151 | 174 | 145 |
| DSA | [2]n/a | 45 | 15 | 19 | 30 | 50 |
| DVLA | 25 | 66 | 21 | 41 | 24 | 11 |
| GCDA | [2]n/a | [2]n/a | [2]n/a | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| HA | 249 | 173 | 64 | 76 | 84 | 77 |
| MCA | 356 | 354 | 461 | 474 | 412 | 376 |
| VCA | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| VOSA | 31 | 61 | 37 | 48 | 42 | 48 |

[1] To 20 November 2008.
[2] This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

**Departmental Public Opinion**

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239051]

**Mr. Hoon:** The information requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

**Departmental Travel**

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's departmental travel plan. [237617]

**Mr. Hoon:** The Department for Transport (DfT) travel plan was published on its website on 28 November 2006, and is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/travelplans/

This DfT-wide plan requires all DfT offices with more than 50 staff to produce their own site-specific travel plans. MCA, DVLA, VCA have already completed and published their plans and the remainder are under development. DVLA's plan is currently undergoing review.

The DfT travel plan is available in the Libraries of the House. Copies of the other three published plans have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

**Departmental Written Questions**

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Questions for written answer were tabled to his Department in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04,

*(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235382]

**Mr. Hoon:** The figures requested by the hon. Member are contained in the following table:

| *Parliamentary Session* | *Number of written questions tabled* | *Number of questions not answered substantively, either wholly or partially, on the grounds of disproportionate cost* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 4,021 | 76 |
| 2003-04 | 3,338 | 65 |
| 2004-05 | 1,339 | 45 |
| 2005-06 | 6,536 | 160 |
| 2006-07 | 3,729 | 111 |
| 2007-08 (to 20 November 2008) | 4,806 | 195 |

## Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will instruct the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to offer a British-made car in its prize draw encouraging use of their online facilities. [239169]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency invited all 17 manufacturers who produce cars with $CO_2$ emissions of 120 g/km or less to take part in the incentive scheme. SEAT were the only company to fully respond to the invitation. If DVLA is granted permission to run this scheme for a second year, all manufacturers who meet the criteria will again be invited to bid for the contract.

## Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Data Protection

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many requests the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has received for motorists' information in each of the last 10 years; and how many such requests the DVLA has refused. [237930]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DVLA holds two separate registers of information on motorists. The vehicle register contains the particulars of vehicles and their keepers.

The driver register contains details of individuals, including name address and date of birth, along with details of their entitlement to drive, any driving convictions or endorsements, and any medical conditions affecting their driving ability.

*Vehicle Inquiries*

The following table shows the total number of vehicle record requests rejected along with the number of requests made. These figures include requests made by both public and private sector organisations including, local authorities and police, as well as individuals for information on their own vehicles.

| | *Electronic inquiries* | *Manual enquiries* | *Rejects*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 0 | 2,233,009 | n/a |
| 1999-2000 | 0 | 2,325,544 | n/a |
| 2000-01 | 6,553,630 | 2,336,631 | n/a |
| 2001-02 | 7,659,104 | 2,397,370 | n/a |
| 2002-03 | 11,456,515 | 2,339,507 | n/a |
| 2003-04 | 16,255,864 | 2,204,109 | 43,088 |
| 2004-05 | 15,007,047 | 2,014,576 | 43,684 |
| 2005-06 | 15,225,314 | 1,853,686 | 30,865 |
| 2006-07 | 15,739,951 | 1,572,458 | 48,328 |
| 2007-08 | 18,101,330 | 1,391,424 | 46,578 |

[1] Rejects: DVLA does not hold information on the number of requests rejected prior to the 2003 - 2004 financial year.

*Driver Inquiries*

The following table shows the number or requests made for information held on the driver record for the last 10 years and the number of requests rejected. Statistics from the driver register do not differentiate between manual and electronic requests. They include subject access requests from individuals wanting their own information.

| | *Inquiries* | *Rejects* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 1,481,263 | n/a |
| 1998-99 | 1,558,557 | n/a |
| 1999-2000 | 1,736,138 | n/a |
| 2000-01 | 1,701,985 | n/a |
| 2001-02 | 1,860,911 | n/a |
| 2002-03 | 1,863,913 | n/a |
| 2003-04 | 1,888,741 | n/a |
| 2004-05 | 1,930,933 | 7,984 |
| 2005-06 | 1,907,856 | 9,238 |
| 2006-07 | 1,726,207 | 11,072 |
| 2007-08 | 1,643,104 | 6,540 |

Information on the number of requests rejected is not held for the period before 2004-05.

It is not possible to provide figures on the release of information by telephone as DVLA does not differentiate between telephone enquiries requesting advice and those requesting information from the record e.g. car hire companies or employers acting with the driver's consent.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions in each of the last 10 years an employee of the Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency has been issued with an *(a)* oral and *(b)* written warning for inappropriate use of access to motorists' information; and how many of these occasions has resulted in dismissal. [237824]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** DVLA takes its responsibilities in relation to data security and the Data Protection Act very seriously.

The information required is only available from 2004 onwards. This is set out as follows.

| *Calendar year* | *Dismissals* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | [1] |
| 2005 | 6 |
| 2006 | [1] |
| 2007 | [1] |
| 2008 | [1] |

[1] Number of dismissals was below five and therefore cannot be disclosed.

In all cases where members of staff have made inappropriate use of motorists information DVLA has dismissed the individual concerned.

## Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Databases

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what databases containing details of registered drivers and vehicles the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency uses in its registration and enforcement capacities; what the stated purpose of each database is; and what procedures exist to ensure that accurate details are *(a)* maintained on and *(b)* co-ordinated between the databases. [238845]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Vehicle Register holds information about vehicles and vehicle keepers for the purposes of licensing and registering vehicles, road safety and law enforcement and to support the Government's environmental policies. The accuracy of the Vehicle record is maintained through regular contact with registered vehicle keepers, including annual or bi-annual transactions for the payment of Vehicle Excise Duty.

The driver register holds details of drivers, including driving entitlement, endorsements and medical information for the purposes of licensing drivers and road safety. The accuracy of the driver record is maintained through legal obligations placed on licence-holders to inform DVLA of changes of personal details, and supported by notifications from the police, courts and fixed penalty offices.

The local office casework system is an additional database used to record vehicle excise and registration offences. Information held on this database is used to enforce and prosecute these offences.

The driver and vehicle intelligence database is a database that holds intelligence on suspected fraudulent activity involving driving licence or vehicle transactions. This information is used to aid the prevention, detection and enforcement of vehicle and driver related offences.

DVLA takes the accuracy of information held on all its databases seriously in line with data protection requirements.

It has in place an accuracy programme, involving a wide range of initiatives to build upon and further improve the accuracy of all the information held on its databases.

This initiative will include the identification of opportunities for sharing and cross checking information between DVLA's databases.

## Driving Standards Agency

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the current complement of *(a)* managerial staff, *(b)* examiners and *(c)* other staff at the Driving Standards Agency is. [238285]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The current complement of managerial staff, examiners and other staff is shown in the table.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Managerial staff | 761 |
| *Comprised of:* | |
| Administration staff of managerial grade | 373 |
| Examiner staff of managerial grade | 388 |
| Examiners | 1,623 |
| Other staff | 381 |
| *Comprised of:* | |
| Administration staff of non-managerial grade | 328 |
| Support staff | 53 |
| Total staff employed | 2,765 |

Staff employed in a managerial grade position may not necessarily have line manager responsibility for staff.

Examiners of managerial grade sometimes conduct driving and riding tests.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the basic salary is of the Chief Executive of the Driving Standards Agency; what incentive factors apply which allow bonuses or other increments to be paid; and if he will make a statement. [238287]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Driving Standards Agency's published annual accounts for 2007-08 report the chief executive's salary, including performance pay as £105,000-£110,000.

## Driving Tests

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date it was decided that the Southend-on-Sea driving test centre would close; and who took that decision. [238284]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Driving Standards Agency announced a proposal to co-locate Southend-on-Sea driving test centre with the multi-purpose test centre at Basildon on 13 February 2008 seeking views from key stakeholders in keeping with its code of practice by 9 May 2008. 12 weeks were allowed for responses. After careful consideration of these, the Agency's chief executive informed the Minister on 13 August 2008 of her confirmation of this decision.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of receipts from the driving test fee, after it has been increased, will be used to fund the change to the organisation of driving test centres. [238286]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Driving Standards Agency estimates the expenditure for changing the organisation of driving test centres at £14.5 million. This represents 10.8 per cent. of its estimated practical test fee income from the April 2009 financial year.

## First Great Western

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much public money First Great Western Trains has received in the last 12 months. [238707]

**Paul Clark:** Subsidy per passenger kilometre is published by the Office of Rail Regulation for all train operating companies in its National Rail Trends Yearbook, which is available at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/

The most recent figures published are for 2007-08.

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the performance of First Great Western Trains against the objectives set for the operation of the Greater Western rail franchise. [238709]

**Paul Clark:** Department for Transport officials meet First Great Western at least every four weeks to review overall progress of the franchise. Departmental officials also meet First Great Western at the milestone reporting sessions contractualised in the Remedial Agreement to review progress in reducing train cancellations against the provisions of that agreement. First Great Western is currently compliant with the cancellations reduction trajectory contained in the Remedial Agreement.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the renegotiation of the payments applicable under the franchise award to First Great Western in the light of the extra expenditure they *(a)* have incurred and *(b)* expect to incur. [239022]

**Paul Clark:** It is for First Great Western to bear additional expenditure it decides to incur or which is incurred in remedying breaches of the franchise agreement. The costs of the remedial plan and the associated £29 million package of passenger benefits are wholly for First Great Western to bear.

The Department for Transport bears net incremental costs associated with changes it decides to implement in the franchise or other net costs which are defined as payable by the Department for Transport under the franchise agreement. In particular, should the Department for Transport decide to fund additional rolling stock for First Great Western services under the high level output specification (HLOS) process, the Department for Transport would bear the incremental net costs associated with the procurement and operation of such additional rolling stock.

### Heathrow Airport

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Adding Capacity at Heathrow consultation document, what level of induced demand for air travel he anticipates will be generated by construction of a third runway at Heathrow. [237960]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The level of demand for each sequencing option described in the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation document is given in the Department for Transport's "UK Air Passenger Demand and $CO_2$ Forecasts" (2007), table 2.13, p. 43. This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

The following table reproduces the relevant figures for the three options and the 'maximum use' Base Case used in the consultation document.

*Constrained terminal passenger demand forecasts, UK, mppa (million passengers per annum)*

| | | | | (Nearest 5 million) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2010* | *2015* | *2020* | *2025* | *2030* |
| Base Case | 270 | 320 | 375 | 415 | 445 |
| Option 1 | 270 | 320 | 375 | 430 | 480 |
| Option 2 | 270 | 320 | 375 | 430 | 480 |
| Option 3 | 270 | 325 | 375 | 430 | 480 |

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he proposes to respond to the letter sent to him dated 23 October from solicitors Harrison Grant acting on behalf of the 2M group, on pollution levels around Heathrow. [237961]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** A response was sent on the 14 November by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs on behalf of both Departments.

### Heathrow Airport: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely emissions of carbon dioxide which would arise from use of the proposed third runway at Heathrow Airport in terms of *(a)* the runway in isolation and *(b)* the total additional air transport movements in the UK, net of any air traffic switching to Heathrow from other airports for (i) 2020, (ii) 2030, (iii) 2040, (iv) 2050, (v) 2060, (vi) 2070 and (vii) 2080. [234151]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The "UK Air Passenger Demand and $CO_2$ Forecasts" report (2007), annex G, shows carbon dioxide emissions both at Heathrow and nationally, with and without additional capacity at Heathrow airport, for selected years. These results are extended and reported in the following table.

*Additional aviation $CO_2$ emissions from a third runway at Heathrow airport, $MtCO_2$*

| | *Heathrow* | *UK* |
|---|---|---|
| 2020 | 1.0 | 0.2 |
| 2030 | 8.2 | 4.7 |
| 2040 | 7.8 | 4.1 |
| 2050 | 7.4 | 4.0 |
| 2060 | 7.1 | 2.8 |
| 2070 | 6.8 | 2.0 |
| 2080 | 6.5 | 1.9 |

The Government are strongly committed to achieving reductions in carbon dioxide emissions and aims to do so in the most effective way. This is why we have led the debate within Europe to include all flights arriving at and departing from EU airports in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme from 2012 onwards. Any growth in aircraft emissions above the ETS cap will only be possible by the sector paying for commensurate carbon savings made elsewhere in the economy.

### Heathrow Airport: Railway Network

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his support for Crossrail is conditional on a third runway being constructed at Heathrow. [237766]

**Paul Clark:** There is no connection between the Government's firm commitment to Crossrail—as demonstrated by the funding package announced in October 2007 and the securing of Royal Assent to the Crossrail Bill—and any decision about expansion of Heathrow.

## Hotels

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on hotel bills in 2007-08. [237138]

**Mr. Hoon:** The figures for hotel accommodation expenditure by Department for Transport (central) and six of its agencies are contained in the following table.

| | *Hotel accommodation expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|
| DfT(c) * | 597,408 |
| Highways Agency | 815,045 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | 1,030,000 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 131,960 |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | 716,601.54 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | 468,000 |
| Driving Standards Agency | 976,000 |
| Government Car and Despatch Agency | — |

GCDA does not record accommodation expenses separately from other travel costs and could provide the information only at disproportionate cost.

The figures for HA comprise of the cost of accommodation booked through their central booking contract. Any additional costs of accommodation booked direct by travellers could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The DSA costs were principally for conferences and meetings. The amount spent on hotels through subsistence is estimated.

The costs for VOSA and MCA are partly recovered from fees arising from performing statutory duties.

## Motor Vehicles: Accidents

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* accidents, *(b)* injuries and *(c)* deaths have been caused by foreign drivers in the UK in each of the last 10 years. [237928]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is not available.

## Motor Vehicles: Licensing

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will provide incentives for people wishing to register their vehicle for statutory off-road notification status to do so at post offices. [239168]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There are no plans to introduce incentives for people to make a Statutory off Road Notification for their vehicle at the Post Office.

## Motor Vehicles: Safety

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the children killed or seriously injured in cars in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007 were wearing (i) no type of restraint, (ii) an adult seat belt and (iii) an appropriate restraint. [239504]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Information on whether restraints were worn or not in reported personal injury road accidents is not collected by the Department.

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment his Department has made of levels of parental awareness of legislation on child car seats; what steps he is taking to ensure that parents are aware of the requirements of legislation on child car seats; and if he will make a statement; [239529]

(2) what research his Department has commissioned on the behaviour of parents in relation to the appropriate restraint of their children in cars. [239531]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Data from October 2006 following a departmental publicity campaign showed that awareness of the legal requirements was 92 per cent. The requirements are summarised on the THINK website at www.dft.gov.uk/think and in leaflets distributed by the Department, around 700,000 of which are ordered annually. There is no specific child car seat campaign running at the moment but the topic is covered in the current THINK parents' campaign.

There is no research specifically on the behaviour of parents in relation to the use of the appropriate child restraint. However, the regular surveys for the Department to observe adult seat belt wearing also include the use of child restraints, as far as is possible from roadside observation points. Results are published—the latest survey in October 2007 (TRL leaflet 2102) is available on-line at:

www.trl.co.uk/store/report_list.asp?pid=211.

The following table summarises the observations.

*GB percentage child restraint v. seat belt wearing: observational survey*

| | *Front seat passengers* | | | | *Rear seat passengers* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1 to 4 years* | | *5 to 9 years* | | *1 to 4 years* | | *5 to 9 years* | |
| | *Child seat/ booster* | *Seat belt* | *Child seat/ booster* | *Seat belt* | *Child seat/ booster* | *Seat belt* | *Child seat/ booster* | *Seat belt* |
| *Six month period ending:* | | | | | | | | |
| April 2005 | 57 | 34 | 8 | 89 | 82 | 14 | 18 | 73 |
| October 2005 | 73 | 26 | 5 | 92 | 85 | 12 | 13 | 77 |
| April 2006 | 67 | 29 | 8 | 91 | 88 | 9 | 21 | 71 |
| October 2006 | 80 | 17 | 29 | 68 | 92 | 5 | 47 | 46 |
| *Annually at:* | | | | | | | | |
| October 2007 | 85 | 12 | 28 | 69 | 93 | 5 | 39 | 55 |

### Network Rail: Finance

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the proposed reduction in funding to Network Rail in respect of its engineering possessions strategy, advocated by the Office of Rail Regulation, and his policy of driving Network Rail towards a 24 hour, seven days a week service. [235573]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* We have made no alterations to the levels of funding committed for the railways in the 2007 White Paper "Delivering Sustainable Railway".

As part of the Periodic Review 2008 process, Network Rail effectively 'bid' for a certain amount of funding over and above that which was committed in the White Paper. On 30 October this year, the independent Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) published its "Determination of Network Rail's outputs and funding for 2009-14", concluding that the funding committed by the Government was sufficient to allow Network Rail to deliver the outputs we have specified.

The Office of Rail Regulation has set Network Rail targets to reduce the disruption to passengers from planned engineering works and to ensure that the level of disruption experienced by freight operators does not increase.

In addition, the Office or Rail Regulation has provided Network Rail with funding for £160 million of capital expenditure and £60 million of additional maintenance and renewal costs in Control Period 4 (2009-14) to help the company meet these targets. It has explained in its determination why it believes the amount Network Rail requested was overstated.

### Newport to London Railway Line

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of commuter train services between Newport and London. [238708]

**Paul Clark:** Officials meet First Great Western at least every four weeks to review overall progress of the franchise.

Train services from Newport are included in the Department for Transport's assessment of possible additional rolling stock for First Great Western under the Department's High Level Output Specification programme.

### Official Visits

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he has visited *(a)* Sipson and *(b)* Harmondsworth on official business since his appointment as Secretary of State for Transport; and whether he intends to visit (i) Sipson and (ii) Harmondsworth with reference to his Department's policy on Heathrow Airport; [237958]

(2) how many visits he has made to the London Borough of *(a)* Hillingdon, *(b)* Hounslow, *(c)* Richmond and *(d)* Wandsworth on official business since his appointment. [237959]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Secretary of State for Transport has made one visit to the London borough of Hillingdon which included Sipson and Harmondsworth and one visit to Wandsworth.

### Oil: Prices

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimates for the price of oil he has used in the past three years when considering wider policy issues. [237760]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport uses oil price projections from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), which will in future be published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

These projections can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/environment/projections/recent/page26391.html.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the research underpinning his assumptions on future oil prices contained in the 2003 Aviation White Paper. [237956]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The assumptions concerning future oil prices used to estimate passenger demand for the 2003 Air Transport White Paper are set out in the Air Traffic Forecasts for the United Kingdom 2000 document published by the then Department for the Environment, Transport and Regions, p. 30. This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/airtrafficforecastsfortheuni281

The then DTI's Energy Projections for the UK, Working Paper, March 2000 document shows the Government's oil price assumptions at the time.

Copies of both these documents are held in the Library of the House.

### Operation V79

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether there have been any national programmes aimed at checking compliance with driver and vehicle requirements since Operation V79 in 2006; and what plans he has to initiate future such programmes. [237836]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** In March the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) carried out the national drivers and vehicles compliance check (Operation V79) for 2008. The report of the 2008 compliance check, which shows significantly improved levels of compliance, was published on 10 November and is available on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/vehicles/roadspolicingoperationv79/roadspolicingoperationv7908.pdf

Operation V79 is normally carried out biennially.

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236906]

**Mr. Hoon:** During the last 12 months (for the period August 2007 to July 2008) the Department for Transport has received fewer than five official complaints of racial abuse. Therefore the details are withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

The standard of behaviour the Department expects of its staff, and how to deal with inappropriate behaviour, are set out in the staff handbook which is available to all staff.

### Railways: Finance

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of funding methods for new trains. [237924]

**Paul Clark:** The financing solutions for new trains are evaluated on a case by case basis, based on value for money and appropriate transfer of risk.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what factors he took into account before deciding to advise local authorities seeking Government funding for major transport schemes that local contributions of *(a)* 25 per cent. for new light rail schemes and *(b)* 10 per cent. for new non-light rail schemes are required; [238314]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the requirement for a 25 per cent. local funding contribution for new light rail schemes on the number of future proposals for new light rail schemes. [238315]

**Paul Clark:** Since the publication of the Transport 10 Year Plan of 2000, the Department for Transport (DFT) has set a requirement for a 25 per cent. contribution from promoters towards the costs of light rail projects. This requirement reflects the cost and complexity of light rail projects and ensures that the promoter is significantly committed to delivering a project of this scale.

We have no reason to believe that this requirement has led to promoters declining to submit proposals for light rail projects. The Department has received requests for funding from eight separate scheme promoters under these arrangements.

In 2006 the Department introduced a policy of requiring a minimum 10 per cent. local contribution to all major schemes, as part of a range of measures designed to increase the incentive upon local authorities to promote high quality schemes and to deliver them to time and budget.

The requirement for a local contribution, by limiting the DFT contribution, also ensures that more transport projects can be progressed via the Regional Funding Allocation process.

### Road Traffic

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of road congestion levels in *(a)* Leeds, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* Milton Keynes, *(d)* Buckinghamshire, *(e)* South West London, *(f)* Suffolk and *(g)* Essex. [237818]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department monitors congestion, in the form of average person journey times per mile, on key routes during the morning peak (excluding weekends and school holidays) in the 10 largest urban areas in England. The figures for London and West Yorkshire are given in the table following.

*Person journeys times and travel, London and West Yorkshire*

| | *Person journey time (minutes per mile)* | | | *Person miles* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Baseline*[1] | *2006-07* | *Percentage change since baseline* | *Percentage change since baseline* |
| London | 3.65 | 3.52 | -3.5 | -2.0 |
| West Yorkshire | 3.83 | 3.91 | 2.2 | 4.9 |

[1] The baseline is a combination of 2004-05 and 2005-06 data. Note that dates shown are academic years (September to August)

Disaggregated figures for south-west London and Leeds are not available. Congestion is not currently monitored centrally in other local authorities. However, the Department's base congestion data are supplied to local authorities, to help them make their own assessments of local congestion. Similarly, congestion estimates for the Strategic Road Network in England are published by the Department, but are not available at a local level.

### Road Traffic Offences: Fixed Penalties

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to be in a position to introduce the graduated fixed penalty and deposit scheme. [238745]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Implementation of the graduated fixed penalty and deposit scheme is a key priority for the Department and we are working hard to ensure that the provisions are brought into force as soon as practicable—and this is likely to be by spring 2009.

### Roads

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Highways Agency Major Schemes projects are in *(a)* Options and *(b)* Development stages in the Highways Agency; and what budget is allocated to each of them in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [239024]

**Paul Clark:** The following lists give the Highways Agency major schemes in Development and Options phases that had budgets set for the current financial year, 2008-09. The total control budget for 2008-09 set for schemes in Development was £117.3 million and for schemes in Options was £24.4 million.

*Table 1—Schemes in Development*

A1 Dishforth to Barton
A11 Fiveways to Thetford
A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton
A21 Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst Improvement
A21 Tonbridge Bypass to Pembury Dualling
A23 Handcross to Warninglid Widening
A421 Bedford to M1 Junction 13
A45 A46 Tollbar End Imp
A453 Widening, M1 J24 to A52 Nottingham
A46 Newark Widmerpool Improvements
A47 Blofield to North Burlingham
A5 to M1 Link (Dunstable Northern Bypass)
A57/A628 Mottram to Tintwhistle Bypass
M1 J10 to J13 Widening[1]

M25 J16 to J23 Widening
M25 J23 to J27 Widening[1]
M25 J27 to J30 Widening
M25 J5 to J6/7 Widening[1]

[1] Scheme forming part of the Managed Motorway Feasibility Study.

*Note:*

A421 Bedford to M1 Junction 13 moved into the Construction Phase in October 2008.

*Table 2—Schemes in Options*

A1 Western Bypass Improvement (TAMMS)
A1/A19/A1068 Seaton Burn Junction Improvement
A120 Braintree to Marks Tey
A14 Kettering Southern Bypass Widening
A160/A180 Improvements, Immingham
A19/A1058 Coast Road Junction
A19/A184 Testos GSJ
A19/A189 Moor Farm Junction
A2 Bean Junction, Dartford
A21 Baldslow Link
A3 (A27 to A31 Guildford)
A38 Derby Junctions
A5036 Access to Port of Liverpool
A556 Improvement Study (M6 J19 to M56 J7)
A63 Castle Street Improvement
Chichester Area and A27 Transport
M1 J19 Improvement
M1 J21 to J30 Widening Phase 2[1]
M1 J31 to J32 Northbound Collector Distributor
M1 J32to34SP4L[1]
M1 J39 to J42 Widening[1]
M20 Junction 10A
M20 Junctions 3 to 5 improvements
M40 Junction 9 Improvements
M6J11AtoJ19WidePh1[1]
M60 JETTS[1]
M62 J25 to J28 Improvement[1]

[1] Scheme forming part of the Managed Motorway Feasibility Study.

In July 2008 nine of these schemes were identified for inclusion in the Managed Motorway feasibility study. These schemes, together with a number of new projects, were allocated a budget of £8 million for the study work, to be funded out of the existing Highways Agency budget.

Throughout the course of the year some new schemes have been introduced into the Options phase and others have moved between phases.

The major schemes programme for 2009-10, and associated scheme budgets will be decided in the new year.

## Roads: Accidents

**Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged between 17 and 21 years were killed in a road traffic accident in each local authority area in England in the last 10 years. [238330]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

## Roads: Closures

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to reduce the levy local authorities are able to charge community groups for events which they hold which require road closures. [238407]

**Paul Clark:** Where a traffic authority closes a road temporarily for a special event, it has the freedom to choose whether or not it recovers its costs from the person promoting the event. If an authority opts to recover costs, the amount of the charge is also at the authority's discretion provided that, when deciding the charge, the authority has regard to the cost of anything that needs to be done in connection with the closure. We consider such decisions should continue to be made at that local level.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what checks are put in place to ensure that objections to stopping up orders are neither fictitious nor vexatious. [239527]

**Paul Clark:** It is a statutory requirement that the Secretary of State shall publish a notice of his intention to make an order and following which there is a period of 28 days allowed for any person to object to the making of the Order (Town and Country Planning Act 1990 S252 (1)(c) refers).

The Secretary of State must consider all objections which relate to the order matter of stopping up of the highways concerned and the provision of any new highway under the order. No checks are made about the fictitious nature of objectors, or those which might be anonymously made, although objections which are made on grounds not related to the order matter might be disregarded by the Secretary of State.

## Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the Highways Agency's *(a)* administration costs and *(b)* staff are used on major improvements. [234906]

**Paul Clark:** The Highways Agency's staff costs associated with delivering major improvements are capitalised and as such accounted for as programme capital expenditure in line with HMT guidance. The amount of staff capitalised against major projects in the last financial year (2007-08) was £14.578 million which represents 11 per cent. of the Highways Agency's total staff costs.

It is not possible specifically to attribute other administrative costs (for example office accommodation) to major improvements, however as these costs tend to track staff costs it would be reasonable to assume the same percentage as above.

10 per cent. of average full-time equivalent staff employed were engaged on delivering major improvements.

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to include developer works within the scope of the Road Traffic Acts. [238574]

**Paul Clark:** Developers carrying out work on the public highway are already subject to a range of legal requirements. They can work on the highways only if they have a licence or permission from the local authority in accordance with the Highways Act 1980. Utility companies providing services to a new development do so as in accordance with the requirements of Part 3 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA).

### Roads: Urban Areas

**Roger Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the recent statement by the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee on shared surface schemes; and if he will call on local authorities to stop introducing such schemes until his Department has completed its proposed research in this area. [235499]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport is aware of and appreciate the concerns of some disabled people regarding shared surfaces, but there is no conclusive evidence to suggest that such schemes are inherently less safe than conventionally kerbed environments. There is a considerable amount of anecdotal evidence that shared space (which includes shared surfaces) is a valuable technique for improving the public realm.

The Department intends to make evidence-based policy in this area. Our intention is to make shared space work for all road users, including disabled people. It is for this reason that the Department is conducting a comprehensive two-year research project into shared space aimed at informing future policy and guidance.

### Rolling Stock

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department expects the number of train carriages announced in the high level output specification to be *(a)* tendered, *(b)* ordered and *(c)* in service. [237797]

**Paul Clark:** Assuming that discussions with the various train operating companies progress to successful conclusions, the Department for Transport would currently expect:

*(a)* the tendering process for all new carriages to have begun by the end of 2009;

*(b)* the ordering for all new carriages to have taken place by the end of 2011; and

*(c)* that all new carriages would be in service by March 2014.

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the extra train carriages announced as part of the intercity express programme to be *(a)* tendered, *(b)* ordered and *(c)* in service. [237798]

**Paul Clark:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* Invitations to Tender were issued in November 2007, with bids returned in June 2008.

*(b)* It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded during 2009 for the first tranche of IEP routes and for the later tranches of routes by 2012.

*(c)* Subject to point (b) above, it is anticipated that the first IEP pre-series trains will begin operation in November 2013 with full deployment (across all optional routes) completed by October 2019.

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether the capital cost of train carriages announced in the *(a)* high level output specification and *(b)* intercity express programme will be funded from the public purse; [237799]

(2) whether the capital cost of train carriages announced in the high level output specification and the intercity express programme will be funded through the assumption of contingent liability. [237800]

**Paul Clark:** Discussions on the provision of additional carriages required to meet the high level output specification are currently being held with train operators. Contractual arrangements for the provision of all carriages have not been finalised.

Capital costs of the Intercity Express Programme are expected to be met by private sector financiers.

Contingent liabilities may sometimes arise as a result of undertakings made in relation to new stock, but no such liabilities have currently been assumed in relation to these carriages.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the 1,300 new carriages referred to in the 2007 Rail White Paper have been *(a)* ordered and *(b)* delivered; and of these, how many have been allocated to specific lines. [237815]

**Paul Clark:** A total of 423 new train carriages have so far been ordered to meet the requirements of the high level output specification. The breakdown of these carriages between franchises is as follows:

92 x Class 377 Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) carriages for Southern/First Capital Connect;

140 x Class 350 EMU carriages for London Midland;

106 x Class 390 EMU carriages for West Coast;

69 x Class 172 Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) carriages for London Midland; and

8 x Class 172 DMU carriages for Chiltern.

Deliveries of these new carriages are yet to commence apart from the London Midland Class 350 carriages, 40 of which are planned to be in service in December 2008.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2007W, on rolling stock, which train operating companies *(a)* have and *(b)* have not ordered their share of the 1,300 new carriages referred to in the Rail White Paper; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure train operating companies procure these extra trains quickly and efficiently. [237834]

**Paul Clark:** The following train operating companies have already ordered new carriages:

Southern/First Capital Connect—92 carriages;

London Midland—217 carriages; and

Chiltern—eight carriages.

In addition, the Department for Transport has ordered 106 carriages for use on the West Coast franchise.

The Department is currently actively engaged with a number of train operating companies, with the aim of reaching agreement that additional rolling stock is procured quickly and efficiently for the benefit of passengers.

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many carriages announced in the *(a)* high level output statement and *(b)* intercity express programme his Department expects to (i) have been ordered and (ii) be in service by (A) 2010 and (B) 2012. [237644]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* As regards to the high level output specification, 423 new carriages have already been ordered. Assuming that discussions with the various train operating companies progress to successful conclusions, the Department would currently expect that all new carriages would be ordered by 2012. However, it is not possible to accurately predict how many of these would have been ordered by 2010.

All of the 423 new carriages that have already been ordered are currently planned to be in service by the end of 2010. It is not possible to accurately predict how many of the remaining new carriages will be in service before the end of 2012 as this depends on the outcome of discussions between the Department and train operating companies and also the progress of the various rolling stock procurement, manufacturing and delivery processes.

In terms of the Intercity Express Programme, we expect to award a contract for the first tranche of IEP routes during 2009 and for the later tranches of routes by 2012. The first inter-city express pre-series trains will begin operation in 2013.

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the train carriages referred to in the high level output statement have been *(a)* tendered for and *(b)* ordered. [237642]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* A total of 423 train carriages have been ordered to meet the requirements of the high level output specification. The tendering process for a further 120 carriages is in progress, with tendering for the remaining carriages expected to begin in the next few months.

## Speed Limits: Cameras

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of public carriageways are currently being monitored by speed cameras. [238646]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Enforcement is a matter for individual road safety partnerships. They have flexibility to enforce in response to community concerns or at sites where there are speeding problems and a high risk that casualties will occur.

## Tolls

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many of the eight road pricing demonstration schemes will include overlapping charge classes within one charge area as outlined in the Demonstration Scheme Template Guidance; [237816]

(2) how many of the eight road pricing demonstration schemes will include difference charges for *(a)* vehicle class, *(b)* user class and *(c)* time class as outlined in the Demonstration Scheme Template Guidance; and how these classes have been defined for each scheme; [237817]

(3) how many bids for road pricing demonstration projects proposed to track motorists to within five seconds accuracy as outlined in the Demonstration Scheme Template Guidance; [237822]

(4) how many of the eight demonstration schemes proposed to track motorists within five seconds accuracy have been outlined in the Demonstration Scheme Template Guidance; [237825]

(5) during what times of day each of the eight road pricing demonstration projects proposes to operate charges. [237829]

**Paul Clark:** The Demonstrations Project is now getting under way with two schemes, in each of which the same four contractors will run a demonstration. The Demonstration Scheme Template Guidance, published as part of the ITT in March 2008, set out the full range of capabilities that might need to be explored, but the actual requirements are specified in the first service contracts now agreed with the four appointed Road User Service Providers.

Neither of the two schemes includes overlapping charge classes within one charge area.

The following table defines the time classes for the two schemes that will be demonstrated by the contractors in the first service contract. The two schemes defined for the Demonstrations Project's first service contract have the same vehicle, user and time class parameters.

Time classes are as follows:

| *Time class* | *Description* | *Time period* | *Days valid* | *Time class factor* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Off peak period | 00:00:00-06:59:59 | Weekdays | 0.5 |
| 2 | Peak period | 07:00:00-09:29:59 | Weekdays | 2.0 |
| 3 | Standard period | 09:30:00-16:29:59 | Weekdays | 1.0 |
| 4 | Peak period | 16:30:00-18:59:59 | Weekdays | 2.0 |
| 5 | Off peak period | 19:00:00-23:59:59 | Weekdays | 0.5 |
| 6 | All day | 00:00:00-23:59:59 | Weekends and bank holidays | 0.5 |

Vehicle classes are as follows:

| *Demonstrations vehicle class* | *Vehicle description* | *Vehicle class factor* |
|---|---|---|
| VC1 | Small passenger vehicles | 1.0 |
| VC2 | Light goods vehicles | 1.5 |
| VC3 | Heavy goods vehicles (over 12t) | 3.0 |

There is only one user class.

The factors to be applied are purely for the purposes of the demonstrations.

The compliance standard outlined in the Demonstration Scheme Template Guidance is intended to reflect the level of performance that a future 'scheme owner' might

require in order to have trust in the service. To ensure any charging scheme is accurate and fair it is important that it can identify that a user has entered or exited a charging area at a precise time. The purpose of the timing capability (now revised to 10 seconds) is to ensure that the time class element within the demonstration can be fairly and accurately applied; the demonstration will therefore seek to establish if the contractors' solutions can meet this target standard.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the evidential basis is for his Department's decision to select *(a)* Leeds, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* Milton Keynes, *(d)* Buckinghamshire, *(e)* South West London, *(f)* Suffolk and *(g)* Essex areas for road pricing demonstration schemes. [237819]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport did not select the areas to be used for the demonstrations; they are being chosen by our contractors based on the likely whereabouts of their volunteer road users.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated cost is of each road pricing demonstration project; and what proportion of this cost is to be paid by his Department in each case. [237820]

**Paul Clark:** The estimated cost to the Department for Transport of the two schemes in the first Road User Service Provider demonstration, covering all four contractors, is £10.0 million. The cost of any subsequent demonstrations would only become clear once their scope has been defined.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated costs are of having the systems proposed in the Road Pricing Demonstration Project externally checked; and what proportion of this cost will be paid for by his Department. [237821]

**Paul Clark:** The procurement process for the independent contractor to undertake third party assurance of the demonstrations has not yet started. It is therefore too early to give an estimate as to the likely cost, which would be met in full by the Department for Transport.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road pricing demonstration projects have stipulated *(a)* a minimum, *(b)* a maximum and *(c)* an average charge; and what each of these charges are. [237826]

**Paul Clark:** The scheme rules for the first two schemes in the Demonstrations Project make no stipulation as to a minimum, maximum, or average charge.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effects of road pricing on different sections of society. [237827]

**Paul Clark:** The impact of any scheme would depend upon its detailed design. The "Feasibility Study of Road Pricing in the UK" published in July 2004 included a preliminary examination of the issues involved. In June 2007 the Department for Transport published an evidence assessment of the Social and Distributional Impacts of Road Pricing, picking up such evidence as is available from schemes around the world.

Transport for London publishes an annual impact assessment of the London Congestion Charge.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce the successful bidders for the road pricing demonstration projects. [237828]

**Paul Clark:** On 15 September 2008 the Government confirmed the names of the companies who will run the Demonstrations Project on road pricing technology. Eight bids were received in response to the Invitation To Tender for the Road User Service Providers Framework, of which four were successful. They were Intelligent Mechatronic Systems (UK), Sanef Tolling Limited, T-Systems Ltd and Trafficmaster plc.

Each of these contractors has now been awarded a first service contract under this framework.

A further three companies—Kapsch TrafficCom Limited, Q-Free ASA and Serco—have been appointed to a separate framework for Compliance Contractors. They will explore how to develop the regime needed in order for both road users and the operators of a scheme to be confident that all the hypothetical charges are being correctly and fairly calculated.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2248-9W, on roads: tolls, whether any of the road pricing demonstrations will not use satellite technology. [237833]

**Paul Clark:** All four solutions to be demonstrated by our contractors will use satellite technology.

## Trains: ICT

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to encourage train operating companies to make real time information relating to connecting train services available on trains; and if he will make a statement. [237710]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport is working with the industry to ensure consistent standards of passenger information. National Rail Inquiries have a lead role in providing comprehensive information including real-time train data on their website and direct to mobile phones.

We recognise the importance of the "end-to-end" journey and the need to have fast, accurate and helpful information before and during a journey. An industry-led working group set up at the Government's instigation has been meeting since July to take forward this initiative and to ensure straightforward and effective interchange.

A £1.5 billion project, due for completion in 2012, will improve rail driver to controller communications. Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM-R) will improve contact between drivers, signallers and control centres giving precise information of a train's location. This will allow passengers to receive more timely and accurate real-time information to assist with journey planning both prior to travel and on the train.

### Transport: Schools

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much each local authority has received as part of the Walking to School initiative in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [236318]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Walking to School initiative; and if he will make a statement; [236319]

(3) how much he expects his Department to spend on Walking to School initiatives in each of the next five years. [236320]

**Paul Clark:** The first year for which Walking to School Initiatives Grant was payable was 2007-08 and each local authority received the amounts set out in the Walking to School Initiatives Grant Determination 2007: No. 31/590 and Walking to School Initiatives No. 2 Grant Determination 2007: No 31/992, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of the House. Local authorities did not receive any funding between 2001 and 2007-08.

We have not yet carried out a full evaluation of the Walking to School Initiatives Grant scheme but 72 per cent. of the schools awarded funding for 2007-08 have set up a 'walking bus' or alternative walking initiative and will continue to receive funding in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

We expect to spend £1.78 million on Walking to School Initiatives Grant funding in 2008-09 and up to £1.78 million in 2009-10, in respect of the schools that continue to qualify. Other than this, we have not yet decided what additional funding will be spent on walking to school initiatives in each of the next five years.

### Transport: West Yorkshire

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what transport information projects in West Yorkshire have been undertaken under funding schemes sponsored by his Department in each year since its creation. [238536]

**Paul Clark:** Capital investment in local transport information projects is largely supported through the integrated transport block, which the Department for Transport allocates to support local transport plans. The funding is not ring-fenced to specific types of project, and the Department no longer monitors detailed implementation of information projects which are the responsibility of local authorities.

West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority have nevertheless reported the following examples of travel information schemes funded over the 2006-08 period:

Real-time passenger information text messaging;

£3.3 million funding for Disability Discrimination Act compliant rail passenger information screens;

A website for Leeds cyclists providing information, maps and an interactive discussion forum;

A Leeds travel information website providing information ranging from details of road works to CCTV images;

In Wakefield development is under way of a travel information website with details of the Street Works Register, which will include highway authority works, events, road closures, skips etc. plus Highway Agency information on the motorway network.

West Yorkshire also benefits from a number of centrally funded travel information projects, such as Transport Direct, which went live in 2004.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research has been conducted by his Department on the comparative pricing of alcoholic drinks in supermarkets and licensed premises. [236796]

**Mr. Thomas:** None. The prices an enterprise charges for its products is a commercial matter for the enterprise concerned. Enterprises such as restaurants, pubs and clubs selling alcohol for consumption on their premises are likely to have different cost bases and business models to off licences, shops and supermarkets that sell alcohol for home consumption. Such differences are likely to be reflected in the prices charged to customers.

### Competition: Food Supply

**Andrew George:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the Competition Commission's proposed remedies set out in Chapter 11 of its report into the grocery sector. [238500]

**Mr. Thomas:** There have been no such meetings. The Competition Commission recommended that DEFRA and BERR should consider the introduction of appropriate measures, including the extension of the Groceries Supply Code of Practice (GSCOP) and the role of the ombudsman or the introduction of a similar, complementary code and arrangements to cover the intermediaries and primary producers. The Government response to chapter 11 was clear in that they would want to see how any change impacts on the operation of the supply chain before considering whether any further action might be necessary.

### Corruption

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what contribution his Department is making to cross-departmental anti-corruption initiatives. [235161]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform provide the Secretariat to Anti-Corruption Champion, Jack Straw. The Secretariat co-ordinate cross-departmental anti-corruption work and provide the UK delegation to the OECD Bribery Working Group.

BERR provides funding support for the City of London Police's Overseas Anti-Corruption Unit. The Department is also responsible for Global Compact in the UK and has lead responsibility for the UK National Contact Point which implements and promotes the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

BERR also have responsibility for raising business awareness and training of Government officials here and abroad. UKTI Defence and Security Organisation continues to encourage the adoption of Common Industry Standards by defence manufacturers and aerospace companies.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237411]

**Mr. McFadden:** This Departments catering contract is let on a commercial basis. The kitchen area is provided at no charge under the terms of the contract.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much surplus land *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies own; and what the (i) area and (ii) estimated monetary value of each site is. [236435]

**Mr. McFadden:** No surplus land is owned by BERR.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

### Departmental Official Visits

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228788]

**Mr. McFadden:** £1,142,183 was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within this Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months (October 2007-September 2008). This includes both UK and overseas accommodation.

These data are obtained from the Department's hotel booking agent and its travel agent. The figures will not include any accommodation bookings made outside of these arrangements as this information is not centrally captured.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small- and medium-sized businesses were paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [226496]

**Mr. McFadden:** BERR's payment performance for 2007-08 is reported in the Department's Annual Report and Resource Accounts:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file40578.pdf

(May 2008). Our agencies have their own finance systems and BERR therefore does not have information on their performance.

BERR does not currently publish information about size of suppliers as this does not fully reflect the number and size of businesses engaged in supplying to Government. We do not discriminate by size of business because many SMEs can be found within larger supply chains.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced during Prime Minister's questions on 8 October 2008 Government are moving to make payment of invoices as soon as possible and within 10 days. In 2007-08 BERR (excluding its agencies, who report separately) paid 58 per cent. of invoices (by volume) within 10 days and the Department is working to improve this as soon as possible. We also currently encourage our leading suppliers to pass on our credit terms and will be working with them to reduce payment times along the entire supply chain.

### Departmental Security

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) agencies sponsored by his Department in each year since 2001. [228895]

**Mr. McFadden:** The number of lost BERR identity passes and those of its predecessor each year since 2001 are set out in the following table. There is nothing on a pass which indicates which buildings or organisations it gives access to.

Specific guidance on safeguarding passes is issued to the individual pass holder with each pass. Lost passes are often found and returned to the Department via an anonymous PO Box number, through an arrangement we have with the Royal Mail.

Lost passes are recorded as a breach of security against the pass holder.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House agencies and we will place copies of their letters in the Libraries of the House.

| *March to February* | *Passes—lost and stolen* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 98 |
| 2002 | 80 |
| 2003 | 125 |
| 2004 | 120 |
| 2005 | 101 |
| 2006 | 67 |
| 2007 | 32 |
| 2008 to date | 22 |

### Fuel Poverty

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criteria will be used to select fuel-poor areas under the Home Energy Saving Programme; and what the average size of such areas will be. [236757]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

The policy detail of the Community Energy Savings Programme is currently under discussion with stakeholders. The Government will undertake a formal consultation and will seek views on these issues. It would therefore be inappropriate to pre-empt the outcome of this consultation.

### Grocery Trade

**Andrew George:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what meetings he has had since 1 May 2008 at which the Competition Commission market investigation into the supply of groceries in the UK was discussed. [238156]

**Mr. Thomas:** BERR Ministers and officials frequently have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery on a range of issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Home Energy Saving Programme

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what arrangements are in place to fund measures to be introduced under the Home Energy Saving Programme. [236758]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

The increase to the Carbon Emission Reduction Target and the Community Energy Saving Programme will be funded by a proposed obligation on energy suppliers and a new obligation on electricity generators.

Further investment in Warm Front and the increase in cold weather payments are being funded by an additional £90 million of Government expenditure.

### Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations his Department has received from urban regeneration companies on the effect of changes in empty property business rates. [236520]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has received one written representation, dated 10 October, from the Urban Regeneration Companies on the impact of empty property rates.

### Performance Appraisal

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235232]

**Mr. McFadden:** For the reporting year 2007-08, the latest year for which figures are available, two staff in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report.

### Post Offices

**Andrew George:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what procedures his Department has put in place to enable people in a local community to apply for the opening of a new post office. [237792]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government have encouraged Post Office Ltd. to talk to any local authority or community organisation who may wish to fund a local operator to provide Post Office services. Post Office Ltd. has put in place a process for responding to any serious expressions of interest in maintaining post office service provision received.

### Public Houses: Closures

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of trends in the rate of closure of public houses; and if he will make a statement. [232780]

**Mr. Thomas:** BERR does not collate this information.

### Regional Development Agencies: Finance

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on *(a)* training and conferences, *(b)* consultancy fees, *(c)* general expenses and *(d)* publications by (i) the North West Regional Development Agency, (ii) One North East, (iii) Yorkshire Forward, (iv) Advantage West Midlands, (v) the East Midlands Development Agency, (vi) the East of England Development Agency, (vii) the South West of England Development Agency, (viii) the South East of England Development Agency and (ix) the London Development Agency in each financial year since their creation; and if he will make a statement. [226755]

**Mr. McFadden:** The RDAs retain records of the last six years. To provide records before this period will incur disproportionate costs. The following tables show RDA figures for 2002-03 to 2007-08.

*RDA expenditure on training and conferences*

£000

| *RDA* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AWM | 223 | 204 | 206 | 212 | 165 | 144 |
| EEDA | 225 | 177 | 82 | 205 | 42 | 192 |
| EMDA | 137 | 162 | 144 | 176 | 208 | 226 |
| LDA | [1]0 | [1]0 | 361 | 560 | 877 | 738 |
| NWDA | 486 | 687 | 445 | 193 | 332 | 619 |
| ONE | 176 | 208 | 396 | 543 | 458 | 417 |
| SEEDA | 421 | 533 | 295 | 299 | 404 | 503 |
| SWRDA | 146 | 106 | 115 | 219 | [2]397 | 449 |
| YF | 848 | 703 | 690 | 735 | 510 | 373 |

[1] LDA had different financial recording systems in 2002 and 2003. To provide expenditure on training and conferences would incur disproportionate cost.

[2] As part of SWRDA's Independent Performance Assessment improvement plan, which was signed off by the National Audit Office, the agency provided increased levels of training related to leadership and management for staff in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

*RDA Expenditure on consultancy fees*[1]

£000

| RDA | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AWM | 572 | 453 | 672 | 496 | 247 | 312 |
| EEDA[2] | 449 | 282 | 226 | 714 | 563 | 453 |
| EMDA | 621 | 295 | 149 | 228 | 148 | 347 |
| LDA | [3]0 | [3]0 | 335 | 479 | [4]2,062 | [4]1,529 |
| NWDA | 874 | 815 | 792 | 535 | 518 | 833 |
| ONE | 183 | 146 | 200 | 309 | 197 | 181 |
| SEEDA | 110 | 80 | 125 | 98 | 120 | 66 |
| SWRDA | 527 | 431 | 648 | 557 | 281 | 316 |
| YF | 180 | 270 | 296 | 194 | 228 | 390 |

[1] Consultancy fees have been defined as expenditure on services commissioned by the RDA to inform the management of the agency, organisational development, strategy, communicating and marketing. It excludes services for specific programme delivery.
[2] In 2007-08, the figure includes a £144,000 contribution to NWDA for the RDA Evaluation Project.
[3] LDA had different financial recording systems in 2002 and 2003. To provide expenditure on consultancy fees for these years would incur disproportionate cost.
[4] Increased consultancy fees can be explained through a need to quickly ramp up capacity alongside increased agency spending levels. This is particularly applies to the Olympic Bid, Olympic Land Assembly and on other major capital projects such as Wembley Stadium.

*RDA general expenses*[1]

£

| RDA | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AWM | 6,457 | 7,259 | 6,908 | 6,357 | 5,297 | 5,296 |
| EEDA | 3,664 | 4,037 | 4,679 | 5,324 | 5,582 | 6,152 |
| EMDA | 5,611 | 6,027 | 6,106 | 6,779 | 6,303 | 6,316 |
| LDA[2] | 8,387 | 4,020 | 13,514 | 11,628 | 15,072 | 9,683 |
| NWDA | 33,347 | 45,775 | [3]14,846 | 16,723 | 19,520 | 13,707 |
| ONE | 9,689 | 9,736 | 8,879 | 8,880 | 9,434 | 6,180 |
| SEEDA | 6,941 | 7,519 | 7,525 | 6,998 | 7,091 | 6,729 |
| SWRDA | 8,132 | 8,378 | 7,806 | 8,855 | 9,527 | 8,475 |
| YF | 6,604 | 7,317 | 6,918 | 7,063 | [4]5,770 | [4]9,306 |

[1] General expenses include all administrative expenditure, excluding staff costs.
[2] General expenses have been calculated as LDA's policy and programme support spend less staffing costs.
[3] The methodology for measuring general expenses changed after 2003-04. The main reason for the fall in general expenses from 2003-04 levels to those of 2004-05 and onwards is that expenditure on professional fees related to delivery and developments of projects and programmes which had been included in general expenses, has since been included in expenditure on front line delivery.
[4] Due to a change in accounting policy, the 2007-08 figures for General Expenses include costs incurred by subsidiaries of YF to the value of £3,178k. In 2006-07, costs incurred by the same subsidiaries did not have to be included or combined with those of YF and as such the figures for 2006-07 appear lower than those of 2007-08. For comparison purposes, the General Expenses incurred in 2006-07 by Yorkshire Forward's subsidiaries amounted to £3,616k.

*RDA Expenditure on publications*[1]

£000

| RDA | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AWM | 17 | 31 | 31 | 51 | 26 | [2]89 |
| EEDA | 49 | 47 | 32 | 50 | 102 | 99 |
| EMDA | 166 | 105 | 87 | 117 | 142 | 93 |
| LDA | [3]41 | [3]278 | 239 | 422 | 266 | 192 |
| NWDA | 57 | 62 | 112 | 84 | 100 | 145 |
| ONE | 82 | 126 | 166 | 319 | 424 | 274 |
| SEEDA | 16 | 19 | 64 | 58 | 41 | 62 |
| SWRDA | 220 | 235 | 163 | 43 | 49 | 20 |
| YF | 22 | 8 | 24 | 60 | 30 | 35 |

[1] Publications have been defined as corporate publications. It excludes ad hoc internal publications.
[2] This figure relates to activity on the agency's land and property portfolio.
[3] Figures for 2002-03 and 2003-04 include programme costs.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the administrative budget is of each of the regional development agencies in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [236756]

**Mr. McFadden:** The following table shows the administrative budget of each regional development agency in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

£000

| RDA | Administration budget 2008-09 | Indicative allocation administration budget 2009-10 |
|---|---|---|
| AWM | 24,491 | 24,036 |
| EEDA | 16,968 | 16,854 |
| EMDA | 18,934 | 18,687 |
| LDA | 43,707 | 42,559 |
| NWDA | 38,378 | 37,459 |
| ONE | 28,149 | 27,354 |
| SEEDA | 24,109 | 23,424 |
| SWRDA | 26,414 | 25,445 |
| YF | 24,973 | 24,512 |

## Regional Development Agency National Secretariat

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budget of the Regional Development Agency National Secretariat is for 2008-09. [236080]

**Mr. McFadden:** The budgeted expenditure forecast for 2008-09 is £690,000.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the Regional Development Agency National Secretariat has spent on *(a)* external public relations or marketing companies or consultants and *(b)* external public affairs companies or consultants in the last period for which figures are available. [236083]

**Mr. McFadden:** The regional development agencies national secretariat expenditure on:

*(a)* External public relations or marketing companies or consultants is nil.

*(b)* External public affairs companies or consultants is £29,307.

## Trade: Turks and Caicos Islands

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the monetary value of trade between the UK and the Turks and Caicos Islands in each of the last three years. [238231]

**Mr. Thomas:** Data on recorded trade in goods with the Turks and Caicos Islands are shown in the following table:

£ million

| | UK exports of goods to Turks and Caicos | UK imports of goods from Turks and Caicos |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 3.15 | 0.03 |
| 2006 | 2.24 | 0.10 |
| 2007 | 2.54 | 0.02 |

*Source:*
HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics

Estimates of trade in services are not available for the full three years. ONS data published in the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book 2008 were:

| | £ million | |
|---|---|---|
| | *UK exports of services to Turks and Caicos* | *UK imports of services from Turks and Caicos* |
| 2006 | 15 | 7 |
| 2007 | 16 | 8 |

### Fuels: Price

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what dates since 1 May 1997 his Department has re-evaluated its oil price projections for 2020; and what the projected figure was on each date. [213489]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 24 June 2008]:* The following table shows assumptions published by BERR for the crude oil price in dollars per barrel, listed in terms of 2007 prices for consistency. Prior to 2000 fossil fuel prices were projected on a less frequent basis so a 1995 assumption is provided.

Projections of the oil price are made for the purpose of providing assumptions to be used in modelling work within the Department, with the focus on long-term sustainable prices and a range of plausible outcomes. The price assumptions are consistent with similar forecasts made at the time. The current projections are compiled following a Call for Evidence and reflect feedback from stakeholders. BERR has committed to updating these projections roughly twice a year.

Table: Oil price projections for 2020 ($/barrel) in low, central and high scenarios. For comparison all figures have been inflated to 2007 prices using the ONS GDP deflator.

| *Publication and date assumption made* | *Low* | *Central* | *High* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Energy Paper 65 (March 1995) | 24.3 | — | 56.8 |
| Energy Paper 68 (November 2000) | 12.2 | — | 24.4 |
| EU Emissions Trading scheme—National allocation Plan (November 2004) | — | 30.7 | — |
| Updated Fossil Fuel—Price Assumptions (August 2005) | 27.1 | 37.9 | 48.7 |
| Energy Review (July 2006) | 21.2 | 47.7 | 76.3 |
| Energy White paper (May 2007) | 25.8 | 54.7 | 82.5 |
| Updated Fossil Fuel—Price Assumptions (March 2008) | 45.0 | 70.0 | [1]95.0 |
| | | | [2]150.0 |

[1] High scenario
[2] High-high scenario

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Assistant Regional Ministers

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) to what office *(a)* staff and *(b)* resources assistant regional ministers are entitled; whether they will have the use of a Government car; and what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of assistant regional ministers; [231272]

(2) if he will revise the Ministerial Code to take account of the establishment of the post of assistant regional minister; if he will arrange for such assistant ministers to be replaced on select committees to which they have been appointed; and what guidance he has issued to such assistant ministers on their tabling of questions and early-day motions. [231273]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* Parliamentary assistants to regional ministers have a key role in supporting regional ministers in their work for the Council of Regional Ministers. However, they are not members of the Government and as such receive no remuneration for the role. Nor are they allocated a Government car, office or staff. Membership of Select Committees and the tabling of parliamentary questions and early-day motions is principally a matter for the House. There are no plans to amend the Ministerial Code.

### Cardiovascular Diseases: Death

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of all deaths in each region were from circulation diseases in the latest period for which figures are available. [238463]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many and what proportion of all deaths in each region were from circulation diseases in the latest period for which figures are available. (238463)

The table attached provides the number of deaths, and per cent of all deaths, with an underlying cause of circulatory disease in each Government Office Region for 2007 (the latest year available).

*Table 1. Number of deaths, and per cent. of all deaths, with an underlying cause of circulatory disease, by government office region, England, 2007[1, 2]*

*Persons*

| *Government office region* | *Number of deaths* | *Percentage of all deaths* |
|---|---|---|
| North East | 8,734 | 33 |
| North West | 24,192 | 34 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 16,784 | 33 |
| East Midlands | 13,832 | 33 |
| West Midlands | 17,007 | 33 |
| East of England | 17,425 | 34 |
| London | 16,743 | 33 |
| South East | 25,763 | 34 |
| South West | 18,127 | 34 |

[1] Cause of death for circulatory disease was defined using the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes 100-199.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in 2007.

### Death: Drugs

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1474W, on drugs: death, if he will ask the UK Statistics Authority to break down the information given by *(a)* age and *(b)* country. [236958]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking pursuant to the Answer of 16th October 2008, Official Report, column 1474W, on drugs: death, to break down the information given by (a) age and (b) country. (236958)

The table attached provides the numbers of deaths for which the underlying cause was drug poisoning, where any drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate, for males and females broken down by (a) age group and (b) country in England and Wales from 1997 to 2007 (the latest year available).

*Table 1: Number of deaths from drug misuse[1], males and females, by age group, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[2, 3]*

*Deaths*

| | *Males* | | | | | | *Females* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *≤20* | *20-29* | *30-39* | *40-49* | *50-69* | *70+* | *≤20* | *20-29* | *30-39* | *40-49* | *50-69* | *70+* |
| *England* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 64 | 424 | 287 | 134 | 50 | 20 | 14 | 76 | 46 | 43 | 37 | 38 |
| 1998 | 71 | 421 | 366 | 174 | 41 | 19 | 22 | 73 | 84 | 49 | 40 | 29 |
| 1999 | 70 | 448 | 478 | 170 | 62 | 24 | 18 | 76 | 74 | 35 | 39 | 44 |
| 2000 | 49 | 428 | 461 | 229 | 64 | 19 | 20 | 63 | 63 | 46 | 37 | 31 |
| 2001 | 52 | 467 | 503 | 235 | 69 | 36 | 18 | 90 | 84 | 59 | 42 | 42 |
| 2002 | 44 | 446 | 452 | 154 | 71 | 15 | 20 | 76 | 77 | 59 | 56 | 31 |
| 2003 | 34 | 314 | 419 | 177 | 56 | 18 | 13 | 66 | 84 | 50 | 48 | 34 |
| 2004 | 24 | 322 | 454 | 191 | 100 | 19 | 17 | 79 | 74 | 60 | 46 | 29 |
| 2005 | 25 | 315 | 482 | 230 | 109 | 21 | 12 | 62 | 96 | 78 | 50 | 26 |
| 2006 | 32 | 309 | 446 | 256 | 96 | 22 | 13 | 65 | 88 | 54 | 60 | 28 |
| 2007 | 22 | 314 | 458 | 281 | 104 | 15 | 12 | 55 | 90 | 61 | 44 | 23 |
| *Wales* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 9 | 21 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| 1998 | 2 | 26 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| 1999 | 3 | 24 | 15 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 2000 | 4 | 21 | 27 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 2001 | 4 | 34 | 26 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| 2002 | 5 | 29 | 20 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 2003 | 6 | 37 | 34 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 2004 | 0 | 18 | 22 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 2005 | 4 | 18 | 35 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| 2006 | 3 | 24 | 34 | 11 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| 2007 | 3 | 24 | 33 | 14 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 5 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes are shown in the following table) and where a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate.
[2] Figures exclude deaths of non-residents. There were 163 deaths of non-residents from drug misuse in the period 1997 to 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

| *ICD-10* | *ICD-9* | *Description* |
|---|---|---|
| F11-F16, F18-F19 | 292, 304, 305.2-305.9 | Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco) |
| X40-X44 | E850-E858 | Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances |
| X60-X64 | E950.0-E950.5 | Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances |
| X85 | E962.0 | Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances |
| Y10-Y14 | E980.0-E980.5 | Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent |

## Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) whether food and drink on sale to staff of the Prime Minister's Office at official premises is subsidised from public funds; [237424]

(2) whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237428]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

There is no subsidy from public funds of food and drink on sale to Cabinet Office staff at official premises.

## Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many external consultants work for the Prime Minister's Office. [236648]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office and therefore information on external consultants working for the Prime Minister's Office cannot be separated.

The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years; [237323]

(2) how many full-time equivalent staff in the Prime Minister's Office assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237501]

**Kevin Brennan:** One civil servant supports the special adviser in the Department, providing administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the provisions of the 'Code of Conduct for Special Advisers'. Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned.

The position in relation to No. 10 was set out in the reply given by the then Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Edward Miliband) to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1082-83W.

## Departmental Research

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what research reports the Cabinet Office has commissioned from external bodies in the last 24 months. [233366]

**Kevin Brennan:** Cabinet Office units regularly commission research reports from external bodies, relating to areas of Cabinet Office responsibility.

The Department does not hold a central record of all research reports commissioned from external bodies in the last 24 months.

## Employment

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his latest estimate is of the number of *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* non-UK EU nationals and *(c)* non-EU nationals who were in (i) full-time employment and (ii) part-time employment in the UK in each year since 1995; and what the percentage rate of change was for UK nationals in each type of employment as a proportion of the UK working age population in each of those years. [236964]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the latest estimate is of the number of *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* non-UK EU nationals and *(c)* non-EU nationals who were in (i) full-time employment and (ii) part-time employment in the UK in each year since 1995; and what the percentage rate of change was for UK nationals in each type of employment as a proportion of the UK working age population in each of those years. (236964)

The attached tables give the number of people of working age in employment for the categories requested, from July-September 1995 to July-September 2008.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

*Table 1: Employment levels for people of working age[1], by nationality[2] and working pattern Three months ending July to September, 1995 to 2008: United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

| | UK | | Other EU[2] | | Non-EU | | Total[3] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Full-time | Part-time | Full-time | Part time | Full-time | Part-time | Full-time | Part-time | Total[4] |
| 1995 | 18,779 | 5,574 | 296 | 84 | 360 | 108 | 19,663 | 6,329 | 25,998 |
| 1996 | 18,799 | 5,771 | 292 | 78 | 364 | 111 | 19,680 | 6,511 | 26,200 |
| 1997 | 19,058 | 5,867 | 320 | 93 | 431 | 121 | 20,033 | 6,671 | 26,707 |
| 1998 | 19,310 | 5,873 | 345 | 94 | 441 | 131 | 20,312 | 6,652 | 26,969 |
| 1999 | 19,529 | 6,000 | 342 | 81 | 471 | 116 | 20,568 | 6,778 | 27,351 |
| 2000 | 19,570 | 6,141 | 358 | 88 | 540 | 161 | 20,692 | 6,984 | 27,685 |
| 2001 | 19,750 | 6,007 | 378 | 88 | 569 | 180 | 20,926 | 6,905 | 27,839 |
| 2002 | 19,602 | 6,221 | 386 | 74 | 657 | 187 | 20,900 | 7,115 | 28,026 |
| 2003 | 19,740 | 6,243 | 378 | 97 | 688 | 212 | 21,079 | 7,241 | 28,331 |
| 2004[5] | 19,812 | 6,298 | 445 | 110 | 717 | 198 | 21,259 | 7,306 | 28,583 |
| 2005 | 20,063 | 6,202 | 544 | 113 | 751 | 214 | 21,682 | 7,263 | 28,960 |
| 2006 | 19,883 | 6,191 | 644 | 109 | 907 | 254 | 21,791 | 7,374 | 29,178 |
| 2007[6] | 19,888 | 6,124 | 820 | 149 | 884 | 267 | 21,988 | 7,375 | 29,382 |
| 2008[7] | *19,787 | *6,102 | *883 | **162 | *950 | **290 | 22,032 | 7,455 | 29,533 |

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59

[2] Other EU comprises Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden from 1995 to 2003.

[3] Includes those who did not state their nationality.

[4] Includes those who did not state whether they were in full-time or part-time employment.

[5] Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia joined the EU on 1 May 2004 and are included from 2004 onwards.

[6] Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU on 1 January 2007 and are included from 2007 onwards.

[7] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described as follows:

*Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

*Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness*

* 0 = CV≤5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV ≤10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV ≤20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

*Note:*

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

*Source:*

Labour Force Survey

*Table 2: UK nationals as a percentage of all working age[1] people in employment, by working pattern three months ending July to September, 1995 to 2008: United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

| | Percentage share | |
|---|---|---|
| | Full-time | Part-time |
| 1995 | 95 | 88 |
| 1996 | 96 | 89 |
| 1997 | 95 | 88 |
| 1998 | 95 | 88 |
| 1999 | 95 | 89 |
| 2000 | 95 | 88 |
| 2001 | 94 | 87 |
| 2002 | 94 | 87 |
| 2003 | 94 | 86 |
| 2004 | 93 | 86 |
| 2005 | 93 | 85 |
| 2006 | 91 | 84 |
| 2007 | 90 | 83 |
| 2008 | 90 | 82 |

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.

*Note:*

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

## Foreign Workers

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hertsmere of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1428-30W, on foreign workers: EU nationals, what the *(a)* number of people of working age in employment, *(b)* working age population and *(c)* working age population employment rate of (i) the UK, (ii) UK citizens, (iii) UK-born citizens, (iv) non-UK citizens and (v) EU A8 citizens was (A) in each year between 1997 and 2001 and (B) in each quarter of 2008 for which figures are available. [238571]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Hertsmere of 17th January 2008, Official Report, columns 1428-30W, on foreign workers: EU nationals, what the (a) number of people of working age in employment, (b) working age population and (c) working age population employment rate of (i) the UK, (ii) UK citizens, (iii) UK born citizens, (iv) non-UK citizens and (v) EU A8 citizens was (A) in each year between 1997 and 2001 and (B) in each quarter of 2008 for which figures are available. (238571)

The attached tables give the number of people of working age for the categories requested.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The figures have been derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in September 2007. These population estimates were incorporated in to the LFS in May 2008; as such the estimates provided to the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 17 January 2008 have been revised. In order to ensure that the estimates are comparable, revised figures for the period 2001 to 2007 have also been provided. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

As the figures have been derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007, they are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, or the migrant worker figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

*Levels of working age[1] people, by nationality and country of birth; three months ending June 1997 to 2001; three months ending March, June and September 2008—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

| | | | | | Thousand |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total UK[2] | UK nationals | UK born | Non-UK nationals[3] | EU A8 nationals[4] |
| 1997 Q2 | 35,297 | 33,729 | 32,256 | 1,566 | 20 |
| 1998 Q2 | 35,418 | 33,696 | 32,238 | 1,718 | 31 |
| 1999 Q2 | 35,594 | 33,939 | 32,401 | 1,655 | 26 |
| 2000 Q2 | 35,800 | 33,959 | 32,451 | 1,834 | 43 |
| 2001 Q2 | 36,060 | 34,140 | 32,601 | 1,915 | 47 |
| 2002 Q2 | 36,279 | 34,242 | 32,643 | 2,034 | 47 |
| 2003 Q2 | 36,482 | 34,315 | 32,623 | 2,166 | 53 |
| 2004 Q2 | 36,730 | 34,457 | 32,771 | 2,266 | 79 |
| 2005 Q2 | 37,055 | 34,588 | 32,842 | 2,461 | 172 |
| 2006 Q2 | 37,342 | 34,635 | 32,756 | 2,702 | 305 |
| 2007 Q2 | 37,556 | 34,438 | 32,560 | 3,095 | 525 |
| 2008 Q1 | 37,708 | 34,440 | 32,530 | 3,256 | 602 |
| 2008 Q2 | 37,758 | 34,462 | 32,516 | 3,287 | 590 |
| 2008 Q3[5] | *37,808 | *34,498 | *32,535 | *3,283 | *599 |

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

[2] Includes those whose nationality or country of birth was not known.

[3] Excludes those whose nationality was not known.

[4] EU A8 comprises Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

[5] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described as follows:

*Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

*Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) Statistical Robustness*

* 0 = CV ≤ 5 Estimates are considered precise.

** 5 = CV ≤ 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** 10 = CV ≤ 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

*Note:*

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.).

*Source:*

Labour Force Survey

*Employment levels for people of working age[1], by nationality and country of birth, three months ending June 1997 to 2001; three months ending March, June and September 2008—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

*Thousand*

| | *Total UK[2]* | *UK nationals* | *UK born* | *Non-UK nationals[3]* | *EU A8 nationals[4]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 Q2 | 25,631 | 24,686 | 23,710 | 943 | 13 |
| 1998 Q2 | 25,858 | 24,821 | 23,845 | 1,036 | 17 |
| 1999 Q2 | 26,206 | 25,212 | 24,173 | 993 | 14 |
| 2000 Q2 | 26,564 | 25,456 | 24,438 | 1,108 | 27 |
| 2001 Q2 | 26,810 | 25,629 | 24,594 | 1,179 | 29 |
| 2002 Q2 | 26,967 | 25,701 | 24,611 | 1,264 | 29 |
| 2003 Q2 | 27,201 | 25,843 | 24,692 | 1,358 | 29 |
| 2004 Q2 | 27,354 | 25,883 | 24,762 | 1,469 | 63 |
| 2005 Q2 | 27,607 | 26,032 | 24,849 | 1,572 | 141 |
| 2006 Q2 | 27,775 | 25,938 | 24,670 | 1,837 | 252 |
| 2007 Q2 | 27,895 | 25,784 | 24,508 | 2,103 | 431 |
| 2008 Q1 | 28,131 | 25,870 | 24,547 | 2,254 | 500 |
| 2008 Q2 | 28,152 | 25,882 | 24,532 | 2,266 | 498 |
| 2008 Q3[5] | *28,214 | *25,928 | *24,580 | *2,279 | **504 |

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
[2] Includes those whose nationality or country of birth was not known.
[3] Excludes those whose nationality was not known.
[4] EU A8 comprises Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
[5] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described as follows:
*Guide to Quality:*
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) Statistical Robustness
* 0 = CV ≤ 5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 = CV≤10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 = CV ≤ 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.
*Note:*
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.).
*Source:*
Labour Force Survey

*Employment rates for people of working age[1], by nationality and country of birth, three months ending June 1997 to 2001; three months ending March, June and September 2008—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

*Percentage*

| | *Total UK[2]* | *UK nationals* | *UK born* | *Non-UK nationals[3]* | *EU A8 nationals[4]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 Q2 | 73 | 73 | 74 | 60 | 65 |
| 1998 Q2 | 73 | 74 | 74 | 60 | 54 |
| 1999 Q2 | 74 | 74 | 75 | 60 | 56 |
| 2000 Q2 | 74 | 75 | 75 | 60 | 63 |
| 2001 Q2 | 74 | 75 | 75 | 62 | 62 |
| 2002 Q2 | 74 | 75 | 75 | 62 | 60 |
| 2003 Q2 | 75 | 75 | 76 | 63 | 55 |
| 2004 Q2 | 75 | 75 | 76 | 65 | 79 |
| 2005 Q2 | 75 | 75 | 76 | 64 | 82 |
| 2006 Q2 | 74 | 75 | 75 | 68 | 83 |
| 2007 Q2 | 74 | 75 | 75 | 68 | 82 |
| 2008 Q1 | 75 | 75 | 76 | 69 | 83 |
| 2008 Q2 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 69 | 85 |
| 2008 Q3 | 75 | 75 | 76 | 69 | 84 |

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
[2] Includes those whose nationality or country of birth was not known.
[3] Excludes those whose nationality was not known.
[4] EU A8 comprises Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
*Source:*
Labour Force Survey

## Futurebuilders

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much Futurebuilders has spent in payments to the charity Catz Club; and what the *(a)* amount and *(b)* date was of each payment made. [233371]

**Mr. Byrne:** The payments made to Catz Club by Futurebuilders are set out in the following table.

*Catz Club payments*

| | *Facility type* | *Amount drawn (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 30 April 2005 | Capital Grant | 34,000 |
| 30 April 2005 | Loan | 200,000 |
| 16 June 2005 | Capital Grant | 34,000 |
| 16 June 2005 | Loan | 350,000 |
| 5 September2005 | Capital Grant | 34,000 |
| 5 September 2005 | Loan | 350,000 |
| 9 November 2005 | Capital Grant | 17,000 |
| 9 November 2005 | Loan | 225,000 |
| 19 December 2005 | Capital Grant | 17,000 |
| 19 December 2005 | Loan | 225,000 |
| 17 February 2006 | Capital Grant | 34,000 |
| 17 February 2006 | Loan | 16,000 |
| Total | | 1,536,000 |

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for what reasons Futurebuilders ended its contract with the charity Catz Club. [233372]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Futurebuilders Programme is run by Futurebuilders England Ltd. (FBE) under contract to the Cabinet Office. The termination of their relationship is subject to a confidentiality agreement between FBE and Catz Club.

## Office of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff the Office of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman had in each of the last three years; and what the Office's budget was in each such year. [236445]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman is an independent statutory office holder. The ombudsman publishes details of staff numbers and budgets in her annual report which is laid before Parliament in accordance with Section 10(4) of the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967. Copies of the ombudsman's annual reports are available in the Libraries of the House.

## Productivity

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the productivity level per worker was in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [238462]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what productivity level per worker was in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. (238462)

The Office for National Statistics does not produce output per worker estimates at a regional level. Output per worker productivity estimates are only available at the UK level with base year 2003=100. Annual productivity statistics at Government Office Region are available for gross value added (GVA) per hour, GVA per job and GVA per head. These are produced with the base being UK=100.

Table 1 attached provides estimates of the index value with UK=100 of GVA per filled job at Government Office Region level for 2006.

*Table 1*

| *Region* | *GVA per filled job* |
|---|---|
| *United Kingdom* | 100.0 |
| North East | 91.6 |
| North West | 90.5 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 89.1 |
| East Midlands | 97.1 |
| West Midlands | 91.1 |
| East | 97.2 |
| London | 129.3 |
| South East | 107.1 |
| South West | 94.1 |
| England | 101.7 |
| Wales | 86.2 |
| Scotland | 94.9 |
| Northern Ireland | 87.1 |

## Unemployed

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Vale of York constituency and *(b)* the UK who were unemployed for six months or more in each of the last five years. [237095]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about what estimate has been made of the number of people in (a) Vale of York constituency and (b) the UK who were unemployed for six months or more in each of the last five years (237095).

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of people aged 16+, resident in (a) the Vale of York constituency and (b) the UK who were unemployed for six months or more in each of the last five years. Estimates are provided for the 12 month period ending in February 2004 from the annual LFS, and for 12 month periods ending in March from 2005 to 2008 from the APS.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

*Table 1: Number of persons unemployed[1] for 6 months or more resident in (a) Vale of York and (b) UK in each of the last 5 years*

*Thousand*

| *12 months ending* | *York* | *UK* |
|---|---|---|
| February 2004 | [2]... | 524 |
| March 2005 | [2]... | 477 |
| March 2006 | [2]... | 561 |
| March 2007 | [2]... | 645 |
| March 2008[3] | [2]**** | [2]*645 |

[1] Levels of unemployment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality.

[3] Data not available or disclosure.

*Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 < CV ≤ 5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 < CV ≤ 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 < CV ≤ 20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

*Source:*

Annual Population Survey and annual Labour Force Survey

## V

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what funding his Department has provided for the charity v in the last five years; what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of volunteers created as a result of such funding and *(b)* the cost per volunteer created; and what assessment he has made of the effects of diversion and substitution of volunteers resulting from such funding on other charities. [236524]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Cabinet Office has provided £25,643,000 to v in 2006-07 and £47,175,000 in 2007-08.

*(a)* Up to the end of September 2008 v had created over 750,000 volunteering opportunities and approximately 251,000 had been completed by volunteers.

*(b)* Organisations that deliver projects under v involved, the national youth volunteering programme, were expected to apply for funding based on the following costs per volunteer:

| *Type of opportunity* | *Scale of cost per opportunity (£)* |
|---|---|
| Full-time—approximately 30 hours a week over a period of not less than 13 weeks | 3,000-5,000 |
| Part-time—a few hours per month up to two or three days per week | 500-1,500 |
| Short term—one off | 50-150 |

v aims to prioritise opportunities for a diverse range of young people including young people in or leaving care, offenders and ex-offenders and people with physical or learning disabilities. Volunteers from these groups can require more support which increases the cost per volunteer.

v is working with existing volunteer involving organisations to inspire a million more young volunteers. The volunteer opportunities that they have created will therefore improve the quantity as well as the quality of the opportunities that are being offered to young people.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Brussels

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on visits by its staff to Brussels in 2007-08; and how many such visits were made by *(a)* air and *(b)* rail. [239417]

**Mr. Khan:** The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Councillors: Isle of Wight

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Standards Board for England's investigation into six councillors on the Isle of Wight has cost. [237391]

**John Healey:** The investigation of these complex cases, which the Isle of Wight council's standards committee invited the Standards Board for England to investigate and which involve serious allegations against a number of councillors, is continuing. Hence, while the final costs have yet to be determined, the Standards Board assesses that some £35,000 in costs have been incurred to date.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237412]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department for Communities and Local Government does not subsidise the cost of food and drink to its staff.

Staff at the Fire Service College do receive free issue tea and coffee as part of the overall provision of refreshments to students attending courses.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in each year since her Department's inception; and if she will make a statement. [239068]

**Mr. Khan:** Figures for the Department and its agencies expenditure on external consultancy have been published in our Annual Reports for the last two financial years and can be found here:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/publications/corporate/annual-report07

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/annualreport08

Figure for earlier years and the Department's wider family of non-departmental bodies could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

The figure for professional services (excluding research) but including consultancy at the half year mark for the Department alone was £21,862,398 excluding VAT. Of this, Management and IT Consultancy was £20.2 million. Similar figures for agencies and non-departmental Government bodies could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department, its predecessor and its agencies have spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237436]

**Mr. Khan:** The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost by the Department.

The Fire Service College spent the following on flat screen TVs in the last three years but has not purchased any DVD players or stereo equipment:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2008 | 1,000 |
| 2007 | 9,000 |
| 2006 | 0 |

The other agencies, Ordnance Survey, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre and the Planning Inspectorate could supply this information only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Internet

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for which Government websites her Department is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [239036]

**Hazel Blears:** For information relating to costs and visitors relating to the Department's main website:

www.communities.gov.uk

I refer the right hon. Member to the answers given by the hon. Member for Gloucester to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 119W.

In addition, during the period April 2007 to March 2008, the Department maintained the websites tabled as follows:

| Website | 2007-08 cost (£) | 2007-08 unique visitors |
|---|---|---|
| www.skatersalespromo.gov.uk | 14,200.00 | 43,642 |
| www.homeandroadsafetypack.gov.uk | 72,295.00 | [1] |
| www.mysupersport.co.uk | 646.00 | 1,112 |
| www.iggi.gov.uk | 284.00 | 23,284 |
| www.toysupersport.co.uk | 646.00 | 46,593 |
| www.top13kidzgames.com | 165.00 | [1] |
| www.nhsd.org.uk | 376.00 | [1] |
| www.spkweb.org.uk | 14,160.00 | 177,681 |
| www.planningportal.gov.uk | 1,332,868.00 | 2,504,876 |
| www.spidermonkey.org.uk | 434,230.00 | [1] |
| www.mfrd4local.gov.uk | [1] | 596,056 |

[1] Not held in the format requested.

In line with the Government's Transformational Government Strategy to reduce the number of Government websites, some sites closed during the period in question. These sites are not included in the table. Where information is not held in the format required for the period in question, it could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press officers were employed in her Department in each year since 1997-98; what the total cost was in each year; and if she will make a statement. [239115]

**Mr. Khan:** For press office costs, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 580W.

For numbers of press officers, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 14W. For our predecessor Department, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the hon. Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) to the hon. Member for Sutton Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on 20 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1772W.

The hon. Member may also wish to refer to the White Book, published by COI. This is available in the Library of the House and contains a listing for members of the Department's Communications Directorate. The book is updated twice yearly.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [233459]

**Mr. Khan:** No staff are employed full-time on branding activity.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in each year since her Department's inception; and if she will make a statement. [236949]

**Mr. Khan:** Figures for public information campaigns in the financial year 2007-08 were published in the Department's Annual Report, which is available in the Library of the House and from the Department's website.

For figures relating to previous years, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Maidenhead, on 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 807W.

Figures for external agencies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff in her Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237321]

**Mr. Khan:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 874W.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press releases have been issued by her Department in each year since 1997-98; and if she will make a statement. [239064]

**Mr. Khan:** The Office of The Deputy Prime Minister was formed in May 2002. It issued the following number of press releases:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| May 2002 to 31 December 2002 | 162 |
| 1 January to 31 December 2003 | 283 |
| 1 January to 31 December 2004 | 332 |
| 1 January to 31 December 2005 | 287 |
| 1 January to May 2006 | 92 |

The Office of The Deputy Prime Minister was succeeded by the Department for Communities and Local Government in May 2006. It has issued the following number of press releases:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| May 2006 to 31 December 2006 | 185 |
| 1 January to 31 December 2007 | 266 |
| 1 January to 19 November 2008 | 275 |

### Fire Services: Manpower

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters per 100,000 residents there were in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* the West Midlands in each year since 1997. [237328]

**Mr. Khan:** Information on the number of firefighters per 100,000 population in Staffordshire and West Midlands fire service areas, is set out as follows.

*Firefighters per 100,000 population*

| | Staffordshire | West Midlands |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 80 | 78 |
| 1998-99 | 81 | 79 |
| 1999-2000 | 82 | 79 |
| 2000-01 | 83 | 79 |
| 2001-02 | 83 | 79 |
| 2002-03 | 85 | 77 |
| 2003-04 | 83 | 77 |
| 2004-05 | 83 | 76 |
| 2005-06 | 79 | 71 |
| 2006-07 | 80 | 74 |
| 2007-08 | 79 | 75 |

*Source:*
*Annual returns to Communities and Local Government*

**Homelessness**

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government have taken to assist the third sector in providing services to people who are homeless. [237267]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* In December 2007 we announced homelessness grant funding of at least £150 million over the next three years to support local authorities to tackle and prevent homelessness in their area. They, in turn, fund the voluntary sector. In addition, we have also allocated over £50 million of homelessness grant over three years directly to the voluntary sector. This £200 million investment is the biggest ever cash injection for homelessness services.

On 18 November we launched a new rough sleeping strategy "No One Left Out: communities ending rough sleeping" which is a 15 point action plan that sets out our vision to work with partners to end rough sleeping by 2012. This includes action to develop a community training programme for local community and faith-based groups who work with rough sleepers, to support these groups and to strengthen the skills and knowledge they need for their work. This will build on existing training resources already being delivered through the faith based and community sector.

We have also funded 258 projects through the £170 million Places of Change programme and its predecessor, which improve hostels and day centres used by rough sleepers through local authorities working in partnership with voluntary organisations.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to reduce levels of street homelessness in the west midlands. [237269]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* We have long recognised that the most visible form of homelessness is that of people sleeping on the streets. In 1998 the then Prime Minister set a target that by 2002 the number of rough sleepers should be reduced by at least two thirds. The target was met ahead of time and is being sustained.

Clearly there is more to be done to help those in need and to drive down rough sleeping numbers to as close to zero as possible. Therefore, on 18 November, we launched a new rough sleeping strategy "No One Left Out: communities ending rough sleeping" which is a 15 point action plan that sets out our vision to work with partners to end rough sleeping by 2012.

In addition, we have announced £200 million funding for local authorities and the voluntary sector over the next three years to help prevent homelessness and tackle rough sleeping. This is the biggest ever cash injection for homelessness services. We have also funded 258 projects through the £170 million Places of Change programme and its predecessor, with over £13 million invested in 16 projects in the west midlands.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will remind local authorities of their obligations to properly consider all the circumstances when people become homeless following repossession due to mortgage arrears and that a presumption of intentional homelessness is unlawful in such circumstances. [237253]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We are working closely with all English local housing authorities to assist them in providing advice and assistance to households threatened with homelessness as a result of mortgage repossession, in particular to help them prepare for implementation of the new £200 million mortgage rescue scheme announced on 2 September. This includes briefing local authorities, through a series of regional summits, on their obligations under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) to households who become homeless following repossession.

**Housing: Low Incomes**

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social housing tenants applying for a housing transfer did so on medical grounds in each of the last five years. [237260]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** This information is not available in the format requested.

**Housing: Planning**

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to assess housing demand when considering housing targets in Planning Policy Statement 3. [238565]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** 'Planning Policy Statement 3; Housing' requires that strategic housing market assessments be completed to establish the housing need and demand in an area. This evidence should be used to inform housing targets set in regional spatial strategies and local development documents.

**Local Government: Procurement**

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to promote the use of whole-life costing in local government procurement. [236825]

**John Healey:** Subject to their legal duties local authorities are responsible for taking their own procurement decisions. Existing guidance from Communities and Local Government states that for most best value contracts, awarding on the basis of 'lowest price' is unlikely to be satisfactory. The best value option will involve other factors such as whole life cost, quality and service delivery.

### Local Government: Telephone Services

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local councils operate free financial advice helplines. [237265]

**Mr. Khan:** The information requested is not held by Communities and Local Government.

### National Clearing House Scheme

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area have been brought under the National Clearing House scheme. [238704]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** In May, the Government announced a plan to take advantage of market opportunities to bring private sector developer stock into the affordable housing sector by providing £200 million of funding through the Housing Corporation's national Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) for the purchase of homes from house builders.

To help facilitate this, the Housing Corporation set up the National Clearing House to streamline initial assessment of national packages of at least 250 units from private sector house builders. Housing Corporation investment partners, mainly registered social landlords, wishing to buy smaller number of units from developers could bid for funding directly to the Corporation in the normal way.

A table showing the distribution of units purchased, and the grant allocated as at the beginning of November by the Corporation for the purchase, by local authority area and region has been deposited in the Library.

### Non-domestic Rates: Ports

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times the Valuation Office has increased the business rates in UK ports by *(a)* 50 per cent., *(b)* 75 per cent. and *(c)* 100 per cent. over the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [238153]

**John Healey:** Valuation officers are required to maintain accurate rating lists. When they become aware a change is needed through amendment of an existing entry or insertion of a new entry, they must make the alteration and specify the date from which the change is effective. They are not responsible for calculating actual rate liabilities or collecting amounts due, which are the responsibility of local (billing) authorities.

There are seven ports in England and Wales where proposed changes to the rating lists have been actioned and result in net increases in the aggregate rateable values for port operators and occupiers of 50 per cent. or more. Of these, one would increase by more than 75 per cent. and two by more than 100 per cent. Under rating legislation, operators and occupiers have rights of appeal against the respective valuation officers' proposals and so the final outcomes may vary.

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what change there has been in levels of business rates in the last 12 months; and what assessment she has made of the effect of that change on small and medium sized businesses based in ports. [238279]

**John Healey:** An assessment cannot be made of the impact on individual businesses as there are too many variables relating to business eligibility for rate relief, and any successful appeals to valuations.

### North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the *(a)* Government grant and *(b)* budget for North Yorkshire fire and rescue service has been in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in the last 20 years; and how much it is in 2008-09; [236562]

(2) what the percentage increase each year and cumulatively in the *(a)* Government grant and *(b)* overall budget of (i) North Yorkshire fire and rescue service and (ii) all fire and rescue services in England in (A) cash and (B) real terms was in each of the last 20 years; and what it was in 2008-09. [236563]

**Mr. Khan** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The net current expenditure on fire and rescue services for North Yorkshire fire and rescue service and England in cash and real terms since the establishment of North Yorkshire fire and rescue service in April 1996 are tabled as follows.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

Information for North Yorkshire fire and rescue service prior to 1996-97 is not available as this authority did not exist prior to April 1996.

*(A) Cash terms:*

*North Yorkshire fire and rescue service*

| | *Net current expenditure (non-FRS17)* | | | *Government grant* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *£000's* | *Year on year change (percentage)* | *Change from 1996-97 (percentage)* | *£000* | *Year on year change (percentage)* | *Change from 2004-05 (percentage)* |
| 1996-97 | 16,038 | | | | | |
| 1997-98 | 17,090 | 7 | 7 | | | |

*North Yorkshire fire and rescue service*

| | *Net current expenditure (non-FRS17)* | | | *Government grant* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *£000* | *Year on year change (percentage)* | *Change from 1996-97 (percentage)* | *£000* | *Year on year change (percentage)* | *Change from 2004-05 (percentage)* |
| 1998-99 | 17,449 | 2 | 9 | .. | .. | .. |
| 1999-2000 | 19,132 | 10 | 19 | .. | .. | .. |
| 2000-01 | 18,663 | -2 | 16 | .. | .. | .. |
| 2001-02 | 20,087 | 8 | 25 | .. | .. | .. |
| 2002-03 | 23,348 | 16 | 46 | .. | .. | .. |
| 2003-04 | 23,397 | 0 | 46 | .. | .. | .. |
| 2004-05 | 27,922 | 19 | 74 | 13,486 | .. | .. |
| 2005-06 | 28,359 | 2 | 77 | 14,221 | 5 | 5 |
| 2006-07 | 28,986 | 2 | 81 | 13,027 | -8 | -3 |
| 2007-08[1] | 32,802 | 13 | 105 | 13,361 | 3 | -1 |
| 2008-09[2] | 29,117 | -11 | 82 | 13,653 | 2 | 1 |

*England*

| | *Net current expenditure on all fire and rescue services (non FRS17)* | | | *Government grant* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *£000* | *Year on year change (percentage)* | *Change from 1996-97 (percentage)* | *£000* |
| 1996-97 | 1,280,636 | .. | .. | .. |
| 1997-98 | 1,337,224 | 4 | 4 | .. |
| 1998-99 | 1,402,342 | 5 | 10 | .. |
| 1999-2000 | 1,474,110 | 5 | 15 | .. |
| 2000-01 | 1,524,179 | 3 | 19 | .. |
| 2001-02 | 1,606,501 | 5 | 25 | .. |
| 2002-03 | 1,697,801 | 6 | 33 | .. |
| 2003-04 | 1,844,834 | 9 | 44 | .. |
| 2004-05 | 1,957,453 | 6 | 53 | .. |
| 2005-06 | 2,056,972 | 5 | 61 | .. |
| 2006-07 | 2,027,215 | -1 | 58 | .. |
| 2007-08[1] | 2,111,546 | 4 | 65 | .. |
| 2008-09[2] | 2,219,582 | 5 | 73 | .. |

***(B) Real terms (2007-08 prices):***

*North Yorkshire fire and rescue service*

| | *Net current expenditure (non-FRS17)* | | | *Government grant* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *£000* | *Year on year change (percentage)* | *Change from 1996/97 (percentage)* | *£000* | *Year on year change (percentage)* | *Change from 2004-05 (percentage)* |
| 1996-97 | 20,908 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 1997-98 | 21,710 | 4 | 4 | .. | .. | .. |
| 1998-99 | 21,704 | 0 | 4 | .. | .. | .. |
| 1999-2000 | 23,339 | 8 | 12 | .. | .. | .. |
| 2000-01 | 22,472 | -4 | 7 | .. | .. | .. |
| 2001-02 | 23,659 | 5 | 13 | .. | .. | .. |
| 2002-03 | 26,641 | 13 | 27 | .. | .. | .. |
| 2003-04 | 25,957 | -3 | 24 | .. | .. | .. |
| 2004-05 | 30,157 | 16 | 44 | 14,565 | .. | .. |
| 2005-06 | 30,014 | 0 | 44 | 15,051 | 3 | 12 |
| 2006-07 | 29,873 | 0 | 43 | 13,426 | -11 | 0 |
| 2007-08[1] | 32,802 | 10 | 57 | 13,361 | 0 | -1 |
| 2008-09[2] | 28,269 | -14 | 35 | 13,255 | -1 | -2 |

*England*

| | *Net current expenditure on all fire and rescue services (non FRS17)* | | | *Government grant* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *£000* | *Year on year change (percentage)* | *Change from 1996-97 (percentage)* | *£000* |
| 1996-97 | 1,669,495 | .. | .. | .. |
| 1997-98 | 1,698,688 | 2 | 2 | .. |
| 1998-99 | 1,744,293 | 3 | 4 | .. |
| 1999-2000 | 1,798,221 | 3 | 8 | .. |
| 2000-01 | 1,835,233 | 2 | 10 | .. |
| 2001-02 | 1,892,160 | 3 | 13 | .. |
| 2002-03 | 1,937,244 | 2 | 16 | .. |

England

| | Net current expenditure on all fire and rescue services (non FRS17) | | | Government grant |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £000 | Year on year change (percentage) | Change from 1986-87 (percentage) | £000 |
| 2003-04 | 2,046,677 | 6 | 23 | — |
| 2004-05 | 2,114,131 | 3 | 30 | — |
| 2005-06 | 2,177,036 | 3 | 30 | — |
| 2006-07 | 2,089,266 | -4 | 25 | — |
| 2007-08[1] | 2,111,546 | 1 | 26 | — |
| 2008-09[2] | 2,154,934 | 2 | 29 | — |

[1] Provisional outturn
[2] Budget estimates.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) and Revenue Account (RA) Budget returns and HM Treasury GDP deflators.

The current expenditure defined here is the cost of running local authority services within the financial year. This includes the costs of staffing, heating, lighting and cleaning, together with expenditure on goods and services consumed within the year. This expenditure is offset by income from sales, fees and charges and other (non-grant) income, to give net current expenditure.

The net current expenditure figures are produced on a non-Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 17 basis.

The real terms figures at 2007-08 prices have been calculated using the latest GDP deflators.

Central Government grant is defined here as the sum of formula grant (Revenue Support Grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services. It excludes grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

The information on central Government grant for England is not available as it is not possible to separately identify the funding for fire and rescue service. This is because the formula grant is unhypothecated.

Government grant data for North Yorkshire fire and rescue service are available from 2004-05 onwards when it became a precepting authority. Before this, it levied on the county council's budget requirement and did not receive direct grant from the Government.

## Official Engagements: Regional Ministers

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the official engagements were from 6 October to 31 October 2008 for *(a)* the Minister for London, *(b)* the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* the Minister for the South East in their roles as regional ministers. [238851]

**Mr. Khan:** The information requested is in the following tables.

*Jonathan Shaw MP - Regional Minister for the South East*

| | Location | Outline of engagement |
|---|---|---|
| 7 October 2008 | Blackfriars, London | LAA Roadshow - speech |
| 13 October 2008 | Westminster | Private dinner with Barbara Thorndick of West Kent Extra |
| 17 October 2008 | Westminster | SE Regional Assembly Executive Committee |
| 21 October 2008 | Kent Science Centre, Sittingbourne | SME Q and A session with Gordon Brown MP, John Denham MP and Lord Mandelson |
| 22 October 2008 | Chatham Maritime | Launch of Renishaw Regional (SE) Centre for Manufacturing Productivity |
| 30 October 2008 | Southampton | Speech and Q and A at SEEDA Annual Public Meeting |

*Rosie Winterton MP - Regional Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber*

| | Location | Outline of engagement |
|---|---|---|
| 21 October 2008 | Leeds | Dinner with Governor Bank of England Royal Armouries - Dinner |
| 23 October 2008 | Leeds | Yorkshire and Humber Talent Debate - Attend event and speech |
| 23 October 2008 | Leeds, Harewood and Holmfirth | Tourism Visit - Visits to the Royal Armouries (Leeds); Harewood House (Harewood, Leeds); Ackroyd House (Thurstonland, Holmfirth, Huddersfield); and Ashley Jackson's Studio (Holmfirth, Huddersfield) |
| 27 October 2008 | Doncaster | Dial Doncaster - Visit |
| 31 October 2008 | Catterick Garrison and Northallerton | Visit to North Yorkshire - Visit to Catterick Garrison and Meeting with Officials from North Yorkshire's District Council's |

*Tony McNulty MP - Regional Minister for London*

| | Location | Outline of engagement |
|---|---|---|
| 14 October 2008 | Novotel, Hammersmith and Fulham | Speech at Metropolitan Police Service Conference |
| 16 October 2008 | Sattavis Patidar Centre, Wembley, Brent | Speech at London Gangs, Guns and Weapons Practitioners Forum |
| 23 October 2008 | Riverwalk House, Westminster | London Regional Resilience Forum meeting |

*Tony McNulty MP - Regional Minister for London*

| | *Location* | *Outline of engagement* |
|---|---|---|
| 27 October 2008 | Imperial College, Kensington and Chelsea | Seminar with business leaders |
| 28 October 2008 | Southwark Training Centre, Southwark | Speech and tour at a Utilities Sector Panel Awareness Day |
| 28 October 2008 | Riverwalk House, Westminster | London Reception event at the Government Office for London |
| 30 October 2008 | Pinner Grove, Harrow | Visit to announce PFI Street Lighting Contract |

### Regional Planning and Development: Railways

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of the public inquiry into the Radlett rail freight proposals held in December 2007. [238722]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There is no figure available which sets out the overall cost of the inquiry.

### Sleeping Rough: North Yorkshire

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of rough sleepers there were estimated to be in each district in North Yorkshire in each of the last five years. [239436]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The number of rough sleepers in North Yorkshire based on rough sleeper counts by individual local authorities for the last five years is as follows:

| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Craven | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hambleton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harrogate | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Richmondshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ryedale | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scarborough | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Selby | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |

### South East Plan

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 397W, on South East Plan, whether her Department circulated information about the South East Plan or the consultation on the South East Plan to *(a)* individual residents, *(b)* Guildford Borough Council, *(c)* Waverley Borough Council, *(d)* Surrey County Council, *(e)* local newspapers and *(f)* other advertising outlets. [238777]

**Mr. Khan:** The draft South East Plan and earlier rounds of consultation were co-ordinated by the South East regional assembly, and a pre-submission consultation statement containing details of how they consulted can be found on their website at:

http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/plan/view_plan.html

We notified all of those who took part in earlier rounds of consultation, or took part in the Examination in Public that the consultation documents were available. This involved writing to some 8,000 addresses in the south-east of England.

A press notice was issued to local news desks and placed on the Government Office website as well as the website of the regional assembly.

A news article setting out the process and consultation details was included in the Government Office for the South East partners newsletter and was distributed to approximately 1,100 regional partners and stakeholders.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the revised South East Plan will be published. [238828]

**Mr. Khan:** The Secretary of State expects to publish the South East's regional spatial strategy in the spring of 2009.

### Travelling People

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many authorised sites for Gypsies and Travellers are provided by local authorities in *(a)* Essex, *(b)* Suffolk, *(c)* Norfolk, *(d)* Kent, *(e)* Hertfordshire, *(f)* Berkshire, *(g)* Cambridgeshire and *(h)* Greater London. [237785]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The bi-annual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans provides information on local authority Gypsy and Traveller sites. This is available on our website at:

www.communities.gov.uk.

The number of authorised local authority sites as at January 2008 was as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Essex | 14 |
| Suffolk | 1 |
| Norfolk | 6 |
| Kent | 16 |
| Hertfordshire | 11 |
| Berkshire | 8 |
| Cambridgeshire | 14 |
| Greater London | 34 |

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many cases of compulsory purchase of land there have been in England in order to build publicly-owned Gypsy and Traveller sites in the last 10 years. [237786]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information requested is not held centrally. The exercise of compulsory purchase powers is a matter for individual local authorities.

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many authorised private Gypsy and Traveller sites there are in England. [237787]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** As at January 2008 there were 1,315 authorised private Gypsy and Traveller sites in England.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Biofuels

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on biofuels; [236404]

(2) what discussions officials in his Department have had with officials in the Department for Transport on biofuels. [236405]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department is in regular contact with the Department for Transport and its agencies, at both ministerial and official levels, to discuss a range of issues, including biofuels.

### British Energy: EDF

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on which occasions Ministers in his Department have met senior executives of *(a)* British Energy and *(b)* EDF since its establishment. [231795]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 364W.

### British Energy: Nuclear Liabilities Fund

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Nuclear Liabilities Fund plans to sell its British Energy bonds as part of the deal announced on 24 September 2008. [234613]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** British Energy (or any new owner) has the right to require the NLF to sell its bonds should it wish to repurchase them, and in any case would be required to offer to repurchase bonds due to the change of control of the company. Any decision as to whether to dispose of the bonds following such an offer would be a commercial matter for the Nuclear Liabilities Fund, in consultation with the Secretary of State.

### Carbon Emissions: Housing

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many energy efficiency measures have been installed under the *(a)* Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and *(b)* Decent Homes programme in England in each (i) Government Office region, (ii) local authority area and (iii) constituency. [234686]

**Joan Ruddock:** Ofgem, which administers the carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) scheme for the Government, have said that there have been 28,136,069 measures for the period covering the first two quarters of CERT. This figure is not exhaustive as suppliers only report on the major measures such as insulation and compact fluorescent lamps at this point of the programme.

Under CERT, Ofgem is only required to monitor energy suppliers' activity across Great Britain as a whole.

Decent Homes is administered by Communities and Local Government.

### Carbon Emissions: Local Authorities

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will list the local authorities he expects to fall within the scope of the Carbon Reduction Commitment; and if he will make a statement. [236776]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* Local authorities, as with all other participants in the Carbon Reduction Commitment, will be included if they meet the threshold of electricity consumption of 6000 MWh measured through half hourly meters during 2008. It will be for the local authorities themselves to assess their electricity consumption to establish whether they are above the threshold. DECC does not therefore have a list of local authority or other participants at this stage, though we expect most top tier authorities will be included.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the Carbon Reduction Commitment to apply to local authorities; what piloting of the scheme has taken place in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland; whether permits will be allocated or auctioned; and if he will make a statement. [236777]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* The Carbon Reduction Commitment will begin in April 2010. The first phase, between April 2010 and March 2013, will be an introductory phase in which an unlimited number of allowances will be sold at a fixed price. This will allow participants to gain experience of the scheme before the "capped" phases begin in April 2013. There are no pilots of the scheme in operation. Allowances will be sold at a fixed price in the first phase and auctioned in subsequent phases rather than allocated.

### Carbon Sequestration

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many responses he has received to his consultation on carbon capture readiness; if he will list those responses and summarise their contents; what steps he now intends to take on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [238061]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Seventy-nine responses were received to the "Towards Carbon Capture and Storage" consultation which covered carbon capture readiness for new power stations among other topics. These responses are now being carefully analysed and considered. A list of respondents, together with a summary of their comments will be included as part of the Government's response to the consultation which will be published in due course.

### Climate Change Group

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library an organisational chart for the Climate Change Group. [236597]

**Joan Ruddock:** The detail of the future organisational structure of the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is currently being determined, following its creation on 3 October 2008. The organisational chart will be placed in the Library in due course.

### Climate Change: Local Area Agreements

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made towards the climate change objectives included in the 2008 local area agreements. [236403]

**Joan Ruddock:** Progress by local authorities and their partners against climate change targets included in local area agreements for the period 2008-11, which were put in place in June 2008, will be assessed by the Audit Commission through the comprehensive area assessment process, to commence in April 2009.

### Departmental Manpower

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report from the Department by which they were previously employed in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235226]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) came into existence on 3 October 2008 and the list of staff who will be moving to the new Department is still being finalised. It is therefore not currently possible to provide a definitive answer to this question.

The Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) will be replying separately to this question. Their answers will cover all staff who were in those Departments at the end of the 2007-08 reporting year (the latest year for which figures are available), including those staff who have now moved to DECC.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff has been since his Department's creation. [237463]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** One member of staff deals with branding activity which occupies less than 30 per cent. of this member of staff's time. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was formed on 3 October 2008 and since then the cost of employing staff to do branding activity, based on average staff costs, has been approximately £3,000.

### Departmental Microgeneration

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the installation of microgeneration and renewable technologies on the Departmental estate. [236395]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** DECC has been working with DEFRA estates, which maintains 3-8 Whitehall Place, in considering the application of various technologies that would improve the energy efficiency of the building. DECC intends to implement the guidance provided in Good Practice Guide 286—Energy Performance in the Government's Civil Estate. As well as considering ways to improve the building's energy efficiency, we are also looking for opportunities to reduce our carbon, energy and water consumption through changes to the way in which we work. However the use of micro generation and onsite renewables at this building, with its central London location, is unlikely to be viable. 100 per cent. of the electricity supplied to 3-8 Whitehall Place is however generated from renewable sources. Electricity for other DECC locations, including Atholl House and temporary accommodation in Ergon House and 1 Victoria Street, is procured under a green tariff. In addition, DECC is considering the feasibility of the connection of 3-8 Whitehall Place to the Whitehall District Heating System.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been since the establishment of the Department. [238169]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** None.

### Energy Supply: Consumers

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what guidance his Department provides to energy suppliers on provision of notice periods to allow the cancellation of business or household energy supply contracts in the event of significant price rises. [234741]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** None. It is for Ofgem to provide any guidance.

### Energy Supply: Fuel Poverty

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the expenditure by the six largest energy suppliers on social tariffs for their customers in the last 12 months; how much of such expenditure has been incurred as a result of the agreement between the energy companies and the Government on social tariffs; and if he will make a statement. [234663]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* Ofgem published its first Review of Suppliers' Voluntary Initiatives to Help Vulnerable Customers on 6 August

2007, which covered the period to July 2007. Ofgem updated this report in October 2007. Both reports can be found online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/Review%20of%20suppliers%20voluntary%20initiatives.pdf.

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/CSR_update%20open%20letter%2023507.pdf

The reports show that, at that time, the savings to customers from being on a social tariff was estimated to be just under £25 million. Annex 1 of the update shows suppliers' own estimates on their spend on social tariffs which totals just over £26 million.

Following the announcement in Budget 2008, energy suppliers agreed in April, to increase how much they are spending on social programmes. This year they will be spending collectively £100 million, rising to £125 million in 2009-10 and £150 million in 2010-11.

Expenditure on social tariffs during the first year of the voluntary agreement will be published in Ofgem's next reporting cycle in 2009. However, early indications from suppliers show that since this time last year the numbers of customer accounts on social tariffs have at least doubled.

Ofgem will shortly be publishing a report on suppliers' social programmes, including their social tariffs, for the period to the end of March 2008.

### Energy: Conservation

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what strategies his Department has in place to reduce energy consumption by high street shops; what targets are in place as part of those strategies; and what progress is being made in reaching these targets. [237761]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Government have in place a variety of measures aimed at improving energy efficiency in businesses of all sizes, including retail outlets.

The Carbon Trust works with business and the public sector, helping organisations to cut their energy bills and carbon emissions. The Carbon Trust provides a number of services including energy efficiency advice and interest free energy efficiency loans for small and medium-sized enterprises. In 2007-08, the Carbon Trust helped customers implement energy and carbon saving measures resulting in some £207 million savings from their annual costs and since inception has helped deliver cost savings of nearly £1 billion. The Trust is also working with the British Retail Consortium to support its new Climate Change initiative "A Better Retailing Climate" which details the BRC's commitment to lowering emissions across the retail sector through a suite of initiatives, including reducing emissions from buildings by 15 per cent. by 2013.

The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) is a new mandatory emissions trading scheme that will cover large businesses, including large retailers and will start in 2010. The CRC will have a significant impact on reducing UK carbon emissions and offers the potential to save money through energy efficiency. Analysis indicates that, by driving energy efficiency, the CRC will deliver emissions reductions cost-effectively, saving participants money, and enabling green growth—yielding a positive net present value to participants of £755 million.

### Energy: Consumption

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what evidence and analysis the final energy consumption projection for 2020 of 1,740 TWh in the Energy White Paper was based. [236481]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The projection of final energy consumption of 1,740 TWh is based on energy projections informing the Energy White Paper in May 2007 and published as a supporting document. The figure of 1,740 TWh quoted is based on the Eurostat definition of "final energy consumption" which includes energy losses by generators and defines final energy consumption on a "net calorific" rather than a "gross calorific" basis.

The Energy White Paper projections are provided by the Department's energy model and were published alongside the Energy White Paper. The energy model is a model of the UK energy market. Energy demand is modelled based on historic relationships between energy demand and key assumptions on economic growth, population and energy prices. The projections of future consumption take account the existing policy measures. The projections based on a range of assumptions to reflect uncertainty. Details of the assumptions are included in the publication

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39580.pdf.

I am placing a copy of the information in the Libraries of the House.

### Energy: Prices

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps are being taken to ensure energy customers are informed of proposed price increases by energy suppliers before entering into lengthy contracts. [234740]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In the domestic sector, longer term contracts are typically at a fixed price, which provides customers with more certainty about their future expenditure. In the business sector, contract may be on a fixed or variable basis. It is for the business customer to consider the range of offers by suppliers. Variable price contracts will change according to a range of factors including movements in wholesale prices. A supplier can therefore, only provide a prospective customer with a price at a particular time. That price may subsequently rise or fall.

### Fuel Poverty

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who he expects to conduct the street-by-street visits in fuel-poor areas under the home energy saving scheme; and what information will be *(a)* collected and *(b)* stored. [236760]

**Joan Ruddock:** The policy detail of the Community Energy Savings Programme is currently under discussion with stakeholders. The Government will undertake a formal consultation and will seek views on these issues. It would therefore be inappropriate to pre-empt the outcome of this consultation.

## Fuel Poverty: Barnet

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the effect of increasing energy prices on people living in Chipping Barnet constituency as part of his Department's work on fuel poverty. [237917]

**Joan Ruddock:** The most recent fuel poverty estimates are available for 2006 in the Sixth Annual Progress report on the Fuel Poverty Strategy:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file48036.pdf

These show that in the UK, there were around 3.5 million households living in fuel poverty in 2006 and around 2.4 million in England. The statistical annex to this report gives indicative projections for fuel poverty in England. These show an estimated further 1.2 million households moving into fuel poverty between 2006 and 2008, largely due to fuel price increases. Projections are not made below national level.

The Government will continue to keep fuel poverty policies under constant review to ensure that the Fuel Poverty Strategy and the Government's policies, initiatives and measures are fit for purpose to respond to new challenges.

## Global Threat Reduction Programme

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the progress of the Global Threat Reduction Programme towards the commitments made at the G8 Summit in Kananaskis. [236397]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Global Threat Reduction Programme (GTRP) constitutes the UK contribution to the 'Global Partnership' a 10-year, $20 billion international programme established as a G8 Initiative at the Canadian G8 Summit in Kananaskis in 2002 to prevent the proliferation of dangerous nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological materials and expertise. The Department is responsible for the nuclear and radiological elements of this international programme, MOD is responsible for the chemical and biological aspects and the policy lead for all non-proliferation work is provided by FCO.

The then Prime Minister committed the UK to contribute up to $750 million between 2002 and 2012, and over halfway through the programme, the UK has spent over £230 million (equivalent to $350 million at 2002 rates) in achieving these international threat reduction programme initiatives.

The Government publish an annual report which provides an assessment of the progress being made by the UK's portfolio of projects. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House and can be viewed online from:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/nonproliferation/globalthreatreduction/arenglish/page40802.html

The annual report for 2008 is being prepared with expected publication in early 2009.

## Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people have received a Warm Front scheme grant in *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency, *(b)* Sunderland, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since its inception. [235903]

**Joan Ruddock:** The following table illustrates the number of households assisted in *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency, *(b)* Sunderland, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each full year since the schemes inception

| | *Houghton and Washington East* | *Sunderland (local authority)* | *North East England* | *England (all)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 325 | 1,126 | 12,435 | 97,616 |
| 2001-02 | 647 | 3,298 | 39,061 | 307,678 |
| 2002-03 | 609 | 2,899 | 21,116 | 219,328 |
| 2003-04 | 726 | 2,523 | 20,390 | 188,974 |
| 2004-05 | 449 | 1,622 | 15,420 | 208,084 |
| 2005-06 | 372 | 1,347 | 11,418 | 173,184 |
| 2006-07 | 769 | 2,943 | 20,683 | 253,079 |
| 2007-08 | 733 | 2,478 | 18,865 | 268,900 |

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been paid to Eaga plc for delivery of Warm Front grants to households in each of the last five years. [235968]

**Joan Ruddock:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend for Warwick and Leamington (Mr. Plaskitt) on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1137W.

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Warm Front grant contracts have been awarded to installers *(a)* owned by and *(b)* connected to Eaga plc. [235995]

**Joan Ruddock:** Eaga, as main contractor for the Warm Front scheme, agreed with the Department at the outset of its contract in 2005 that a total of 30 per cent. of scheme capacity would be carried out by Eaga's in-house installers.

Throughout the contracted scheme period (June 2005 and October 2008) 27 per cent. of jobs allocated have gone to Eaga's in-house contractors.

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many homes in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency have received home insulation through the Warm Front scheme. [235998]

**Joan Ruddock:** 1,032 households received an insulation measure through the Warm Front Scheme in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency between 1 June 2000 and 28 July 2008.

Eaga plc continue to provide regular updates of Warm Front installation figures to every MP in England delivered through individual constituency websites.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average period under the Warm Front scheme between qualification and installation of *(a)* a boiler, *(b)* draught excluders and *(c)* insulation was at the latest date for which figures are available. [236511]

**Joan Ruddock:** Under the Warm Front scheme the average waiting time to complete heating and insulation jobs, from the identification of required works, in the current scheme year (1 April 2008 to 25 October 2008) was 63 working days and 38 working days respectively.

Timelines contracted with the Department are 120 working days for heating measures and 40 working days for insulation measures.

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the contract to supply Warm Front services is next due to be put out to tender. [236522]

**Joan Ruddock:** The current contract with Eaga plc runs until 2010 with an option to extend for a further two years. A decision on whether or not to exercise this option will be taken in due course.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what average price was quoted by Eaga contractors under the Warm Front scheme for the installation of *(a)* loft insulation, *(b)* boiler replacement, *(c)* draft excluders and *(d)* double glazing in the latest period for which figures are available. [236610]

**Joan Ruddock:** Prices are commercially sensitive, however all works undertaken by the warm front scheme are subject to a harmonised pricing structure. This framework mandates a regional equalisation of costs of all insulation and heating jobs undertaken through the scheme.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of successful applicants to the Warm Front scheme received a grant worth the full cost of the quote for works to their home in the latest period for which figures are available. [236611]

**Joan Ruddock:** Over the current scheme year 2008-09, 1 April to 25 October, 108,887 households have been assisted by the Warm Front scheme. 72,630 (67 per cent.) of these households had their work covered entirely by the grant allocation.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* Crosby constituency and *(b)* England have received Warm Front grants in each year since the establishment of the scheme. [236712]

**Joan Ruddock:** The following table illustrates the number of households assisted by the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* Crosby constituency and *(b)* England in each full year since the scheme's inception.

| *Scheme year* | *Crosby constituency* | *England (all)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 160 | 97,616 |
| 2001-02 | 523 | 307,678 |
| 2002-03 | 622 | 219,328 |
| 2003-04 | 553 | 188,974 |
| 2004-05 | 402 | 208,084 |
| 2005-06 | 417 | 173,184 |
| 2006-07 | 542 | 253,079 |
| 2007-08 | 493 | 268,900 |

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applicants for a Warm Front grant aged *(a)* under and *(b)* over 60 years were informed that they (i) would and (ii) would not need to pay a contribution towards warm front funded improvements in each year since the introduction of contributions. [236741]

**Joan Ruddock:** The following table illustrates the number of contributions requested of Warm Front customers aged *(a)* under and *(b)* over 60 years of age since contributions were introduced to the scheme.

| | *Scheme year* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09 (to 25 October)* |
| *(a)* Contributions requested of under 60s | 4,321 | 16,481 | 28,445 | 14,167 |
| *(b)* Contributions requested of over 60s | 6,402 | 21,959 | 38,201 | 21,356 |
| All contributions requested | 10,723 | 38,440 | 66,646 | 35,523 |
| Total households assisted | [1]14,595 | 253,079 | 268,900 | 108,887 |

[1] Households assisted in this scheme year once client contributions were introduced.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was paid in Warm Front grants to residents in Crosby constituency in 2007-08. [236713]

**Joan Ruddock:** In the period 1 April 2007 to 30 March 2008, £877,955.86 was spent on measures delivered through the Warm Front scheme to residents of Crosby constituency.

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Greater London

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people who have qualified for energy efficiency improvements under the Warm Front scheme in each London borough were waiting for those improvements to be made at the latest date for which figures are available. [236509]

**Joan Ruddock:** The following table illustrates the number of main measures (a heating or insulation-related job) allocated by the Warm Front scheme in its current contracted period, in each of the London boroughs, and those that have not been invoiced for, as at 16 November 2008.

| Local authority | Main measures allocated in the current contracted period, June 2005 to November 2008 | Main measures allocated but not invoiced, as at 16 November 2008 |
|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 1,474 | 168 |
| Barnet | 1,373 | 218 |
| Bexley | 1,993 | 194 |
| Brent | 1,527 | 151 |
| Bromley | 1,966 | 296 |
| Camden | 241 | 44 |
| Croydon | 2,223 | 202 |
| Ealing | 2,265 | 285 |
| Enfield | 1,865 | 239 |
| Greenwich | 1,392 | 146 |
| Hackney | 530 | 77 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 277 | 29 |
| Haringey | 1,585 | 199 |
| Harrow | 1,380 | 116 |
| Havering | 2,657 | 323 |
| Hillingdon | 1,412 | 115 |
| Hounslow | 1,062 | 93 |
| Islington | 204 | 36 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 95 | 17 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 437 | 48 |
| Lambeth | 1,052 | 171 |
| Lewisham | 1,419 | 159 |
| Merton | 1,084 | 116 |
| Newham | 2,320 | 281 |
| Redbridge | 2,478 | 248 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 487 | 43 |
| Southwark | 491 | 75 |
| Sutton | 852 | 104 |
| Tower Hamlets | 446 | 73 |
| Waltham Forest | 2,015 | 192 |
| Wandsworth | 714 | 110 |
| Westminster | 208 | 26 |

*Notes:*
1. As households can receive both heating and insulation measures, figures in this table are not comparable with the number of households awaiting measures.
2. The lack of invoice for a job is not necessarily related to whether the work has been physically carried out.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people have *(a)* applied and *(b)* qualified for help under the Warm Front scheme in each London borough since the establishment of the scheme, broken down by age of applicant. [236510]

**Joan Ruddock:** A table illustrating *(a)* the number of households making applications to the Warm Front Scheme and *(b)* those eligible for assistance, broken down by London borough and age group, over the period 1 June 2000 and 16 November 2008, has been placed in the House Libraries.

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: North Yorkshire

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in the Vale of York have received Warm Front grants in each of the last three years; and how many he estimates will have received grants before the end of March 2009. [236247]

**Joan Ruddock:** The following table illustrates the number of households assisted by the Warm Front scheme in the Vale of York in each of the last three years.

The number of households that will be assisted by March 2009 is entirely dependent on the number of households that apply and whether they are eligible

| Scheme year | Assisted households |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 159 |
| 2006-07 | 386 |
| 2007-08 | 447 |

### Ministers: Cabinet

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which Cabinet committees and sub-committees he attends. [227124]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I refer the hon. Member to the Prime Minister's written ministerial statement of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 8WS.

### Natural Gas: Storage

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the total capacity is of proposed gas storage projects which are awaiting regulatory consent. [236399]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Details of gas storage projects at various stages of development are given in 'Transporting Britain's Energy 2008: Development of NTS Investment Scenarios' published by National Grid in July 2008 available online at:

http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/OperationalInfo/TBE/

Table A2 shows the status of four projects as "planning applied for", with a total storage capacity of approximately 2.2 billion cubic metres.

### Nuclear Installations Inspectorate

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff are employed by the nuclear installations inspectorate *(a)* on a full-time equivalent basis and *(b)* on a headcount basis, broken down by grade. [236569]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have been asked to reply.

The answer to this question is provided in the following table.

*The number of staff employed in the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate at 1 October 2008*

| Job band[1] | Headcount | Full-time equivalent |
|---|---|---|
| Band 1 | 28 | 27.19 |
| Band 2 | 115 | 110.09 |
| Band 3 | 62 | 61.61 |
| Band 4 | 14 | 12.83 |
| Band 5 | 30 | 27.72 |
| Band 6 | 65 | 53.78 |
| SCS[2] | 7 | 6.47 |
| Total | 321 | 299.69 |

[1] Grade
[2] Senior Civil Servants

These figures exclude nine agency administrative staff and four temporary secondees/contractors.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the total budget of the nuclear installations inspectorate *(a)* was in each of the past five financial years, *(b)* is in 2008-09 and *(c)* will be in each of the next five financial years. [236570]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have been asked to reply.

The answer to this question is provided in the following table.

*Gross expenditure of the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Nuclear Directorate (ND)*

| *Financial year* | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 19,397 |
| 2004-05 | 19,252 |
| 2005-06 | 19,881 |
| 2006-07 | 19,643 |
| 2007-08 | 24,977 |
| 2008-09 | 28,256 |

Notes:
1. These are actual gross expenditure figures of the Nuclear Directorate (ND) itself for 2003-04 to 2007-08 and forecast for 2008-09.
2. ND recovers some 97 per cent. of these nuclear installations costs (and a pro rata share of the additional associated HSE overhead and central costs) as income through charges to industry under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 and Health and Safety (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2007. Since 2007-08 this has also included 100 per cent. recovery of the Office for Civil Nuclear Security costs (and a pro rata share of the additional associated HSE overhead and central costs) recovered under the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, the Energy Act 2004, the extant security provisions of the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (as amended) and, in respect of nuclear material, the Import of Goods (Control) Order 1954.
3. HSE has issued indicative ND budget allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 (£29,977k and £30,930k respectively) but these will shortly be revised as part of HSE's annual planning process to reflect expected activity in these years.
4. HSE will set budgets for 2011-12 and beyond upon receipt of its spending review 2010 settlement in due course.
5. The figures for 2007-08 onwards include the Office for Civil Nuclear Security and the UK Safeguards Office who joined HSE from the Department for Trade and Industry on 1 April 2007 (£2.3 million and £0.3 million respectively).
6. The figures in 2007-08 and previous to this include costs of HSE Corporate Topic Groups which ND managed on behalf of HSE.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many new staff members were recruited by the nuclear installations inspectorate following the recruitment campaign that began in December 2007. [236572]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have been asked to reply.

Since December 2007, HSE has run three nuclear recruitment campaigns. From the first two campaigns 15 nuclear inspectors have already taken up post, another two have accepted but have not yet taken up duty, and the final one is currently negotiating terms and conditions. Interviews of applicants from the most recent campaign are still underway: 25 applicants are under consideration.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the job titles are of posts filled by the nuclear installations inspectorate following the recruitment campaign that began in December 2007. [236573]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have been asked to reply.

There are no specific job titles of posts filled by the NII all of which are classed as band 3 nuclear inspector grade.

All nuclear inspectors have been allocated across the nuclear directorate in the following disciplines:

Chemical engineering;

Civil engineering;

Fault studies;

Mechanical engineering;

Radiation protection;

Structural integrity;

Radiation waste management;

Management for safety;

Quality assurance.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's most recent estimate is of the cost to *(a)* the nuclear installations inspectorate and *(b)* other bodies within or sponsored by his Department of the generic design assessment. [236746]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have been asked to reply.

As of 14 November 2008, HSE Nuclear Directorate total estimated generic design assessment (GDA) cost is:

| *Year period* | *Actual/forecast* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | Actual | 2,265,561 |
| 2008-09 | Actual quarter 1 and 2 | 2,063,440 |
| 2008-09 | Forecast quarter 3 and 4 | 2,088,029 |
| 2009-10 | Forecast | 11,280,000 |
| 2010-11 | Forecast | 10,789,000 |
| 2011-12 | Forecast | 1,753,000 |
| Total | | 30,239,029 |

Actual costs are based on running costs (payroll, travel and subsistence, training, staff subs etc. for inspectors and admin staff) and a proportion of external consultancy costs (programme expenditure) relevant to generic design assessment work. The costs also include a pro rata share of HSE's corporate overhead costs.

The above costs include both safety and security of generic design assessment aspects. They do not include Environment Agency/Scottish Environment Protection Agency costs, which operate under a separate charging regime, as neither agency is sponsored by DWP.

Forecast costs based on the same premise as above but also include:

estimate costs of recently appointed project managers and technical support contractors who will be assisting Nuclear Directorate review GDA submissions.

reduction from four to two requesting parties.

### Renewable Energy: Electricity Generation

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward plans to support the installation of high voltage direct current cabling and infrastructure for the distribution of offshore and onshore renewable electricity generation. [236775]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The existing onshore electricity grid network is for alternating current (AC), which is the most economic for transmission over shorter distances. high voltage direct current (DC) grid is more costly but generally more economic over longer distances.

The transmission companies are funded and incentivised (including incentives to innovate technically) to deliver the most economic and efficient infrastructure reinforcements for the development of the GB grid to connect the large amount of new generation, including

renewables expected to connect in the coming years. Decisions on which technology to use are therefore a matter for the transmission companies.

### Renewable Energy: International Co-operation

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the content of the discussion of the development of alternative energy sources that occurred at the Jeddah Energy meeting in June 2008; how that discussion will inform the Government's stance on the development of alternative energy sources during the international summit of oil producers and consumers in London on 19 December; and if he will make a statement. [236347]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Communiqué associated with the Energy meeting held in Jeddah in June this year, called for further action in the promotion of energy efficiency in all sectors, technology transfer and an exchange of the best practices and applications in the fields of energy resources production and consumption.

The London Energy Meeting being held on 19 December will be the next step in enhancing the dialogue between producing and consuming countries, in particular, reporting on progress of the agreed Jeddah commitments. This will include opportunities for collaboration in technology and alternative energy sources and promoting energy efficiency measures.

The UK has made progress against this agenda in a number of areas:

The recent announcement from E.ON and Masdar to invest in the 1000 megawatt (MW) London Array offshore wind farm.

The announcement this month of a new £250 million UK-Qatar Clean Technology Investment Fund will be set up to develop and deploy low emission energy and technology.

Hosting a meeting of international experts to discuss measures to put the UK at the forefront of the research, development and early commercial deployment of low emission transport. Key announcements included £100 million for research, development and demonstration of low carbon including electric vehicles.

### Renewable Energy: National Grid

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost likely to be incurred by the National Grid in order to meet the 2020 renewables target. [236315]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** An independent study (by SKM Energy Consultants) commissioned in support of the Renewable Energy Strategy Consultation estimates that meeting the 2020 renewables target will require around £10 billion of new investment in our electricity network, by transmission companies including National Grid. This figure is based on a 35 per cent. renewable electricity scenario, with around 70-80 per cent. being the cost of connecting offshore wind farms.

The study also estimated that the cost of ancillary services needed to meet system balancing requirements under a 35 per cent. renewables scenario would be around £2.3 billion per annum.

A vision for the electricity network needed for 2020, including likely scenarios and associated investment to deliver necessary network capacity, is currently being developed by National Grid and the Scottish Transmission Companies under the auspices of the Electricity Networks Strategy Group www.ensg.gov.uk/ (a senior industry group chaired by DECC and Ofgem) and a report is expected early next year.

The regulatory framework for offshore electricity transmission is currently under development. The intention is for new investment in offshore networks to be made under a competitive tender approach.

*Note:*

All costs are expressed in 2008 prices and undiscounted.

### River Severn: Tidal Power

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account the Severn tidal power feasibility study has taken of the Government's carbon dioxide emission reduction targets. [237597]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The feasibility study will set the potential carbon savings of the long list of options for tidal power in the Severn estuary in the context of the UK's commitments under the forthcoming EU Renewable Energy Directive, the 2020 and 2050 targets for emissions reduction under the Climate Change Bill, and the carbon budgets to be set in the light of the advice of the Committee of Climate Change to be published soon.

### Strategic Siting Assessment

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 231W, on applying the proposed strategic siting assessment criteria, how the stakeholders invited to the engagement events were chosen; and what publicity his Department's predecessor gave to public participation in each event. [234427]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** As part of the consultation on the strategic siting assessment the Department held three stakeholder events in London, Bristol and Manchester. These events were designed to inform key stakeholder groups of the consultation and to seek their views. We tried to ensure we captured a broad range of views and invited local authorities, unions, environmental groups, business representatives, companies involved in the nuclear industry, law firms and other organisations. In addition we also invited those people who had responded to previous consultations and who had asked to be kept informed of events.

### Uranium: Prices

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the price of uranium during the whole lifetime of any new nuclear power station built in the UK. [237796]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The price of uranium is subject, as with other commodities, to market variances. We have therefore not made any assumptions about the future price of uranium.

The Government's White Paper on nuclear energy, published in January 2008, acknowledged that since the price of nuclear fuel represents a much smaller part of the cost of electricity than for other technologies, even significant price increases would have only a limited effect on overall generating costs.

**Warm Front Scheme**

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many homes in Enfield North constituency have received home insulation through the Warm Front scheme. [235413]

**Joan Ruddock:** 1,076 households received an insulation measure through the Warm Front scheme between 1 June 2000 and 28 July 2008.

Eaga plc continue to provide regular updates of Warm Front installation figures to every MP in England delivered through individual constituency websites.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 25 November 2008*

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2529W, on departmental written questions, what the cost of preparing that answer was. [239293]

**Chris Bryant:** Under the guidance issued by Her Majesty's Treasury, we have estimated that the marginal cost, based on the amount of staff time spent preparing the answer, was £288.11.

### Parliamentary Scrutiny: EC Law

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Leader of the House if she will bring forward plans to reform the House's scrutiny of European legislation. [238070]

**Chris Bryant:** No. The House agreed only recently to put its experimental structure for the scrutiny of the EU legislation on a permanent footing on 12 November.

### Select Committees: Regulation

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Leader of the House if she will bring forward proposals to establish a Select Committee to *(a)* monitor the work of and *(b)* hold to account public regulators; and if she will make a statement. [237549]

**Chris Bryant:** Scrutiny of the work of public regulators is the responsibility of the relevant departmental Select Committees. It would be difficult in practice to carry out effective scrutiny of public regulators which was separate from the wider scrutiny functions of the departmental committees.

This aspect of their work has recently been strengthened by the establishment of pre-appointment hearings, as proposed in the 'Governance of Britain' Green Paper (Cm7342) and agreed to by the Liaison Committee in May.

A full list of the regulators who will be subject to pre-appointment hearings is set out in the First Special Report of the Liaison Committee, Session 2007-08, HC 594, pages 5 to 8.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in his Department in each year since 1997; what the target rates set for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [238934]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999.

All staff are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice; the Office does not maintain a central record of sick absences. Such records are held by the parent Departments who publish their sick absence statistics.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [238176]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office have not incurred any costs for special advisers using Government cars.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [239656]

**Ann McKechin:** Staff in the Scotland Office are seconded from the Scottish Executive (SE) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) who each have bonus schemes, part of which relate to annual performance appraisal. The Scotland Office does not hold information on bonus payments under the annual performance appraisal systems. Under the Special Bonus Scheme of the SE and the Reward and Recognition Scheme of the MoJ, the Office may also directly authorise bonus payments for special effort, achievement and commitment; the following table shows the number and cost of such non-pensionable bonuses:

| | *Total number of bonuses* | *Total cost of bonuses (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 6 | £2,150 |

Members of the Senior Civil Service in the Scotland Office are also seconded from the Scottish Executive and the Ministry of Justice, their bonuses are assessed under a framework set by the Cabinet Office. The Office does not hold central information on such bonuses.

### Departmental Postal Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department uses the Royal Mail as the primary company for sending its post, parcels and packages. [238324]

**Ann McKechin:** The Royal Mail carried most of the letters and parcels sent by the Scotland Office in each of the last three years.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [239654]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office have incurred no costs relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years.

### Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239048]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office was established in its present form on 1 July 1999. The Scotland Office incurred no costs on focus groups and opinion polls between 1999-2000 and 2007-08. The Office's estimated spend in 2008-09 on focus groups, to solicit views of voters to the Gould recommendations, is expected to be £24,500; no costs are anticipated on opinion polls.

### Redundancy

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [239153]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office does not operate staff exit schemes. All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice; who remain their employers. It is these Departments who would operate any such exit schemes.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Disabled

**Simon Hughes:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many and what proportion of staff of the House were recorded as being disabled at 1 January 2008. [238570]

**Nick Harvey:** 76 staff have declared that they have a disability. This represents 3.85 per cent. of the House's employees. I will write to my hon. Friend with further information.

### Electoral Administration Act 2006

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 191W, on the Electoral Administration Act 2006, what the status is of the discussions between the House authorities and the Electoral Commission on ending dual reporting. [239693]

**Nick Harvey:** Discussions are continuing. It is not yet known when they will reach a conclusion.

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Games 2012: Transport

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether any plans have been made to accommodate extra caravaners near to London 2012 Olympics during the games. [239233]

**Tessa Jowell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 258W.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237443]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following table shows expenditure by the Northern Ireland Office, including its agencies but excluding Executive NDPBs, on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in the last three years.

£

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flat Screen Televisions | [1]11,531 | 15,452 | 2,415 |
| DVD Players | Nil | 959 | 487 |
| Stereo Equipment | 82 | 273 | Nil |

*Northern Ireland Prison Service*

Details requested could be provided only by this agency at disproportionate cost.

*Youth Justice Agency*

[1]The figure of £11,531 in 2005-06 includes £8,308 which relates to the purchase of electrical equipment by the Youth Justice Agency. A breakdown of this figure - which may include expenditure in the above three categories—could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237502]

**Mr. Woodward:** One civil servant supports the special advisers within my private office, providing administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers".

It would be inappropriate to disclose individual civil servants' salary details.

### Redundancy

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (Y) his Department and its predecessor (Z) each of his Department's agencies; [237345]

(2) how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [239152]

**Mr. Woodward:** No staff have left the Department on an involuntary basis in the last three years. Currently there are no plans for involuntary exit schemes in the next two years.

The following table shows the number of staff who voluntarily left the Northern Ireland Office under early retirement or early severance schemes in each year.

| | *Up to £25,000* | *£25,001 to £50,000* | *£50,001 to £75,000* | *£75,001 to £100,000* | *Over £100,000* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 13 | 3 | — | — | 1 | 17 |
| 2006-07 | 9 | 2 | 2 | — | — | 13 |
| 2007-08 | 6 | 3 | 1 | — | — | 10 |

Compensation for early departure is paid from the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. The Northern Ireland Office meets the cost of early departures, and this includes the cost of lump sum severance payments and the additional costs of benefits beyond the normal Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) benefits in respect of employees who retire early.

The following table shows expenditure on early departures in each year since 2005-06.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 433,713.75 |
| 2006-07 | 288,954.88 |
| 2007-08 | 224,593.17 |

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

### Churches

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many churches the Commissioners were responsible for in each year since 1997. [238025]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** The Church Commissioners are not responsible for churches. Their legal obligations relate to the management of historic assets to meet their pension commitments and provide other financial support for the Church, and the administration of the legal framework for pastoral reorganisation and helping dioceses settle the future of closed church buildings.

### Churches: Change of Use

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many churches were transferred into usage as *(a)* restaurants, *(b)* bars and *(c)* gymnasia in each of the last five years. [238020]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** In the last five years the Commissioners have transferred one church into restaurant use by Deed of Variation. This was in 2004. No church buildings have been transferred into use as bars or gymnasia in the last five years.

### Churches: Sales

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many church buildings were sold in each year since 1997; and what the annual total value of sales was in each year. [238023]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** The Commissioners cannot provide a total annual value of such sales because some disposals are dealt with by the diocese in order to fund the cost of a new place of worship.

However, the number of church buildings sold in each full year since 1997 are as follows:

| *Year* | *Number of church buildings sold* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 17 |
| 1998 | 11 |
| 1999 | 12 |
| 2000 | 9 |
| 2001 | 6 |
| 2002 | 9 |
| 2003 | 17 |
| 2004 | 15 |
| 2005 | 10 |
| 2006 | 11 |
| 2007 | 11 |

### Redundant Churches

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many churches were made redundant in each year since 1997. [238024]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** The number of churches closed for regular worship in each full year since 1997 are as follows:

| | *Number of churches closed for regular worship* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 24 |
| 1998 | 24 |
| 1999 | 21 |
| 2000 | 8 |
| 2001 | 20 |
| 2002 | 26 |
| 2003 | 30 |
| 2004 | 30 |
| 2005 | 16 |
| 2006 | 23 |
| 2007 | 31 |
| Total | 253 |

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Climate Change

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has conducted into the potential acceleration of Greenland ice cap melt in light of the accelerated rate of Arctic summer ice melt of 2007 and 2008. [225100]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

My Department funds research on melting of the Arctic sea ice and Greenland ice sheet through the Integrated Climate Programme, which is undertaken by the Met Office Hadley Centre (MOHC). This programme is jointly funded with the MOD. We also liaise with other research groups in the UK on these topics.

With regard to the implications of sea ice melt for the Greenland ice sheet, a MOHC study has examined the impacts of long-term deglaciation of the Greenland ice sheet using a greenhouse gas concentration scenario where the Arctic becomes free of sea ice during the summer. This experiment incorporated a model of sea ice so that interactions between sea ice and Greenland land ice melt were included.

The results showed a maximum contribution from the melting Greenland ice sheet to sea level rise of 5 mm per year, which is within the uncertainty range already considered in projections of sea level rise around the UK coastline. However processes involving rapid movement of ice within the ice sheets are not included in this, or other current ice sheet models, as the dynamics are still poorly understood. Further work is needed to improve these models and thus estimates of sea level rise.

The UK also monitors changes in the Greenland ice sheet directly. Observational measurements of the rate of change of its volume have been carried out by UK research groups over the last 15 years, using satellite radar remote sensing. Recently scientists at the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), part of the Natural Environment Research Council, have developed a new, more accurate technique for determining ice cap changes, using satellite laser technology. Significant research on the fundamental physics of glaciers and ice sheets is being carried out by BAS and other UK research groups, often in Antarctica.

### Departmental Contracts

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of the contract awarded by his Department to IBM for the disposal of all redundant electrical and electronic equipment in each of the last five years. [239226]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Prior to 2004, DEFRA awarded the contract for the disposal of redundant IT hardware, software and fax machines to Northern Realisation Ltd. This contract was at zero cost to the Department.

In September 2004, this contract was novated to IBM. The current contract for the disposal of equipment continues to run at zero cost to both DEFRA and IBM.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [237476]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Three members of staff undertake some work on branding as part of their wider responsibilities. It is not possible to calculate accurately what the cost of the branding activity might have been in 2007-08.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237317]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** In 2006 and 2007, the number of full-time staff assisting the advisers was four (one higher executive officer, one executive officer and two administrative officers). Since the end of August 2007, this number has reduced to three (one HEO, and two EOs). This figure has further reduced since September 2008, and currently stands at one HEO and one EO. Civil servants only provide administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers".

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much of the £50 million originally left unallocated in his Department's budget for 2007-08 has now been allocated; and for what purposes; [239222]

(2) for what purpose £50 million was left unallocated in his departmental budget for 2007-08. [239224]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Department had no unallocated budgets in 2007-08.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Questions for written answer were tabled to his Department in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235395]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The total number of questions in each of the parliamentary Sessions is as follows:

*(a)* 5,444
*(b)* 5,229
*(c)* 1,885
*(d)* 6,915
*(e)* 4,692
*(f)* 6,012 (to date)

The Department strives to answer all questions in full rather than use a disproportionate cost answer. However there have been occasions when it has not been possible to do so. Separate records of the number of questions not answered on the grounds of disproportionate cost are not kept.

### Genetically Modified Organisms: Imports

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what varieties of GM crops approval for import into the EU has been recommended by EU scientists but not yet agreed by the European Council or Commission. [236559]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* Listed as follows are the GM crop lines which are awaiting possible approval for EU import and for which the European Food Safety Authority has published a favourable overall opinion. MON863xMON810 maize, MON863xNK603 maize and T45 oilseed rape already have EU import approval but further applications have been made to extend the scope of the permitted uses. Of the other products listed, the only one for which approval is being sought for cultivation in the EU is the EH-92-527 Amylopectin Potato.

MON863xMON810 maize
LLRICE62
MON863xNK603 maize
MON863xMON810xNK603 maize
EH92-527 Amylopectin potato
MON89788 soybean
T45 oilseed rape

Details of all applications currently being assessed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) are available on the EFSA website at:

www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/ScientificPanels/efsa_locale-1178620753812_GMO.htm

### Livestock: Transport

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* enforcement and *(b)* inspection of the six-day rule. [237192]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* It is not possible to separate the costs of enforcing and inspecting the six-day rule from the range of measures designed to limit the spread of livestock disease.

### Plain English

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent by his Department on Plain English Campaign training courses for its staff in each year since 2005. [230608]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs does not hold information centrally on the amount of training undertaken on the Plain English Campaign.

To collect this information would incur disproportionate costs to the Department.

### Soil: Research

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has allocated to *(a)* research and *(b)* training on soil and water management in each of the last five years. [231405]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** DEFRA has spent approximately £5 million per annum over the last five years on research on the risks and threats to soil and water and how we can ensure that these resources are protected for the benefit of this generation and future generations.

The Department also funds the Catchment Sensitive Farming Programme through which farmers are given guidance on soil and water management. In addition, Natural England and the Environment Agency provide some guidance and training to farmers.

Budget allocations for spending relating to water management are decided by each individual sponsor and the Environment Agency. Capturing information relating specifically to water management would involve a disproportionate cost to the Department.

### Tuna: Conservation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna in protecting tuna stocks; and if he will make a statement. [235562]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** In 2007 the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) was the subject of an independent review that it commissioned itself. While the findings of this report were, in certain areas, critical of ICCAT, many of the recommendations were positive and constructive. At the 2008 annual meeting of ICCAT UK will work closely with the EU and other contracting parties to adopt measures that will increase the effectiveness and credibility of ICCAT as one of the main Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOS).

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the security situation and *(b)* the threat posed by the Taliban in Helmand province; and if he will make a statement. [234318]

**Mr. Hutton:** Helmand province continues to present significant security challenges due to the insurgents' use of intimidation and violence against the local population and their increasingly unconventional tactics such as the use of improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers and opportunistic attacks.

These attacks continue to cause concern and demonstrate the Taliban's ability to strike in an indiscriminate fashion. But this does not amount to the Taliban posing a realistic strategic threat to the democratically elected Afghan government.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military personnel are *(a)* embedded with Pakistani military units and *(b)* based in Pakistan to co-ordinate military operations in support of UK military operations in Regional Command South. [236450]

**Mr. Hutton:** There are currently no UK military personnel embedded with Pakistani combat units, though one is attached to a training unit. As part of normal military relations, UK non-embedded military staff based at the British high commission in Islamabad provide a liaison and co-ordination function between the Pakistani military and UK and NATO operations in Afghanistan.

### Armed Conflict: Children

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what factors were considered by the Government in responding to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the optional protocol of the Child in relation to armed conflict; and whether the Army Terms of Service (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2008 were taken into account. [238827]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The UK submitted its first report on the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict in June 2007 and was examined by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on this report in September 2008.

In producing the UK report and preparing for the examination, the Ministry of Defence considered the need to demonstrate how our legislation, policies and practices were compliant with the requirements of the optional protocol. The main areas considered were: the recruitment of under-18s into the armed forces and the safeguards in place to ensure recruitment is totally voluntary; the measures taken to ensure that those personnel under the age of 18 are not deployed on operations; the treatment of child soldiers encountered on operations; the training provision for service personnel on the provisions of the optional protocol; and the treatment and care of service personnel under the age of 18.

The Army Terms of Service (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2008 came into effect on 6 August 2008, and were taken into account during the process of preparing for the examination. The regulations brought the minimum commitment period for under-18 soldiers back into line with the provisions that existed prior to 1 January 2008, i.e. that they should serve for a minimum of four years from their 18th birthday. The Ministry of Defence provided information concerning these changes to the Committee, both in the written response to the list of issues and during the hearing itself.

The Ministry of Defence believes all our policies are robust and fully compliant with national and international law, including our obligations under the optional protocol.

The Committee issued its concluding observations on 3 October 2008, in which they made a number of recommendations which require detailed consideration by the UK. The Ministry of Defence is currently engaging with other relevant Government Departments to determine how best to take this work forward.

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many unarmoured Jackals there are in service. [238664]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** There are 13 unarmoured Jackals in service within the UK training fleet, 12 of which are currently undergoing an improvement programme to fit armour. This will be completed by the end of the year. The remaining unarmoured Jackal is used for maintenance training. There are no unarmoured Jackals deployed on operations.

### Defence Evaluation and Research Agency: Property

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what price was realised from the sale of the Pystock site in Hampshire following the privatisation of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency; and what covenants were placed on the sale. [238841]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The price received by QinetiQ, the successor to the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA), from the sale of the Pystock site is a matter for the company. Some details can be found in QinetiQ's published accounts for 2006.

In addition to covenants relating to clawback there were also covenants in the title documentation relating to the protection of certain strategic assets.

The Ministry of Defence did not publish a break down of the individual site values contained in the bulk transfer of property to QinetiQ plc as part of the privatisation of DERA. As made clear at the time the valuations are considered commercially confidential.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [239058]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 418W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey).

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [237456]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** In the financial year 2007-08 seven members of staff had some responsibility for brand management issues as part of their wider duties in the central MOD Media and Communication organisation.

The total cost of these seven staff was £395,000 based on average capitation rates. Only a small proportion of this cost is attributable to brand management activities. It is not possible to say how much as the time spent varies from week to week.

Some Defence agencies, top level budget areas, trading funds, joint headquarters, single service commands and some military units also have individuals whose responsibilities include brand management. Details of this are not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Postal Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department uses the Royal Mail as the primary company for sending its post, parcels and packages. [238119]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The MOD primarily uses the services of Royal Mail Group companies for sending its external post, parcels and packages.

### Ex-servicemen

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of (i) first line and (ii) second line staff for resettlement support is. [237807]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information requested is provided in the table:

| | *1st Line* | | *2nd Line* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Required* | *Actual* | *Required* | *Actual* |
| RN | 129 | 124 | 21 | 18 |
| Army[1] | — | — | 26 | 26 |
| RAF | 42 | 39 | 11 | 11 |

[1] Information relating to the Army 1st Line resettlement support staffing is being collated and I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete.

### Ex-servicemen: Official Cars

**Mr. Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision his Department makes for the use of official cars by retired senior military officers; what the cost of such provision was in each of the last five years; and whether the arrangements for such provision have changed in the last 10 years. [238492]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Within the UK, cars are provided by the MOD White Fleet contract which is a lease/hire agreement for the provision of non-operational vehicles. These cars are provided only for official departmental business. Retired senior military officers would therefore be eligible to use a car if they were on formal departmental business. This includes retired officers, who are employed by the MOD, such as recruiting and liaison staff attending ceremonial functions or official functions; and those employed as lecturers and part time teachers travelling to teach service personnel.

Detailed records of any such use are not held centrally. The White Fleet contract has been in place since 2001, and since then the arrangements have not changed.

### Iceland: European Fighter Aircraft

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Typhoon aircraft are to be deployed to Iceland on NATO Quick Reaction Alert duty; on what date; and for how long. [238049]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The peacetime airborne surveillance and interception capability in Iceland is a NATO task. The deployment of four Typhoons was scheduled to take place in December. Following discussions within NATO the deployment will not now take place.

### Iraq: Military Aircraft

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Harrier aircraft were deployed in support of Operation Telic; and for what period. [238821]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* Up to 21 Harrier aircraft were deployed in support of Operation Telic between February and May 2003.

In my answer to the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes (Mr. Lancaster) on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 135W, I incorrectly stated that the Harrier force has never been deployed on Operation Telic.

My answer should have read that the Harrier force has not been deployed continuously on operations since the start of Operation Telic.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to regulate the operation of private military and security companies working in Iraq. [233433]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

We currently have no legislation dealing directly with the overseas operations of UK-based private military and security companies (PMSCs). Options for regulation were considered in a Green Paper published in 2002 entitled 'Private Military Companies: Options for Regulation.' A follow-up review in 2005 explored a number of options for ways in which the industry could be regulated, including self-regulation, licensing of individual contracts and licensing of companies from a register of Government-approved companies. This review

highlighted the complexity of the issues, especially the definition of what activities should be regulated and how any regulations would be enforced—all of which continue to be the subject of ministerial and official consultation. The Government have undertaken to keep Parliament fully informed of their proposals in this area. If it is agreed that some form of regulation is appropriate, the Government will put the proposals to public consultation.

However, apart from the national law of the countries in which they are operating, PMSCs are also subject to certain UK legislation. For example, there is legislation penalising grave breaches of the Geneva conventions, as well as torture, genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, which applies to acts committed by United Kingdom nationals overseas. We have also considered international regulation based on common international values and norms. We have supported the Swiss Initiative to promote respect for international humanitarian law and human rights law on the part of PMSCs operating in situations of armed conflict or post-conflict.

### Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the Joint Strike Fighter project; and if he will make a statement. [239453]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Joint Strike Fighter programme remains on schedule with the first development conventional take off and landing (CTOL- AA-1) and the first development short take off and vertical landing (STOVL - BF-1) variants completing in excess of 83 test flights to date. AA-1 also achieved its first supersonic flight on 14 November 2008.

### Navy: Piracy

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what instructions have been issued to UK naval forces in respect of the terms of engagement to employ when encountering vessels engaged in acts of piracy. [238857]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 503W, to the hon. Member for North Essex (Mr. Jenkin).

### Nimrod Aircraft

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what options for replacement of the Nimrod R 1 capability are under consideration. [238050]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for International Defence and Security gave in another place on 13 October 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA28, to the noble Lord, Lord Lee of Trafford.

### Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured while in Snatch Land Rovers in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in (A) 2006, (B) 2007 and (C) the first six months of 2008. [238329]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Ministry of Defence is currently reviewing its policy on the release of data on fatal incidents on operations. I will write to the hon. Member once the review has been completed.

I am withholding data on injuries caused to UK service personnel in particular vehicle types as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

### RAF Lyneham

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the likely time gap will be between the final removal of the Hercules fleet from RAF Lyneham and the arrival of the Joint Helicopter Command contingent upon any relevant decision arising from project Belvedere. [238042]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Programme Belvedere is considering a number of airfields as potential bases for the future Joint Helicopter Command Battlefield Helicopter force, including RAF Lyneham. No decisions have yet been made.

### Somalia: Piracy

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the EU Operation Atalanta, what assets will be committed by each nation state; what rules of engagement will apply; what command and control arrangements are in place; and if he will make a statement. [239191]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Force generation for the EU Operation Atalanta continues and a formal force generation conference took place on 17 November 2008. The UK will be providing a frigate for the first period of the operation as well as the operation commander and the operation headquarters at Northwood. The nature and scale of contributions from other countries is still under discussion prior to formal launch of the operation.

While appropriate rules of engagement will be in place for the operation, details for rules of engagement are withheld as disclosure would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces involved.

Under the authority of the EU Council of Ministers, the EU member states collectively in the Political and Security Committee (PSC) will exercise political control and strategic direction of the operation. The Council has appointed Rear Admiral Phil Jones as the EU operation commander reporting to the Political and Security Committee, to be based in the multinational operation headquarters at Northwood. Nominations have been received from Greece, Spain and the Netherlands for the position of force commander and the PSC has agreed that the force commander will be appointed on a rotational basis.

### Warrior Armoured Vehicle

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the Government plan to improve *(a)* the protection afforded by and *(b)* the survivability of the Warrior armoured fighting vehicle. [238211]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Department has already taken steps to improve the protection and survivability of the Warrior fleet in Afghanistan and Iraq through the Urgent Operational Requirements process. We intend to improve further Warrior's protection and survivability through the Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme, which is in the early stages of its Acquisition Cycle.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Equality and Human Rights Commission

3. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what pay gaps there are in respect of gender, race and disability among employees of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [238584]

**Maria Eagle:** The full-time equivalent earnings indicate that:

The gender pay for women is 3.68 per cent.

The ethnic minority pay gap is 7.07 per cent.

The disability pay gap is 6.75 per cent.

The Commission inherited staff from three different organisations with very different pay and grading structures. They recognised that this led to differences, and have agreed a new pay and grading structure to ensure everyone at the Commission received equal pay for work of equal value, regardless of their background. The Commission is actively seeking to address the remaining gap.

### Domestic Violence

6. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent steps the Government have taken to support women who are subject to domestic violence. [238587]

**Maria Eagle:** Independent domestic violence advisers provide invaluable support to victims of domestic violence. Evidence shows that incidents of victimisation decrease and victims are less likely to withdraw from cases. This financial year we have provided £340,000 for adviser services supporting victims in Specialist Domestic Violence Courts in Wales and £150,000 for Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences in Wales.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government have taken to meet their objective, as stated in the Government Equalities Office document Tackling Violence Against Women, that all police and Crown Prosecution Service prosecutors will have received training about domestic violence by the end of 2008. [236457]

**Maria Eagle:** Forty-two out of 43 Crown Prosecution Service areas completed their domestic violence training by April 2008. The remaining area negotiated an extension until November 2008 and they are on target to complete training by the end of November.

The Government do not hold information on the provision of training in domestic abuse for police officers. The responsibility for domestic abuse training is devolved to individual police forces. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has issued guidance on the investigation of domestic abuse cases and the ACPO lead for domestic abuse has been engaging with the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) regarding a refresh of current modular training.

NPIA have carried out a consultation period, which is to be extended to encompass the voluntary sector. Key areas for refresh will be around honour based violence, stalking and harassment, risk identification, assessment and management and the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act (2004) (non-molestation and civil and criminal law interface). Training is still being undertaken within individual police forces to the current modular system.

### Violence Against Women

7. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government are taking to reduce levels of violence against women. [238588]

**Maria Eagle:** We want to see continued progress in reducing levels of violence against women.

That is why we have made it a priority action, in public service agreement 23 "Making Communities Safer", to 'reduce the most serious violence, including tackling serious sexual offences and domestic violence'.

But we are not complacent about the scale of the problem which is why my department is working closely with Home Office on the forthcoming consultation on violence against women and women's safety which will ask people about what more we should be doing to tackle these crimes.

### Disabled Civil Servants

8. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on measures to increase the proportion of people with disabilities employed as civil servants. [238589]

**Maria Eagle:** I attend the Cabinet Committee on the Life Chances for Disabled People and will raise this issue at its next meeting. The proportion of civil servants declaring a disability has more than doubled from 3.1 per cent. in 2001 to 6.7 per cent. in 2007.

### Television Licence Fee

10. **Mr. Chope:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will hold discussions with ministerial colleagues on the reasons for the over-representation of women among those brought before the courts for evading payments for television licence fees. [238591]

**Maria Eagle:** I will do so. I understand that when TV Licensing Enquiry Officers visit premises using television without a valid licence, whichever responsible adult opens the door will have a prosecution statement taken from them. TV Licensing offers people many opportunities to pay their licence and prosecution is always a last resort.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many external consultants work for the Government Equalities Office. [237573]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office currently employs two consultants. They provide advice on research into equalities issues, help the development of GEO's research strategy, and run research seminars. Costs incurred to date since the consultancy contracts were let in May 2008 and October 2008 are £19,847.

### Departmental Early Retirement

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many employees in the Government Equalities Office have taken early retirement since its inception; and at what total cost. [238959]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. Since then, no employees have taken early retirement.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the cost of maintaining the Government Equalities Office website for 2007-08 was; and what the forecast costs of maintaining it in 2008-09 are. [237570]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office website www.equalities.gov.uk was launched on 10 January 2008. The cost of maintaining this site since 10 January 2008 was £891.83. The forecast cost of maintaining the site in 2008-09 is £2,350.00.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors the Government Equalities Office website received in 2007-08. [237571]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities website www.equalities.gov.uk was launched on 10 January 2008. From 10 January 2008 to date, the site has received a total of 542,788 page hits and a total of 22,928 unique visitors.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in the Government Equalities Office has been in the last 12 months. [238179]

**Maria Eagle:** Since the Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007, there has been no provision of Government cars for special advisers.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much was spent on entertainment by the Government Equalities Office in Eland House in 2007-08; and how much of that was accounted for by *(a)* food and *(b)* alcohol. [237563]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office moved to Eland House in February 2008. Since this move there has been no expenditure on entertainment.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many press releases have been issued by the Government Equalities Office in each year since its inception; and if she will make a statement. [238980]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. Since then, 91 press releases have been released.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many questions for written answer were tabled to her and her predecessors as Minister for Women in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235379]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. Before this, parliamentary questions relating to the GEO's antecedent body, the Women's Equality Unit, were handled by a number of Government Departments. For that reason, information on questions answered by these Departments before October 2007 is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

During the current parliamentary session to date, the Government Equalities Office has answered 260 written questions. The vast majority of these have been answered substantively but detailed information on disproportionate cost replies is not collated separately and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since its inception; how much she estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [239039]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. There was no expenditure on focus groups or opinion polls in 2007-08. The Government Equalities Office has not spent any money on focus groups in 2008-09. Expenditure on opinion polls has amounted to £30,332, as follows:

| *Company* | *Title* | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| MORI Ltd | Attitudes to Prostitution (1) | 9,546.88 |
| MORI Ltd | Attitudes to Prostitution (2) | 8,342.50 |
| YouGov plc | Women in Business | 12,443.25 |
| Total | | 30,332.63 |

## TRANSPORT

### Rail Fares

7. **Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of the new fare structure for railways introduced by the Association of Train Operating Companies. [238598]

**Paul Clark:** The new, simplified fares structure was introduced by train operators in full in September this year. It has made fares easier for passengers to understand and has been welcomed by passenger organisations.

### Motorcycle Driving Test

8. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to introduce the new motorcycle driving test; and if he will make a statement. [238599]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We plan to allow candidates and trainers to book the new practical motorcycle test from 30 March 2009 and conduct the test from 27 April 2009. We are going to consult on a modular testing arrangement and a statement will follow shortly.

### Fatal Road Accidents: Illegal Drugs

9. **Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of fatal road accidents were caused or contributed to by drivers under the influence of illegal drugs in the latest period for which figures are available. [238600]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Impairment by drugs was recorded as a contributory factor by the police in 64 fatal crashes in Great Britain in 2007—that is 2.5 per cent. of all fatal crashes where contributory factors were reported. It is not possible to distinguish whether illegal or medicinal drugs were involved.

### DVLA

10. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of customer satisfaction levels with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [238601]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) commissioned a telephone survey of 1,000 private motorists in July-August 2008. The survey assessed motorist satisfaction with DVLA core business transactions, and provided an overall weighted satisfaction score of 92.32 per cent. compared to 89.82 per cent. in 2007-08.

Commercial customer satisfaction has been assessed by means of measures taken in DVLA-led surveys in autumn 2008, namely DVLA Commercial Customer Survey and DVLA Fleets Survey.

### Young Person's Railcard

11. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the future of the 16-25 railcard. [238602]

**Paul Clark:** The Government have not had any representations on the future of the 16-25 railcard.

### Air Travel: Emissions

12. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has considered to reduce the level of greenhouse gas emissions from air travel; and if he will make a statement. [238603]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We have a comprehensive approach to aviation's climate change impacts. This includes pressing internationally for global action; bringing aviation into the EU emissions trading scheme from 2012; supporting improvements in technology, encouraging operational procedures, and air traffic management; and other economic instruments.

### Rail Network

13. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the capacity of the rail network; and if he will make a statement. [238604]

**Paul Clark:** The Rail White Paper set out the Government's commitment to increase rail capacity across by 2014, backed by investment of £10 billion. This includes the procurement of an additional 1,300 carriages for operation across the network. 423 vehicles have already been ordered and yesterday we announced proposals to procure a further 200 which will benefit passengers in the Thames Valley, around Bristol and on longer distance regional services in central northern England.

### Concessionary Bus Fares

14. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent assessment is of the adequacy of his Department's funding of the national concessionary bus fares scheme. [238605]

**Paul Clark:** The Government remain confident that there is sufficient funding in total to meet the cost of the statutory minimum bus concession. We are also confident that the extra funding provided this year £212 million, to meet the additional costs of the move to England-wide free off-peak bus travel is sufficient. A formula was used to distribute this year's additional funding taking account of factors such as local population, tourist numbers and current bus use. The Department for Transport will continue to monitor the impact of the new concession.

16. **Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with the Local Government Association on the operation of the national concessionary bus fares scheme. [238607]

**Paul Clark:** Officials in the Department for Transport have had regular meetings with the Local Government Association (LGA) regarding concessionary travel. The LGA and representatives from other tiers of local government are present at regular meetings of the Department's Concessionary Fares Working Groups.

**Rail Services: Halifax-London**

15. **Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress has been made on the provision of a direct rail link between Halifax and London. [238606]

**Paul Clark:** Network Rail is due to present a further assessment of timetable options for the east coast main line to the Office of Rail Regulation on or before 19 December. The Office of Rail Regulation expects to publish its decision regarding which train operators will be granted new access rights during January 2009.

**Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation**

17. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to modify the renewable transport fuel obligation; and if he will make a statement. [238608]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Yes. The Gallagher Review on the indirect effects of biofuel production recommended that the rate of increase in the renewable transport fuel obligation should be slowed. Our consultation issued on 15 October proposes this, together with changes to introduce new eligible fuels and to rectify a discrepancy in the definition of how the obligation is calculated.

**High Speed Rail Line**

18. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if his Department will take steps to build a high speed rail line north from London. [238610]

**Paul Clark:** The Government are looking at the need for additional transport capacity as part of the new approach to planning set out in the October 2007 document "Towards a Sustainable Transport System". While Network Rail is reviewing the case for new lines as one option, enhancement of the capability of the existing network is equally important, as shown by the £8.8 billion investment in upgrading the west-coast main line, which has significantly reduced travel times.

**Regional Airports**

19. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is for regional airports in the north of England; and if he will make a statement. [238611]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Regional airports, including those in the north of England, generate regional growth and investment, and we support their development provided environmental considerations are addressed. "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper invited airports to publish master plans outlining their future development proposals, and many have now done so.

**Aviation: Surcharges**

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with representatives of airline companies on fuel surcharges imposed prior to the recent fall in oil prices. [236782]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Secretary of State for Transport meets UK airlines on regular basis. The issue of high oil prices has been raised frequently over the past 18 months as a significant concern for the aviation industry.

**Channel Tunnel**

**Dr. Stoate:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of current spare passenger capacity on *(a)* the High Speed 1 rail link and *(b)* the Channel Tunnel. [236244]

**Paul Clark:** There is currently significant spare capacity on High Speed 1. Much of this will be utilised when domestic high-speed services commence in December 2009. And, potentially, the opening up of the international passenger rail market from 2010 will see further increases in the use of the railway in the future.

Although the Department for Transport has made no formal assessment of the current spare capacity in the channel tunnel, it is my understanding that a significant level of capacity remains available for international services. The allocation of paths through the channel tunnel, and the precise number that have been unused, are matters for Eurotunnel.

**Concessions: Gloucestershire**

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Gloucestershire County Council, *(b)* Tewkesbury Borough Council and *(c)* Cheltenham Borough Council on their funding of free off-peak travel for elderly and disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [239194]

**Paul Clark:** No recent discussions have taken place with any of these three councils. The Department for Transport is always willing to discuss the concerns of local authorities, whether on concessionary travel or any other transport issue.

The Government remain confident that there is sufficient funding in total to meet the cost of the statutory minimum bus concession. We are also confident that the extra funding provided this year, £212 million, to meet the additional costs of the move to England-wide free off-peak bus travel is sufficient in aggregate. A formula was used to distribute this year's additional funding taking account of factors such as local population, tourist numbers and current bus use. The Department for Transport will continue to monitor the impact of the new concession.

**Cycling**

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding his Department has allocated to promote *(a)* cycling and *(b)* walking in 2008-09; and what percentage of his Department's total budget for that year that figure represents. [238288]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* The Department for Transport's investment in cycling and walking is primarily via local authorities. The Department is supporting local authorities (excluding London) via local transport plan funding with £577 million in 2008-09.

The TfL block grant is £2.528 billion. Local authorities determine their own spending priorities and it is for them to decide how much to allocate to cycling and walking.

The Department also funds a range of initiatives, often via non-governmental partners, to promote sustainable travel, including cycling and walking.

In 2008-09 these initiatives include:

| *Initiative* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| *Cycling* | |
| Support for Cycling England programmes | 20 |
| Transport Direct cycle route mapping | 0.4 |
| *Walking* | |
| Walk to School initiatives | 1.8 |
| Wider sustainable travel, including year five of a five year programme of funding for three sustainable travel towns and the sustainable travel to school project | 5.4 |

The Department's overall DEL budget for 2008-09 at the main estimates is £13,649.7 million. As we do not monitor the expenditure by local authorities on cycling and walking, any percentage figure would be misleading.

### Cycling: East Midlands

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cycle routes have been established in the east midlands since 1998. [238075]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport does not collect this information centrally.

### Departmental Early Retirement

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many employees in his Department took early retirement in each of the last five financial years; and at what total cost. [238971]

**Mr. Hoon:** I refer the hon. Member to our previous answer of 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 611W.

Previous years and expenditure can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on employing press and communications officers in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies in each of the last three years. [239673]

**Mr. Hoon:** Communications activities across the Department for Transport are not exclusively carried out by staff or units solely dedicated to this purpose. Staff costs are therefore not readily available for communications activities alone and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Estimates of the pay cost of press officer activities have previously been compiled and are set out as follows for the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 as follows:

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *£ million 2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| DfT(C) | 0.77 | 0.88 | 0.84 |
| DSA | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.06 |
| DVLA | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.14 |
| GCDA | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HA | 0.27 | 0.30 | 0.36 |
| MCA | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 |
| VCA | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| VOSA | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.04 |

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much surplus land *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies own; and what the (i) area and (ii) estimated monetary value of each site is. [236427]

**Mr. Hoon:** The Department for Transport and its Executive agencies currently have 234 surplus land parcels, 229 of which are owned by the Highways Agency and five by the Driving Standards Agency, when last valued these sites had an estimated global value of £13.7 million (net book value). Information on site size is not currently available for the majority of the sites, although the majority are very small with 30 per cent. valued less than £1,000.

This above excludes surplus land held by the British Railways Board (Residuary) (a public corporation) which is in the process of being disposed of.

### Departmental Manpower

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of DfT(C)'s staff recorded as being *(a)* from an ethnic minority and *(b)* white were given the highest marking in the annual appraisal round in each year since DfT(C)'s formation. [239133]

**Mr. Hoon:** The central Department recorded the following proportion of staff who received the highest marking in their annual appraisal in each year since formation:

| | *Ethnic minority* | *Percentage White* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 20.2 | 30.0 |
| 2006-07 | 19.9 | 30.0 |
| 2005-06 | 10.0 | 27.0 |
| 2004-05 | 20.0 | 27.0 |
| 2003-04 | 14.4 | 29.6 |
| 2002-03 | 14.3 | 26.6 |

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has a formal policy on steps to be taken when a race impact assessment demonstrates that there has been an adverse impact on a racial group arising from a departmental policy. [239134]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport acts in accordance with the Equality and Human Rights Commission (formerly the Commission for Racial Equality) guidance for public authorities on carrying out race

impact assessments. In line with the guidance the Department for Transport would decide whether the proposals were relevant to race equality and then take a proportionate response by as necessary:

considering alterations to the policy that would mitigate the adverse impact or eliminate unlawful discrimination while still delivering the policy intention; and

considering alternative policies that might better achieve the promotion of race equality.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [239670]

**Mr. Hoon:** I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the answer of 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 919-20W.

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what effect publication of the Highway Code has on his Department's finances. [239329]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Highway Code is self-funding with publication costs met from the income from sales.

### Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Industrial Relations

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what basis the Chief Executive of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency ordered the confiscation of union material from a union official who was visiting the Shared Service Centre on 11 June 2008; and what happened to the confiscated material. [239486]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** On 11 June a trade union official from PCS attended DVLA's Shared Service Centre by invitation to view the premises and gain a better understanding of Shared Service processes. At the conclusion of the meeting he started to distribute leaflets to staff and was asked to stop. DVLA do not allow the distribution of leaflets on DVLA property without permission. Permission was not sought on this occasion. The trade union official subsequently offered to hand the leaflets over to a manager, who disposed of them.

DVLA has no objection to distribution of trade union material when permission is sought and provides notice boards for the display of such information.

### Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Data Protection

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued to Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency staff for use when approached by third parties for motorists' information. [237823]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) staffs are issued with guidance to enable them to make appropriate decisions as to whether disclosure of information in a particular circumstance is lawful. However, I have not placed a copy of this guidance in the House Library as it would be a helpful tool for those wishing to access DVLA data unlawfully to circumvent the procedures in place and obtain data inappropriately. I believe the interests of the public are better served by not putting this information into the public domain. However, detailed information on the disclosure of DVLA data is available from

www.direct.gov.uk/motoring

### Driving Standards Agency

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times the Driving Standards Agency has issued more than one copy of the 'Are You Ready?' DVD to an individual learner driver since 1 January 2008; for what reasons; and if he will make a statement. [239008]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]*: The Driving Standards Agency estimates that between 1 January 2008 and 20 November 2008, 60,000 learner drivers have received more than one copy of the 'Are You Ready?' DVD owing to a technical error.

A further 20,000 customers were sent an additional copy at their request because of the loss of the original, or an undelivered appointment letter.

### Heathrow Airport: Railway Network

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish an estimate of the costs of the Airtrack proposal to improve rail links at Heathrow. [237767]

**Paul Clark:** The Airtrack proposal is being promoted by BAA. Accordingly the estimation and publication of costs is a matter for BAA.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is proposed to meet any costs of funding the Airtrack proposal to improve rail links to Heathrow from public funds. [237768]

**Paul Clark:** Under the Airtrack train service proposal, links would be provided between existing rail stations as well as new links to Heathrow airport Terminal 5. To the extent that the Airtrack proposal may offer wider benefits to rail passengers a contribution to the scheme from public funds may be appropriate.

### Inland Waterways

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential for inland waterways to carry commercial transport. [239364]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** In July this year, the Department for Transport published a report identifying the existing inland waterways in Great Britain that may realistically be considered for freight transport either in their current condition or with minor infrastructure improvements. That report, with the accompanying map showing the waterways concerned, is freely available on the Department's website.

### Intercity Express Programme

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons his Department has changed the process by which the Intercity Express Programme is financed; and if he will make a statement. [238551]

**Paul Clark:** There has been no change to the Department for Transport's process for funding the Intercity Express Programme. The Department expects the private sector to provide the necessary finance, as set out in the Intercity Express Programme Invitation to Tender.

### M3

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimates *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency have made of the effect on M3 traffic flows of the three proposed new distribution centres at Andover, Pyestock and Newbury. [239178]

**Paul Clark:** Neither the Department for Transport nor the Highways Agency has estimated the effect on M3 traffic flows of these three proposed new distribution centres.

The impacts of the proposed distribution centres at Andover and Newbury have not been explicitly assessed by the Highways Agency because of their distance from the M3. The application for Pyestock (Hartland Park) is for reuse of an existing site so the net impact has been reviewed by the Highways Agency and is limited to the equivalent legal reuse.

### Motor Vehicles: Safety

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect of wearing an appropriate restraint on the survival rate of children involved in car accidents. [239539]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** A European expert group on child safety, co-sponsored by the Department for Transport, published an analysis of UK casualty data to 2006. This showed that the use of a child restraint, when compared with no restraint, reduced the proportion of moderate child injuries in a frontal impact from approximately 30 per cent. to 10 per cent. and minor injuries from 55 per cent. to 40 per cent.

However, the Department for Transport has made no recent assessment of the effect of wearing an appropriate restraint on the survival rate of children involved in car accidents.

### National Business Travel Network

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many businesses have signed up to the National Business Travel Network; how much has been spent on the network since its launch, broken down by different projects; and how much he plans to spend on the network over the next two years. [237616]

**Paul Clark:** One hundred and twelve businesses have joined the National Business Travel Network since its launch in February 2007.

Planned spend to March 2009 is £750,000. This includes:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Research and publications | 153,000 |
| Events | 107,000 |
| Website/database | 40,000 |
| Fees, set up costs, salaries, accommodation etc. | 450,000 |

We are currently reviewing how best to reduce car journeys generated by business travel to give more options to employees and businesses.

### Network Rail: Disabled

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which construction projects Network Rail has completed in fulfilment of its obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and what has been the cost of each such project. [239227]

**Paul Clark:** This is an operational matter for Network Rail, who have a duty under part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act to make adjustments to the way their services are provided. This may be done by altering physical features at stations, taking steps to avoid physical obstacle or providing the service by other means.

Network Rail are also constructing obstacle free, accessible routes at priority stations as part of the Government's Access for All programme. To date, 145 stations have been identified to receive enhancements and work has reached practical completion at 15 sites since March 2006, with a total investment of approximately £29.6 million.

### Network Rail: Finance

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is Network Rail's policy to allocate a budget for each construction project in advance of *(a)* procurement and *(b)* commencement of work. [239228]

**Paul Clark:** This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network and such information would be available from the Network Rail's Chief Executive at:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

### Railways: Construction

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 648W, on railways: construction, when the recent work he refers to in his answer was carried out for his Department; [237831]

(2) who carried out the work referred to; and if he will place a copy of this work in the Library. [237832]

**Paul Clark:** The work referred to in my previous answer on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 648W, was carried out by Booz Allen Hamilton and Department for Transport officials as part of the policy development leading to the Rail White Paper (July 2007).

### Railways: Fares

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received from train operating companies on rail fare increases. [238135]

**Paul Clark:** The Government have not had representations from the train operating companies regarding rail fares increases, beyond their required statement of compliance in respect of regulated fares.

Unregulated fares are solely a matter for train operators, but increases are kept under review by Government.

### Railways: Overcrowding

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of overcrowding on East Midlands Trains services during peak times on train services from Warrington station; and what steps are being taken to address the issue. [239236]

**Paul Clark:** East Midlands Trains regularly evaluates levels of overcrowding to formulate plans to improve capacity. The refurbishment programme for Class 158 vehicles commenced this summer and will provide a 13 per cent. increase in seating capacity.

### Railways: Scotland

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many members of his Department's staff are working on a possible high speed rail line from London to Scotland. [237830]

**Paul Clark:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers on 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1372W, and 28 October, *Official Report*, column 835W.

### Railways: South-West

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to promote high speed rail links to the south-west. [239555]

**Paul Clark:** The Government's immediate priority are increasing capacity on the existing rail network and £10 billion will be invested from 2009 to 2014 on measures to bring this about.

In March 2008, the Secretary of State for Transport invited Network Rail to examine options for supporting further growth in the longer term, which might include new lines. Network Rail's new lines study is due to be completed in summer 2009.

On 29 October 2008, it was announced that the Minister of State for Transport (Lord Adonis) will chair a National Networks Strategy Group, with senior partners from Network Rail, the Highways Agency, Treasury and other Government Departments as necessary. The focus of the group is to make best use of the existing key networks and to investigate longer term solutions to future challenges on these networks including new rail lines.

### Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what projects are included in the Highways Agency's category of other programmes; and from which budget the costs of each such project are met. [234907]

**Paul Clark:** The Highways Agency has a major projects category of construction schemes which individually are greater than £5 million. There are some 4,400 other non major projects, a summary of these showing the number of projects by budget line is as follows:

| *Budget line* | *Capital* | *Resource* | *Number Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Traffic Management | 74 | 290 | 364 |
| Technology Improvements | 184 | 101 | 285 |
| Maintaining the Network | 81 | 1,705 | 1,786 |
| Smaller Local Schemes and R&D | 662 | 1,332 | 1,994 |
| Total | 1,001 | 3,428 | 4,429 |

A detailed list of projects by description will be placed in the Libraries of the House early in the new year.

### Roads: Tolls

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to introduce road tolls in Wiltshire; and which roads will be affected by such tolls. [239556]

**Paul Clark:** The Department for Transport has no plans to introduce road tolls in Wiltshire.

### Rolling Stock

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport of the 1,300 new carriages referred to in the 2007 Rail White Paper, how many will be allocated *(a)* to First Transpennine and *(b)* to First Capital Connect; and whether they will be in addition to the new Thameslink carriages. [237769]

**Paul Clark:** The HLOS Rolling Stock Plan published on 30 July 2008 shows 42 additional vehicles allocated to the First Transpennine Express franchise and 85 additional vehicles allocated to the First Capital Connect franchise. These carriages are not part of those being procured for the Thameslink upgrade.

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what detailed specifications his Department has made for the procurement of new trains since 2000. [237841]

**Paul Clark** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The Strategic Rail Authority was initially involved, alongside HBSC Rail, in procuring the new trains for the fast

domestic services into St. Pancras which are being built by Hitachi. This is because there was no train operator in place at the time.

The Department for Transport, with the involvement of industry stakeholders, has developed the output specification for the Inter City Express programme and the new trains for Thameslink.

**Shared Service Centre: Finance**

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of bills the Shared Service Centre has paid within 10 days or less in the last 12 months. [239331]

**Mr. Hoon:** The Department for Transport Shared Service Centre has paid an average of 32 per cent. of invoices within 10-days in the period November 2007 to October 2008.

**Transport: Concessions**

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the proportion of central Government funding for the concessionary fares scheme; and if he will make a statement. [239193]

**Paul Clark:** The Government remain confident that there is sufficient funding in total to meet the cost of the statutory minimum bus concession. We are also confident that the extra funding provided this year, £212 million, to meet the additional costs of the move to England-wide free off-peak bus travel is sufficient. A formula was used to distribute this year's additional funding taking account of factors such as local population, tourist numbers and current bus use. The Department for Transport will continue to monitor the impact of the new concession.

**Written Questions: Government Responses**

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many holding answers his Department has given in response to written parliamentary questions in the last 12 months; and of those how many have been followed with substantive responses. [239132]

**Mr. Hoon:** In the 12 months to 20 November 2008 the Department for Transport had been asked 1,028 named day written questions. Of these 430 received holding replies and 21 questions awaited final answer.

## PRIME MINISTER

**Departmental Manpower**

**David Simpson:** To ask the Prime Minister how many staff in his Office did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235214]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson), Parliamentary and Secretary to the Cabinet Office.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

**Africa**

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which organisations were represented at the meetings he attended during his recent visits to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. [235180]

**Gillian Merron:** During his recent visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo with my right hon. Friend the French Foreign Minister, Bernard Kouchner, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met President Kabila in Kinshasa. In Goma, he visited a camp for internally displaced persons where he met representatives from a range of humanitarian organisations, and had meetings with Alan Doss, the UN Secretary General's Special Representative and other members of the UN mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo, local government authorities and the EU Special Representative's team.

In Kigali, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met President Kagame, the Belgian Foreign Minister and members of the Office of Tony Blair Rwanda Team, as well as staff from our embassy and the Department for International Development office.

**Alexis Sinduhije**

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Burundi on the imprisonment of Alexis Sinduhje of the Movement for Security and Democracy. [236177]

**Gillian Merron:** Following the recent detention of 37 members of the Movement for Security and Democracy (MSD) and its Chairperson Alexis Sinduhije, the UK issued a statement on 7 November expressing its concerns about the ability of Burundians to exercise their civil and political rights.

A number of incidents involving the media, civil society and political parties have called into question the independence of the judiciary from interference and the credibility of rule of law. No one should be above the law, and those who commit offences should have the right to a free, fair and transparent trial. The UK believes adherence to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which Burundi has ratified, the Burundian constitution and dialogue will help create the necessary conditions for the reconstruction, stability and development of Burundi.

**Algeria: Religious Freedom**

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Algerian Government on the implementation of the spirit and letter of Article 36 of the Algerian Constitution on freedom of speech and expression of religion. [236661]

**Bill Rammell:** I am due to visit Algeria on 24-25 November to participate in the third round of bilateral political dialogue with my Algerian counterparts. During these discussions, I hope to discuss the issue of freedom of religion and belief.

Our ambassador to Algeria also raised this issue with the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 23 July 2008.

The right to freedom of religion and belief in Algeria was raised on 14 April during Algeria's examination under the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review, which the UK participated in. Additionally, the EU-Algeria Association agreement, which came into force in September 2005, restates that the principles and fundamental human rights set out in the universal declaration of human rights is an essential part of the agreement and must be followed by both signatories. The EU will continue to raise questions of human rights in Algeria.

We continue to monitor the enforcement of religious laws in Algeria, raising individual cases when it is appropriate.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to his Algerian counterpart on compliance with the commitment by the Algerian Government to adhere to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with particular reference to Article 18. [236665]

**Bill Rammell:** I am due to visit Algeria on 24-25 November to participate in the third round of bilateral political dialogue. During discussions, I hope to raise the issue of freedom of religion and belief. Our ambassador to Algeria raised this issue with the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 23 July 2008.

During the last review of Algeria at the UN Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in response to questions on this issue, the Algerians said that it was necessary to keep certain laws in place in order to maintain order and prevent proselytisation.

The right to freedom of religion and belief in Algeria was raised on 14 April during Algeria's examination under the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review, which the UK participated in. We were disappointed that Algeria did not accept the recommendation made, relating to its decree on freedom of religion.

We continue to monitor the enforcement of religious laws in Algeria, raising individual cases when it is appropriate.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to his Algerian counterpart on *(a)* the imprisonment of Algerian nationals who have expressed their minority religious views through written and audio materials and *(b)* the closure of 26 Protestant churches in the last 12 months. [236666]

**Bill Rammell:** I am due to visit Algeria on 24-25 November to participate in the third round of bilateral political dialogue. During discussions, I hope to raise this issue with my Algerian interlocutors. Our ambassador to Algeria raised this issue with the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 23 July 2008.

The right to freedom of religion and belief in Algeria was raised on 14 April during Algeria's examination under the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review, which the UK participated in. Additionally, the EU-Algeria Association agreement, which came into force in September 2005, restates that the principles and fundamental human rights set out in the universal declaration of human rights is an essential part of the agreement and must be followed by both signatories. The EU will continue to raise questions of human rights in Algeria.

We continue to monitor the enforcement of religious laws in Algeria, raising individual cases when it is appropriate.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will meet the Algerian Ambassador to discuss the effects of Ordinance 06-03 on religious freedom in Algeria. [236753]

**Bill Rammell:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary does not intend to meet the Algerian ambassador to discuss this issue.

However, I am due to visit Algeria on 24-25 November to participate in the third round of bilateral political dialogue. During discussions, I hope to raise this issue with my Algerian interlocutors.

Our ambassador to Algeria raised this issue with the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 23 July 2008.

### Arms Trade: Treaties

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials had with their US counterparts in advance of the recent United Nations vote on a multilateral Arms Trade Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [233945]

**Bill Rammell:** We maintain regular and close contact with the US Government on the proposed Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) alongside a wide range of other subjects. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the proposed ATT with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice when they met in New York in September this year and wrote to her on 7 October.

Senior officials have maintained a dialogue with their US counterparts up to and during the UN First Committee meetings last month at which the vote on our resolution to continue work on an ATT was adopted with 147 member states voting in favour—a substantial majority.

Although the US decided to vote against this resolution we are confident that they remain committed to working with the UK towards higher standards of arms export controls. We will maintain our dialogue with them to ensure their views, along with the views of all other UN members, are reflected fully in a strong ATT that will help put an end to the irresponsible trade in conventional arms.

### Australia: Foreign Relations

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make plans to visit Australia to discuss UK-Australia relations. [235984]

**Bill Rammell:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary does not currently have plans to visit Australia. He maintains a regular and productive dialogue with his Australian counterpart on a range of key bilateral and multilateral issues. They have regular conversations over the telephone and have met on several occasions this year, including during Stephen Smith's visit to London in June.

The most recent visit to Australia by a Foreign Office Minister was in May by my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Heeley (Meg Munn), the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, when she discussed UK-Australia relations with a range of Australian Ministers, including their Deputy Prime Minister.

### British Council: Finance

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the efficiency of the financial controls on the British Council; and if he will make a statement. [230859]

**Caroline Flint:** The British Council has a strong culture of financial control with well established fraud management policies and procedures. These are regularly reviewed by the organisation's dedicated internal audit function and annually reviewed by the National Audit Office. If fraud is discovered, it is the British Council's normal practice to immediately review existing controls and reflect lessons learnt in operating practices where necessary. In addition, the British Council is implementing a new global finance and business system which will further strengthen the financial control environment through better segregation of duties, more automated financial controls and greater visibility centrally of the effective operation of financial controls.

Although the Foreign and Commonwealth Office cannot guarantee that frauds will not take place at the Council, we are satisfied that the Council has put in place cost-effective procedures that give reasonable assurance that they will not be defrauded.

### Colombia: Armed Forces

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of the Colombian security forces received training funded, in whole or in part, by the UK in each of the last five years. [235942]

**Gillian Merron:** UK Government records show that the following number of Colombian Security personnel received direct UK training in the following fiscal years:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 21 |
| 2004-05 | 56 |
| 2005-06 | 58 |
| 2006-07 | 66 |
| 2007-08 | 393 |

This UK bilateral training is focused on human rights and humanitarian demining. As much of this engagement is training the trainers, further personnel will have benefited. Furthermore, the UK is also supporting projects being implemented by a number of United Nations agencies to train thousands more men and women in human rights.

Some Colombian military personnel have also received training in the field of counter narcotics. We do not disclose the nature of this engagement, as to do so would endanger the security of the UK and Colombian personnel involved, and undermine the effectiveness of that work.

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which personnel of the 2nd Division of the Colombian Army commanded by Brigadier General Cortes Franco received training funded, in whole or in part, by the UK in the last five years. [235943]

**Gillian Merron:** The UK does not provide training to whole units such as the 2nd Division of the Colombian Army. It is not possible to identify individuals trained by the UK, or by UN programmes part-funded by the UK, who have gone on to serve in particular division of the Colombian armed forces.

We do not disclose the names or other details of people we have trained as to do so would endanger the security of the UK and Colombian personnel involved.

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of the Colombian armed forces received training from the British Army in each year since 2000. [235990]

**Gillian Merron:** UK Government records show that the following number of Colombian Security personnel received direct UK training in the following fiscal years:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 12 |
| 2001-02 | 1 |
| 2002-03 | 1 |
| 2003-04 | 21 |
| 2004-05 | 56 |
| 2005-06 | 58 |
| 2006-07 | 66 |
| 2007-08 | 393 |

This UK bilateral training is focused on human rights and humanitarian demining. As much of this engagement is training the trainers, further personnel will have benefited. Furthermore, the UK is also supporting projects being implemented by a number of United Nations agencies to train thousands more men and women in human rights.

Some Colombian military personnel have also received training in the field of counter narcotics. We do not disclose the nature of this engagement, as to do so would endanger the security of the UK and Colombian personnel involved, and undermine the effectiveness of that work.

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 777W, on Colombia: armed forces, what training his Department has provided to individual soldiers attached to the 15th Mobile Brigade. [235991]

**Gillian Merron:** Officials from this Department are not involved in the training of any members of the Colombian armed forces.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, alongside the Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development, supports humanitarian demining and human rights training, either directly or through partners including the United Nations, to personnel drawn from across the Colombian armed forces and police. As well as bilateral projects, we have projects running through several UN agencies including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, that will provide training to more than two thousand serving men and women.

**Ms Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the dismissal of Colombian Major José Simon Baquero Ramos and the allegations that men under his command committed extra-judicial executions of Columbian civilians; and if he will make a statement. [237048]

**Gillian Merron:** We have received no specific reports concerning any of the individuals dismissed following the recent allegations of extra-judicial killings and criminal conspiracy, including Major José Simon Baquero Ramos. In my public statement on 30 October I welcomed the robust action taken by the Government to dismiss the 27 Colombian army officials, and its assurances that all those responsible for these and other extra-judicial killings will stand trial in front of civilian courts.

### Colombia: Human Rights

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the Colombian army's alleged involvement in extra-judicial killings of civilians; and if he will make a statement. [233346]

**Gillian Merron:** We are aware of abuses recently attributed to the Colombian armed forces, and of the decision taken by the Colombian Government to dismiss a number of its senior officers as a result of these and other reported crimes. I issued the following public statement on the issue on 30 October:

> "The Colombian Government's decision to dismiss a number of army officers as a result of recent extra-judicial killings and cases of criminal conspiracy is important. It is vital, not least for Colombia's international reputation, that the Government and Courts continue to show a determination to deal with human rights abuses committed by members of the armed forces, and that those convicted by the civilian justice system are punished appropriately."

### Colombia: Intelligence Services

**Anne Moffat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 629W, on Colombia: security services, what categories of information are held in his Department's records of Colombian security force personnel who have received UK training in Colombia; and who is responsible for monitoring the human rights conduct of such personnel. [233651]

**Gillian Merron:** The British embassy in Bogota keeps a record of Colombian security force personnel who receive UK training, whether in counter-narcotics, human rights or humanitarian demining, in case information emerged to suggest that they subsequently become involved in human rights abuses. None has to date. Disclosing the details of the record held by the embassy could endanger the lives of those involved.

All UK-funded projects in Colombia are rigorously evaluated before funding is agreed; and carefully monitored while under way in terms of use of funds, achievement of objectives and outputs. We closely supervise the use of UK resources to ensure the highest operational, ethical and human rights standards are maintained by those with whom we work.

The monitoring of the human rights or other performance of individual Colombian military personnel is the responsibility of the Colombian armed forces. The Colombian Government's decision to dismiss a number of army officers as a result of recent extra-judicial killings and cases of criminal conspiracy was important. We welcome that those responsible for these crimes will stand trial. It is vital that the Colombian authorities continue to show determination to punish those responsible for abuses, as I reiterated to the Colombian Vice-President on 19 November.

### Democratic Republic of the Congo: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to monitor the current situation in Democratic Republic of the Congo. [233674]

**Gillian Merron:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Kinshasa, Goma and Kigali on 1-2 November. He saw conditions in the region at first-hand and urged both President Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and President Kagame of Rwanda to work for a political solution to the current crisis in eastern DRC, including full implementation of the Nairobi Accord. Our embassy and the Department for International Development office in Kinshasa maintain close contact with the DRC Government, the UN operation, international partners and humanitarian agencies.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to protect British citizens and aid workers in Democratic Republic of the Congo. [233676]

**Gillian Merron:** We have no exact figures for the numbers of British citizens in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), though we believe the numbers to be small. Foreign and Commonwealth Office Travel Advice advises against all travel to eastern and north eastern DRC including North Kivu. Those British nationals in the effected areas are likely to be working with international aid agencies and UN agencies. These organisations have their own security systems in place for the evacuation of staff and take advice from the UN mission in the DRC locally. Our embassy in Kinshasa is able to provide limited consular assistance to British nationals in need of emergency assistance. We have a diplomat based in Goma, who as part of their role is to offer consular advice and assistance.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports by UN officials of the involvement of Angolan troops in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [235359]

**Gillian Merron:** We have received no confirmed reports from any source, including the UN, of formed units of Angolan troops operating in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The UN Peacekeeping Force's (MONUC) official spokesman has denied rumours that there are Angolan troops in eastern DRC. The Angolan ambassador to DRC has also denied that there are Angolan troops present in the country.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo: United Nations**

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent consideration his Department has given to the provision of additional resources to the UN mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and if he will make a statement. [233316]

**Gillian Merron:** UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) forces on the ground are best placed to deal with the current situation: I fully support their efforts to do so, and commend them for the work they have done. It is not clear that a rapid deployment of forces from the EU or elsewhere at this time could produce a significant increase in the capability that already exists in the region. Discussions with EU partners have revealed a broad consensus in line with this assessment.

The UK currently has five personnel within MONUC, occupying key staff appointments in Kinshasa and Goma. We will consider requests for additional support from the UN but large scale deployments are highly unlikely in view of our operational commitments elsewhere.

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the provision of additional resources to United Nations Mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [233317]

**Gillian Merron:** During the EU's General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting on 10 November, EU Foreign Ministers agreed that at present the best option would be to ensure that the UN Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo's (MONUC) 17,000 troops are correctly deployed and effectively mandated to provide immediate security in the east of the country. The Council issued conclusions which reiterated its support for MONUC in these difficult circumstances and asked that everything be done to allow it to fulfil its role completely. The Council also underlined the importance of the forthcoming debates on renewal of MONUC's mandate and on strengthening its capacity and called for the strengthening of co-operation between the EU, its member states and MONUC.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo: Violence**

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made towards the development of a country-wide plan of action and strategy to combat gender violence in Democratic Republic of the Congo; and what assistance the UK has given towards this task. [232113]

**Gillian Merron:** The UN Senior Adviser on Sexual Violence has been working on a global strategy for tackling the issue in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in consultation with partners. The UK has been taking an active interest in the project. In particular, we have been contributing to the impunity action plan for sexual crimes in DRC, which is a component of the wider UN strategy.

Addressing sexual violence requires a multi-dimensional approach and the UK Government are tackling the problem through a range of programmes. As part of our Security Sector Accountability Programme (£80 million over five years), we are providing accommodation for integrated brigades, human rights training within the military and have supported the reform of the army chain of payments. The programme includes a strong police reform component focussing on improving command and control procedures and supporting special units within the police to deal with sexual violence. We fund medical and psychosocial care for victims through our contribution to the UN Humanitarian Pooled Fund (£35 million). With EU partners we are supporting a justice rehabilitation programme in Eastern DRC, Restoration of the Judicial System in Eastern Congo (REJUSCO), which includes a component providing legal support and accompaniment for victims through the criminal process. The issue of sexual violence is raised on a regular basis by Her Majesty's ambassador and others to senior members of the Government to generate political will to tackle the issue.

**Departmental Buildings**

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what refurbishments to his Department's buildings have been carried out in the last 24 months; and at what cost. [233414]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) carried out the following refurbishments to its buildings in the UK in the last 24 months:

refurbishment to areas of sub-ground (including the Consular Crisis Centre), ground, third and fourth floors of King Charles St, London, at a cost of £14,004,000;

refurbishment to areas of the second, third and fourth floors and East cupola of the Old Admiralty Building, London, at a cost of £1,425,000;

refurbishment to areas of the second floor of Lancaster House, London, at a cost of £45,000;

refurbishment of new offices in the Legalisation Office, Milton Keynes at a cost of £519,000;

refurbishment of lecture theatre and reception at Hanslope Park, Milton Keynes at a cost of £510,000.

Information relating to refurbishments made to the FCO's overseas estate is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Departmental Electronic Equipment**

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237431]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not keep the required information centrally and to provide it would incur a disproportionate cost.

All FCO expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles set out in the HM Treasury publications 'Managing Public Money' and 'Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money'.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on salaries for press and communications officers in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and (c) its agencies in each of the last three years. [231337]

**Gillian Merron:** The following tables show the number of UK civil servants serving as either press or communications officers at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London or at UK Diplomatic Missions overseas at the beginning of each financial year since 2005 and their combined base salaries.

| Section | Number of Staff | £ Combined Annual Salary |
|---|---|---|
| *1 April 2008* | | |
| Communications | 15 | 306,084.00 |
| Press | 44 | 1,388,374.00 |
| Total | 59 | 1,694,458.00 |
| *1 April 2007* | | |
| Communications | 36 | 757,906.00 |
| Press | 49 | 1,810,721.00 |
| Total | 85 | 2,568,627.00 |

### Diego Garcia: Rendition

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the statement of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 457-58, on terrorist suspects (renditions), whether the information received from the US administration on rendition flights through Diego Garcia has been passed to the police. [232517]

**Bill Rammell:** This information has not been passed to the police.

### Diego Garcia: USA

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the US lease on the use of part of Diego Garcia for a military base is due for renewal; and what his policy is on whether the lease should be renewed. [235120]

**Gillian Merron:** The use of the British Indian Ocean Territory is regulated by a series of bilateral agreements (Exchange of Notes) between the UK and the US. The 1966 Exchange of Notes provides that the islands of the British Indian Ocean Territory, including Diego Garcia, shall be available for defence purposes of both countries for an initial period of 50 years (until 2016) and continuing thereafter for a further period of 20 years unless terminated by either government not more than two years before the end of the initial period.

There have been no discussions with the US about the possibility of terminating the agreement. The UK and US consult closely and regularly on their mutual defence needs, including in the annual bilateral official talks on the British Indian Ocean Territory last held in London 18-19 September 2008. To date neither the UK nor the US has raised the possibility of terminating the agreement.

### Ilois: Resettlement

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost has been to his Department of contesting legal action brought by Chagos islanders seeking to return to the Chagos Islands in each year since 1999-2000. [235122]

**Gillian Merron:** There have been three separate legal cases concerning the British India Ocean Territory (BIOT). My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has paid the following sums in respect of legal fees incurred in defending those cases.

R (Bancoult) *v.* Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and another: £175,268.44—legal fees; £280,000—applicant's legal fees paid by the Secretary of State following judgment in favour of the applicant.

Chagos Islanders *v.* (1) the Attorney-General (2) Her Majesty's BIOT Commissioner: £752,362.78—legal fees.

R (Bancoult) *v.* Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs: the award costs for this case are currently being considered by the Law Lords.

### India: Christianity

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of India on action against the perpetrators of recent violence against Christian churches and people in Orissa state. [235404]

**Bill Rammell:** On 1 October my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown raised the matter with the Indian High Commissioner in London. On 17 October, he also discussed our concerns with Anand Sharma, Indian Minister of External Affairs, and Mohammed Quereshi, Chairman of the Minorities Commission in New Delhi.

We understand that the Indian Central Government served an advisory notice to the Orissa State Government on 13 October, urging them to take firm and effective steps to deal with the outbreaks of communal violence and to bring the perpetrators to justice. Our high commission in New Delhi is monitoring the situation closely.

### Iran: Nuclear Power

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of Iran's compliance with the August 2007 workplan agreed with the International Atomic Energy Agency; and if he will make a statement. [236385]

**Bill Rammell:** The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General has reported four times since August 2007 on the "Workplan" on implementation of Iran's Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. He has acknowledged some progress, but, in his report of 15 September 2008, Dr. El Baradei said that the IAEA had regrettably

"not been able to make any substantive progress on the alleged studies and other associated key remaining issues which remain of serious concern".

We agree with Dr. El Baradei and continue to assess that Iran remains in breach of international obligations. We reiterate our call for Iran to answer the IAEA's questions, and to rebuild international confidence in its intentions.

### Iraq: Christianity

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the *(a)* motivation and *(b)* identity of the perpetrators of the recent violence towards Christians in Iraq; and what representations he has made to the government of Iraq in this respect. [236352]

**Bill Rammell:** All communities in Iraq, including Christians, have suffered from terrorism, sectarian violence and criminality. We condemn all such violence, regardless of who it is directed against.

We have raised our concerns about the recent violence towards Christians with the Iraqi Government, including the Human Rights Ministry. We welcome the action it has taken to address the security situation in Mosul, where most of this violence has occurred. We are encouraged by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that Christian families are now returning to their homes.

The Iraqi Government have established a high level investigatory committee to look into the violence in Mosul. We will discuss the findings with the Iraqis when the report is completed.

### Iraq: Diplomatic Service

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what rights to *(a)* appeal and *(b)* notification of reasons locally-engaged staff contracted to work in the British embassy in Baghdad have in cases of dismissal. [233226]

**Gillian Merron:** Conduct and discipline issues are covered in local staff terms and conditions. In Baghdad the issue is dealt with in Paragraph 28 and Annex A of the Terms and Conditions of Service in compliance with local law, which state:

*Stage 4 - Dismissal*

If conduct, attendance or performance is still unsatisfactory and the employee still fails to reach the prescribed standards, dismissal will normally result. The decision will take into account the employee's previous record and any other factors that may be relevant. The employee will be provided, as soon as reasonably practicable, with written reasons for dismissal, the date on which employment will terminate and the rights of appeal. The employee or a representative for them may appeal by putting arguments against dismissal in writing, and those arguments will be considered by Post Management. The employee may contact Local Staff Management Unit (HRD-LSPS) in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, but should be aware that there is no formal appeal channel to London. The employee should feel able to involve the local staff association, and no staff association representative will be penalised in any way for becoming involved. If the employee is unsatisfied with the outcome of this process or of any appeal, then they may have recourse to the local courts (subject to the possible application of local Iraqi laws, including Coalition Provisional Authority Orders in this regard).

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to what codes of practice on employment and terms and conditions locally-engaged staff contracted to work in the British Embassy in Baghdad are subject to. [233227]

**Gillian Merron:** Terms and conditions of employment for locally engaged staff at the British embassy in Baghdad are based on local law. There is a Foreign and Commonwealth Office checklist of issues, such as conduct and discipline, grievances, hours of work, pay, performance standard and tax, which are included in all local staff terms and conditions worldwide, and adapted to comply with local law. Some of the locally contracted staff working at the British embassy Baghdad are employees of private companies such as KBR, Control Risks and GardaWorld, and their terms and conditions are set by their parent companies.

### Iraq: Human Rights

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the treatment of the Assyrian community in Iraq. [236461]

**Bill Rammell:** Officials in our posts in Erbil and Baghdad, as well as in London, regularly meet representatives of the Assyrian community in Iraq, including the Assyrian representative in the Iraqi Parliament. We last met Assyrian representatives in Erbil on 11 November.

Like all communities in Iraq, the Assyrians have suffered from violence, extremism and criminality. We continue to press the Government of Iraq to ensure that they take action to protect all communities as enshrined in the Iraqi constitution, and to take tough action against those responsible for criminal acts.

### Kosovo: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Serbian counterpart on the deployment of the European Union's EULEX mission in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [236390]

**David Miliband:** The EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) was one of the issues I discussed with Serbia's President Boris Tadic and Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic during my visit to Serbia on 4-5 November, and with Foreign Minister Jeremic when he visited London on 11 November.

I indicated that a signal from Serbia that it supported EULEX's mission would help create a positive atmosphere for EULEX deployment across Kosovo. We expect Serbia, as an aspiring member of the European Union, to understand the importance of support for this important European Security Defence Policy mission.

### Libya

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the terms of the prisoner transfer agreement signed with Libya on 17 November 2008 are; when it is expected to come into force; and if he will make a statement. [237911]

**Mr. Straw:** I have been asked to reply.

The prisoner transfer agreement between the United Kingdom and Libya was signed on 17 November 2008. It is subject to ratification by both the United Kingdom and Libya and will not enter into force until both states have completed their relevant constitutional procedures. In accordance with the requirements of the Ponsonby Rule, the agreement will be published as a Command Paper and laid before Parliament with an Explanatory Memorandum in the usual way.

### Madagascar

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed with his Madagascan counterpart the possibility of Madagascar joining the Commonwealth of Nations. [233972]

**Gillian Merron:** No such discussions have taken place. However, President Ravalomanana has indicated to our ambassador his desire to discuss Commonwealth membership, noting strong British involvement in Madagascar before it was colonised by the French.

### Middle East: Peace Negotiations

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department has given to peace discussions between the Syrian and Israeli governments. [235987]

**Bill Rammell:** We have consistently expressed our political support for the Turkish government's efforts in holding indirect peace talks between Syria and Israel. Over the past fortnight, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has met his Turkish, Israeli and Syrian counterparts and reiterated our support.

### Montserrat: Foreign Relations

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings he has had with representatives of the Montserrat Government in the last six months. [236115]

**Gillian Merron:** As Minister for Overseas Territories, I met overseas territories heads of delegations, including the Chief Minister of Montserrat, hon. Lowell Lewis, during the 10th meeting of the Overseas Territories Consultative Council on 28-29 October.

My hon. Friend the Under Secretary of State for Department of International Development, and I also held bilateral discussions with Chief Minister hon. Lowell Lewis and Minister hon. Reuben Meade on Thursday 30 October.

### Montserrat: Tourism

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many tourists from the UK visited Montserrat in the last year for which figures are available. [236107]

**Gillian Merron:** Tourist statistics are collated by the government of Montserrat. We understand that from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007, 1,899 British citizens visited Montserrat. For the current calendar year up to 12 November 2008, 1,643 British citizens have visited Montserrat. These figures refer to people who have visited Montserrat on a UK passport, and whose normal place of residence is the UK.

### Nuclear Fuels

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK has taken in the last 12 months to conclude an international agreement on a mechanism for reliable access to nuclear fuel under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency. [236391]

**David Miliband:** The UK, Germany and the Netherlands co-hosted an international conference on 17-18 April to bring together supplier and customer states to discuss this issue. The UK will host a further conference next year. The UK is currently working with the presidency of the EU to agree the conditions for an EU contribution to a nuclear fuel bank administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Steps are also being taken to finalise the UK's Enrichment Bond proposal and we expect to take this to the IAEA early next year.

### Peace Negotiations: Women

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many women *(a)* are on and *(b)* the UK nominated to be on the UN Peacebuilding Commission. [234742]

**Bill Rammell:** The UN Peacebuilding Commission's (PBC) membership is a collection of UN member states, not individuals. Selection of those member states is made on the grounds of post-conflict experience, equitable geographic representation and gathering expertise from among key troop and police contributing countries and donors. As such, member states do not nominate individual candidates to be on the PBC, although they do provide representatives to speak for them in meetings. Representatives therefore could be of either gender and attendance may differ from meeting to meeting.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget is for the UK National Action Plan to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325; whether he plans to increase it; and if he will make a statement. [234743]

**Bill Rammell:** There is no specific budget for the UK National Action Plan to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 as the issues are largely mainstreamed into our work on conflict. However, through the tri-departmental (Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence) Conflict Prevention Pool the UK provides direct funding support to a range of projects aimed at tackling gender-based violence and building capacity for female participation in conflict resolution. We will continue to identify projects that promote the recommendations of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and ensure that all HMG funded projects take into account gender issues. UK training to troop contributing countries prior to deployment in UN missions includes guidance on the protection of women and children.

In the last three years we have given the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) around £9 million in core funding, including £3.4 million for its project on "Women's engagement in Peacebuilding and Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Project". Other projects include funding research into the problem of violence against women in Afghanistan, and £2 million of funding for Pakistan's Gender Justice and Protection Fund which supports national approaches to combat violence against women. In South Africa we provide support to NGOs aimed at empowering women, men and youth to demand and protect women's rights, reducing the vulnerability of women and girls to gender based violence and HTV/AIDs.

**Redundancy**

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (Y) his Department and (Z) each of his Department's agencies. [237353]

**Gillian Merron:** No UK civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) left the Department involuntarily having received notice of compulsory redundancy in the period since 2005.

The following table shows the number of staff who left the FCO voluntarily under early retirement or early severance schemes in each year since 2005 grouped according to their annual salary at the time of their departure:

| | *Up to £25,000* | *£25,001 to £50,000* | *£50,001 to £75,000* | *£75,001 to £100,000* | *Over £100,000* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2006-07 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2007-08 | 3 | 49 | 36 | 9 | 6 | 103 |
| 2008-09 (provisional) | 17 | 39 | 13 | 7 | 3 | 79 |

Compensation for early departure is paid in strict accordance with the standard Civil Service Compensation Scheme. The FCO meets the cost of early departures. This includes the cost of lump sum severance payments and the additional costs of benefits beyond the normal Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) benefits in respect of employees who retire early.

The following table shows the total cost to the FCO of early departures by staff in each year since 2005.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 18,158,162.00 |
| 2006-07 | 11,269,250.00 |
| 2007-08 | 18,918,138.00 |
| 2008-09 (provisional) | 9,372,159.00 |

FCO Services began operating as a Trading Fund in April 2008. The following table shows expenditure on early departures by FCO Services in each year since 2007-08 (the first year for which separate figures are available):

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 1,628,536.00 |
| 2008-09 | 0 |

It is our policy to do all we can to avoid compulsory redundancies. Since 2004 we have carried out a number of restructuring exercises to realise efficiency savings. This early retirement programme enabled us to reduce the size of the Senior Management Structure (SMS) in the FCO by 20 per cent. by 31 March 2008.

Figures given for 2008-09 are provisional estimates. The FCO has no plans for wide-scale restructuring exercises in 2009-10, but will be ready to offer departure on early retirement terms to a limited number of staff who meet strict criteria, if work force planning requirements make it necessary.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [239163]

**Gillian Merron:** The following table shows the number of staff who voluntarily left the Foreign and Commonwealth Office under early retirement or early severance schemes in each year, grouped by the level of total cost to the Department of funding each retirement package:

| | Up to £25,000 | £25,001 to £50,000 | £50,001 to £75,000 | £75,001 to £100,000 | Over £100,000 | Number of staff Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 20 | 38 | 22 | 22 | 70 | 172 |
| 2006-07 | 2 | 17 | 8 | 12 | 35 | 74 |
| 2007-08 | 11 | 12 | 5 | 10 | 65 | 103 |
| 2008-09[1] | 10 | 16 | 10 | 7 | 36 | 79 |

[1] Provisional

All payments to staff leaving on early exit schemes are calculated and paid in strict accordance with the terms of the standard Civil Service Compensation Schemes. The total costs shown in the table include compensation payments up to pension age (60), early payment of pension sums, some of which would have been payable to these staff whenever they retired, and administrative costs.

The figure given for 2008-09 is a provisional estimate.

All early retirements for which we have paid compensation during this period have been voluntary.

**Russia: BBC External Services**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes to the BBC World Service's Russian Service there have been in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [238250]

**David Miliband:** In October the BBC World Service announced changes to the BBC Russia Service in the face of a decline in short wave audiences and the loss of all its FM agreements over the past few years. There is an overall refocusing of the BBC's radio programming, stronger news coverage and an increased online offering. It is for the BBC to decide how best to use its resources to maximise impact.

BBC Russia will now offer a more focused peak-time news service on radio, both on medium wave and short wave. Their new strategy is to offer a fresher, more relevant service for audiences and to ensure that resources are focused where they will have the most impact.

The BBC will also increase its online presence. The BBC's online plans include:

(a) launching a new online rolling news service;

(b) increasing the number of high quality video reports;

(c) strengthening resources for BBCRussian.com during the morning peak periods;

(d) increasing the resources for interactivity;

(e) boosting the Learn English part of BBCRussian.com.

**Russia: EU External Relations**

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in the EU-Russia talks on a partnership and co-operation agreement with respect to the territorial integrity of Russia's neighbouring states; and if he will make a statement. [236783]

**Caroline Flint:** We welcome the resumption of negotiations on the new EU-Russia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. This will ensure that we can engage Russia on all the issues that are important to us including regional security and stability, trade, climate and energy security. We are clear however that this does not mean a return to business as usual in the EU's relationship with Russia. We will continue to demand full Russian compliance with the ceasefire agreements. And as the EU presidency statement following the November General Affairs and External Relations Council made clear, we will remain vigilant, in particular on common neighbourhood issues that are covered by the Union's negotiating mandate. This includes the conflicts in Georgia and Moldova.

**Russia: Foreign Relations**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the EU review of relations with Russia. [236381]

**David Miliband:** A copy of the review has been placed in the Library of both Houses.

**Russia: Georgia**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the Government has made of the situation of ethnic Georgians displaced from their homes in Abkhazia and South Ossetia since 7 August 2008; what representations the Government has made concerning their situation to the Russian Government; and if he will make a statement. [233102]

**David Miliband:** The UK Government are concerned about refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) following the conflict in Georgia this August.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has assessed that refugees suffer from food insecurity, deplorable living conditions, lack of access to social services and low school attendance rates for children. While improved law enforcement has provided better security, feuds between families remain an issue for refugees and locals. The UNHCR Global Needs Assessment has identified outstanding challenges including: expanding access to national health, education and social protection programmes; enhancing livelihood opportunities for refugee and host communities; improving awareness among refugees of civil obligations and rights, and procedures to pursue naturalisation.

Since the crisis broke in August the UK has provided £4 million of humanitarian aid through UNHCR, International Red Cross, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Hazardous Areas Life-Support Organisation (HALO).

Together with our EU partners we continue to urge the Russian Government and the de facto authority in Abkhazia and South Ossetia to participate in the Geneva talks to find a peaceful lasting settlement, including enabling IDPs to return to their homes.

### Russia: Missiles

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of Russia's planned deployment of Iskander missiles to the Kaliningrad region; what discussions he has had on the matter with *(a)* the Polish government and *(b)* his other NATO counterparts; what assessment he has made of President Medvedev's threat electronically to jam US anti-ballistic missile systems; and if he will make a statement. [234947]

**Caroline Flint:** Deployment of these missiles would be unfortunate and unnecessary. The US has made clear many times, the planned Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system is not intended for, or capable of, countering Russian strategic nuclear forces, but is designed to counter limited ballistic missile threats from states of concern.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with the Polish government, or the governments of other North Atlantic Treaty Organisation nations, on this specific issue, although the issue of BMD is routinely discussed in a number of forums.

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* NATO and *(b)* EU partners on the Russian declaration on installing short-range offensive Iskander missiles close to the borders of Lithuania, Poland and Germany; and if he will make a statement. [236781]

**Caroline Flint:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North Essex (Mr. Jenkin) (question 234947).

### Rwanda: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterparts in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the recent fighting in the region. [233182]

**Gillian Merron:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Tanzania on 1-2 November with his French counterpart, Bernard Kouchner. During the visit, he urged President Kabila of the DRC and President Kagame of Rwanda to pursue a political solution to the problems of the eastern DRC, including by fully implementing the Nairobi Accord.

We will continue to work with the DRC and Rwandan Governments, as well as others including the UN, the African Union and the EU, to seek a long-term solution. Meanwhile, we urge that the current ceasefire is maintained and humanitarian access is allowed to help those most affected by recent fighting.

### Somalia: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the seizure of the port of Merka in Somalia by Islamist militants; and if he will make a statement. [236376]

**Gillian Merron:** A Shabaab insurgent group entered the port city of Merka on 11 November 2008. Government forces appear to have avoided a battle by withdrawing prior to their arrival. Merka is now reported to be the closest city to Mogadishu controlled by insurgents.

### Somalia: Piracy

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of reports that pirates operating in the Gulf of Aden are from insurgent groups linked to al-Qaeda; and if he will make a statement. [236350]

**Bill Rammell:** Piracy has a long history in the region, and while it is possible this is linked to terrorism and insurgent groups, the best evidence is that these activities are largely unconnected. The relevant UK Departments are in regular contact on this issue.

### Sudan: War Crimes

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his *(a)* US and *(b)* French counterparts on the warrant issued by the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court for the arrest of President al-Bashir of Sudan; and what the outcome was. [235411]

**Gillian Merron:** On 14 July 2008 the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) submitted an application to the Pre-Trial Chamber of the ICC to issue a warrant for the arrest of President Bashir of Sudan. The Pre-Trial Chamber has not yet ruled on this application.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular discussions with his French and US counterparts, including on the subject of Sudan. We also have extensive discussions at official level. We have agreed with the US, France and other international partners on the need to continue pressing the government of Sudan to engage with the ICC and to commit to a genuine peace process for Darfur and have made this clear to the government of Sudan.

### Turks and Caicos Islands: Foreign Relations

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has met officials from the Turks and Caicos Islands since Hurricane Ike in September 2008. [238366]

**Gillian Merron:** As Minister for the Overseas Territories, I met delegations from the Overseas Territories, including the Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Dr. Michael Misick, and his officials, during the tenth meeting of the Overseas Territories Consultative Council on 28-29 October.

The Under Secretary of State for the Department for International Development and I held a bilateral discussion with the Premier, the Finance Minister and Ministry of Finance officials on 30 October.

### Turks and Caicos Islands: Hurricanes

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the socio-economic impact assessment prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in respect of the damage caused to the Turks and Caicos Islands by Hurricane Ike. [236773]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, jointly with the Department for International Development, has considered the draft assessment prepared by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. We have provided our comments to the Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Secretary for inclusion in its final report.

### Turks and Caicos Islands: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions have taken place with the Turks and Caicos Islands authorities on post-hurricane financial assistance; and when a decision will be made about such assistance. [235716]

**Gillian Merron:** The current status of discussions within the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) is a matter for the government of the TCI. However, I discussed post-hurricane financial assistance with the Premier of the TCI when I met with him on 30 October. I understand that they are discussing post-hurricane financial assistance with a number of international organisations, governments and private contributors.

### Western Sahara: Politics and Government

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 239W, on the Western Sahara, what his policy is on whether the resolution of humanitarian and human rights questions should await the conclusion of a political settlement. [236662]

**Bill Rammell:** The UK remains committed to a resolution to the Western Sahara dispute that will achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, providing self-determination to the people of Western Sahara. A successful political solution between the parties lies in building trust and confidence, encouraging the parties to greater realism and compromise as outlined by UN Security Council Resolution 1813 adopted on 30 April 2008. Improvements in the human rights and humanitarian consequences of the dispute are a key part of building that mutual confidence.

On 22 April my hon. Friend and predecessor the hon. Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells), while visiting Morocco, called for greater transparency by all the parties, including on human rights, to help build mutual confidence. This call was echoed by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary when he met Mr. Taieb Fassi Fihri, the Foreign Minister of Morocco, in Marseille on 3 November. The UK Government continue to provide, through the European Union, significant humanitarian assistance to the people in the camps in Tindouf. Since 1993, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) has provided €133 million in humanitarian aid.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 239W, on the Western Sahara, what his policy is on the appointment of human rights monitors in the Western Sahara. [236663]

**Bill Rammell:** The UK is concerned that the conflict in the Western Sahara remains unresolved and we are keen to see a resolution to the issue of the Western Sahara that will provide for a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution offering self-determination of the people of the Western Sahara. To this end, we support the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and the negotiations between the parties under his auspices.

The UK also continues to support the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). MINURSO's mandate does not include human rights monitoring. However, success in the negotiations depends upon building greater confidence between the parties. In this respect, the UK remains open to supporting UN human rights monitoring in the Western Sahara if it can be shown to enhance the mutual confidence of the parties.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 239W, on the Western Sahara, whether the Government categorises the Western Sahara as a non-self-governing territory. [236664]

**Bill Rammell:** The UK regards the sovereignty and hence the status of Western Sahara as undetermined pending UN efforts to find a solution. Western Sahara is on the UN's list of non-self-governing territories.

## HEALTH

### Alzheimer's Disease: Drugs

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of providing drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease in each of the last five years. [237901]

**Phil Hope:** The condition for which a medicine is prescribed is not recorded centrally.

The information requested in respect of medicines for the treatment of dementia (as listed in section 4.11 of the British National Formulary (BNF) and which includes Alzheimer's disease) is shown in the following table. Some prescribing of these medicines will be for reasons other than dementia and there may be some prescribing from other areas of the BNF for the treatment of dementia which is not included.

*Section 4.11 of the British National Formulary*

£000

| | Net ingredient cost of medicines prescribed in the UK and dispensed in the community in England | Estimated cost for medicines used in hospitals in England[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 70,415 | 12,036 |
| 2006 | 58,969 | 11,943 |
| 2005 | 49,257 | 11,973 |
| 2004 | 42,765 | 11,858 |
| 2003 | 31,347 | 10,576 |

[1] Includes medicines dispensed to private patients in private wards within NHS hospitals via the hospital pharmacy.
*Sources:*
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system
© IMS HEALTH: Hospital Pharmacy Audit Index

## Breast Cancer: East Midlands

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of breast cancer were *(a)* diagnosed and *(b)* successfully treated in the East Midlands in each of the last 10 years. [237899]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of breast cancer were (a) diagnosed and (b) successfully treated in the East Midlands in each of the last 10 years. [237899]

Table 1 gives the numbers of (a) newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer (incidence) by sex for each year from 1997 to 2006 (the latest data available) for the East Midlands government office region.

It cannot be stated definitively whether a patient with breast cancer has been (b) 'successfully treated'.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) regularly publishes one- and five-year survival rates for patients resident in government office regions and strategic health authorities. Table 2 gives the five-year relative survival rate for women diagnosed with breast cancer between 1994 and 1999 in the East Midlands government office region.

Table 3 shows the predicted long-term relative survival rates for women diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001-2003 (the most recent period for which data are available) in the East Midlands government office region.

ONS does not produce survival rates for men diagnosed with breast cancer. Male breast cancer accounts for less than one per cent of all breast cancer cases.

*Table 1: Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancers[1] registered in the east midlands government office region: by sex, 1997 to 2006*

| | Males | Females |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 17 | 2,622 |
| 1998 | 19 | 2,767 |
| 1999 | 12 | 2,967 |
| 2000 | 9 | 2,993 |
| 2001 | 8 | 3,005 |
| 2002 | 22 | 3,047 |
| 2003 | 26 | 3,306 |
| 2004 | 25 | 3,513 |
| 2005 | 18 | 3,375 |
| 2006 | 18 | 3,548 |

[1] Breast cancer is coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

*Table 2: Five-year age-standardised relative survival[1] (percentage) from breast cancer[2], female patients aged 15 to 99: east midlands government office region, 1994 to 1999*

| Patients diagnosed in | Followed up to the end of | Five-year survival (percentage) |
|---|---|---|
| 1994 to 1996 | 2001 | 73.6 |
| 1995 to 1997 | 2002 | 72.9 |
| 1996 to 1998 | 2003 | 75.8 |
| 1997 to 1999 | 2004 | 77.0 |

[1] Relative survival takes into account that some cancer patients will die from causes other than their cancer.
[2] Breast cancer is coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=11991&Pos=2&ColRank=1&Rank=272.

*Table 3: Predicted long-term relative survival[1] from breast cancer[2] for female patients aged 15 to 99: east midlands government office region, 2001 to 2003[3]*

| Duration of survival (years) | Percentage Relative survival |
|---|---|
| 1 | 93.9 |
| 5 | 79.6 |
| 10 | 69.4 |
| 15 | 65.7 |

[1] Relative survival takes into account that some cancer patients will die from causes other than their cancer.
[2] Breast cancer is coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
[3] Based on all women diagnosed with breast cancer between 1981 and 2001, who were alive for at least part of the period 2001 to 2003.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics.
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D9132.xls

## Carers

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time carers there are. [238373]

**Phil Hope:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) and the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr. Evennett) on 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1190W.

## Dental Services: Derbyshire

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS dental practices are operating in Derbyshire; [237895]

(2) how many dentists on NHS contracts were registered in Derbyshire in each year since 2005. [237896]

**Ann Keen:** Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, NHS Business Services Authority Dental Services Division can only provide validated information on the number of NHS dental practices at disproportionate cost.

The numbers of national health service dentists, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex E of the NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006. Information is available by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT).

This measure counted the number of NHS dentists recorded on PCT lists as at 31 March each year. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006.

This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08 report. Information is provided by SHA and by PCT. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Further work is planned over the next few months to determine whether the new definition used under the new dental contractual arrangements can be applied to the years under the old contractual arrangements to produce a consistent time series.

Both sets of published figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

### Dental Services: Finance

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many units of dental activity (UDAs) issued for NHS treatment have been clawed back by each primary care trust (PCT) since April 2006; how many additional UDAs have been commissioned in the same period by each PCT; and if he will make a statement; [237649]

(2) how many primary care trusts have clawed back attributed funding under the 2006 dental contract; and how many units of dental activity this equated to in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [237650]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected centrally. Providers of dental services contract with primary care trusts (PCTs) to deliver an agreed annual level of service measured in units of dental activity. Remuneration is in 12 equal instalments. Where a contractor delivers less than 96 per cent. of the annual level of service agreed it is the responsibility of PCTs to decide how this should be handled within the regulations governing dental contracts.

### Departmental Coordination

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the dates were of all meetings held between Ministers at his Department and Ministers at HM Treasury in the last six months; and which Ministers were present at each meeting. [235725]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Ministers of this Department do have meetings with Ministers at HM Treasury. However, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237315]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1205W, which reflects the position on support provided for special advisers in each of the last three years.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy to his Department in 2007-08. [228150]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Entertainment has been assumed to mean entertaining journalists. There have been two journalists receptions held in the last 12 months, one held on 24 July 2007, another at Christmas held on 17 December 2007.

These were held in Richmond House and the only costs incurred were the catering, £831.85 for the event on 24 July 2007 and £1,079.30 for the event on 17 December 2007.

The following table outlines the cost of departmental spending on publicity and advertising during 2007-08.

*Departmental spending on publicity and advertising 2007-08*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Tobacco control | 19.0 |
| Tobacco legislation | 8.7 |
| Sexual health (including the Department's contribution to joint campaign with Department for Children, Schools and Families) | 6.9 |
| Drugs prevention (the Department's contribution to joint campaign with Home Office and Department for Children, Schools and Families) | 2.0 |
| Alcohol (the Department's contribution to joint campaign with Home Office) | 1.3 |
| Hepatitis C | 2.1 |
| Flu immunisation | 1.4 |
| Social work/care | 3.1 |
| Keep warm, keep well (the Department's contribution to cross-government campaign) | 0.5 |
| Maternal and infant nutrition | 1.2 |
| Respiratory and hand hygiene | 0.8 |
| NHS Direct | 1.0 |
| Antibiotics | 0.6 |
| 5 A Day | 1.3 |
| NHS Injury Benefits Scheme | 0.4 |
| Total | 50.3 |

During 2007-08, the cost of public relations consultancy to the Department was £5,341,505.

## Diabetes

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children have been (i) diagnosed with and (ii) treated for diabetes in each of the last five years. [237900]

**Ann Keen:** The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) records the number of people recorded on general practice diabetes registers in England. As the care of children with diabetes is generally under the control of specialists, the register excludes those patients age 16 and under.

The following table shows the number of people recorded on diabetes registers from 2004-05 to 2007-08. This means that they have received a diagnosis of diabetes, and can therefore be offered the appropriate treatment and support.

*Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) diabetes register counts*[1]

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of patients on diabetes registers | 1,766,391 | 1,890,663 | 1,961,976 | 2,088,335 |

[1] Figures are available only from 2004-05 onwards

Exact figures for the number of children diagnosed with and treated for diabetes in the last five years are not available.

## Diabetes: Pupils

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues in the Department for Children, Schools and Families on the provision of training for school staff in supporting schoolchildren with diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [239235]

**Ann Keen:** The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and the Secretary of State for Health meet regularly to discuss matters of interest to the two Departments. This has included the child health strategy, due later this year, which will cover a range of issues including the care of children with long-term health conditions, such as diabetes.

## Health Professions: Prosthetics

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there are any restrictions on prosthetics practitioners from other EU member states practising in the United Kingdom. [239454]

**Ann Keen:** Prosthetics practitioners from other EU member states wishing to establish themselves in the United Kingdom are required to register with the Health Professions Council. The Health Professions Council will assess on a case by case basis those prosthetics practitioners who wish to practise in the United Kingdom on a temporary or occasional basis in particular to its duration, frequency, regularity and continuity.

## Health Services: Technology

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision has been made to assess advanced telehealth technology within the Whole Systems Demonstrator Programme trials. [237554]

**Ann Keen:** The Whole System Demonstrator programme aims to provide robust evidence on the impact of telehealth and telecare interventions. A selection of the countries leading academic organisations have been commissioned to lead what we believe to be the largest ever randomised control trial of these technologies. The evaluation will determine the extent to which the use of telehealth and telecare:

promotes individuals long term well-being and independence;

improves individuals and their carer's quality of life;

improves the working lives of staff;

is more cost effective; and

is more clinically effective.

The programme will also build an evidence base for future care and technology models.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to develop and support the UK telehealth sector. [237556]

**Ann Keen:** The Whole System Demonstrator programme aims to evaluate telehealth and telecare and has established a randomised control trial in three sites with the aim to have 6,000 participants. This is believed to be the largest randomised control trial of telecare and telehealth anywhere in the world which will be on a scale significantly greater than anything undertaken in England.

The Department has worked closely with the Technology Strategy Board to create the Assisted Living Innovation Platform (ALIP). ALIP promotes, supports and invests in technology research, development and commercialisation. Several UK telehealth and telecare companies are already engaged in the first wave of projects supported by the platform.

Similarly the Department worked with the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency to develop the first ever National Framework Agreement for the procurement of telecare and telehealth.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Whole Systems Demonstrator Programme has cost, broken down by budget heading, and including the amount paid to external consultants and companies to monitor and oversee the programme. [237557]

**Ann Keen:** The total predicted value of the programme is £31.3 million. To date approximately £16.6 million has been deployed. £13.5 million of this has been issued directly to the sites. The remainder has been used to fund the WSD Action Network, Evaluation Support, Project Management Support and Connecting for Health integration activity.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what use his Department plans to make of telehealth technology in providing health checkups to all people over the age of 40 years. [237558]

**Ann Keen:** There are currently no plans to mandate the use of telehealth technology to support the provision of checkups for all people over the age of 40. Telehealth investment decisions will be made locally by commissioners.

### Health: Screening

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of providing free health check-ups to all people over the age of 40 years; [237559]

(2) what resources his Department plans to make available to provide free health check-ups to all people over the age of 40 years. [237560]

**Ann Keen:** The free check-ups for those aged over 40, to which the hon. Member refers to, is the vascular checks programme. This will put in place an integrated, systematic population-wide vascular risk assessment and management programme for those between the ages of 40 and 74. The programme will assess people's risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. Each person will be given individually tailored advice and support to help them reduce or manage that risk.

The total annual cost at full implementation (including interventions to manage the risk of vascular disease) has been estimated to be in the region of £332 million in the Department's economic modelling. The costs associated with the vascular checks programme are set out in the impact assessment which has been placed in the Library.

### Healthcare for London

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1359W, on Healthcare for London, if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* agenda, *(b)* minutes and *(c)* papers discussed at each meeting listed in the Answer. [229974]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not routinely release briefing produced for Ministers.

### Hearing Aid Council

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason the Hearing Aid Council is to cease operation on 31 March 2010 rather than 31 March 2009; and what estimate he has made of the cost of a further year of operation. [235792]

**Phil Hope:** The Health and Social Care Act 2008, which enables the abolition of the Hearing Aid Council and the transfer of responsibility for the regulation of hearing aid dispensers to the Health Professions Council, received Royal Assent on 28 July 2008.

Since the Act received Royal Assent, a working group has been set up comprising the Department of Health, the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the Hearing Aid Council and the Health Professions Council. It is working towards the required secondary legislation to allow the closure of the Hearing Aid Council and the transfer of its register. It is not possible to complete the Parliamentary process by March 2009, and therefore it has been agreed by the working group to work towards March 2010 as the date of the transfer of the register of dispensers.

While operational costs are a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, I can confirm that the Hearing Aid Council is a non-departmental public body. They do not receive any Government funding and recover their costs from the individual dispensers and their employers via an annual fee.

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Hampshire

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley Borough and *(c)* the non-metropolitan county of Hampshire have been required to make a payment additional their Warm Front grant in order to complete the work assessed to be necessary. [231305]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

The following table illustrates the number of households in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley borough and *(c)* the non-metropolitan county of Hampshire who have contributed to the costs of assistance through the warm front scheme since 2005.

| | *Scheme year* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09 (to 28 October)* |
| *(a)* Southampton | 44 | 79 | 248 | 143 |
| *(b)* Test Valley Borough | 14 | 23 | 49 | 34 |
| *(c)* Non-metropolitan county of Hampshire (excluding Portsmouth and Southampton) | 184 | 388 | 922 | 595 |

### Hospitals: Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attacks by *(a)* patients and *(b)* relatives visiting patients there were on hospital staff in each primary care trust in each year since 2001. [237239]

**Ann Keen:** Since 2004-05, the numbers of physical assaults against staff reported by health bodies have been collected annually by the national health service Security Management Service. Information is not available on the perpetrators of reported assaults. The number of assaults reported in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 have already been placed in the Library. The number of assaults reported in 2007-08 has been placed in the Library.

### Medical Records: Lost Property

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reports he has received of case notes for patients being lost in the post in each of the last 10 years. [234360]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Each national health service body is responsible for the data in its possession and for complying with data protection legislation and the Department has not in the past routinely collected information about incidents of loss of patient data. Strategic health authorities have now been asked to regularly publish details of data losses on their websites and to inform the Department when significant incidents have occurred but 2008-09 will be the first full year of reporting. None of the incidents reported to the Department to date have involved the loss of case notes in the post.

### Mental Health Act 2007

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to bring forward proposals to amend the Mental Health Act 2007 to include mental capacity as a condition of compulsory treatment in light of the NHS constitution. [239576]

**Phil Hope:** The Government have no plans to amend the Mental Health Act 2007 (or the Mental Health Act 1983) to make compulsory treatment under that legislation conditional on a person either having, or lacking, capacity to consent.

### Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus: Staffordshire

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients contracted MRSA in hospitals in South Staffordshire NHS Trust in each of the last five years. [237332]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the requested format.

The best data for this period are from the mandatory surveillance system for meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) blood stream infections. Mandatory surveillance data began in April 2001 and results are available by acute hospital trusts. The latest annual data for MRSA, to financial year 2007-08, are available on the Health Protection Agency's website at:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&Page&HPAweb AutoListName/Page/1191942126541

A copy has been placed in the Library.

### Neurology: Drugs

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what surveys his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned on the effectiveness of treatment of neurological illnesses. [238365]

**Phil Hope:** We are not aware of the Department having undertaken or commissioned surveys on the effectiveness of treatment of neurological illnesses.

The Health Technology Assessment programme, part of the National Institute for Health Research, produces independent research information about the effectiveness, costs and broader impact of health care treatments and tests for those who plan, provide or receive care in the national health service. These, and other existing research results, are used by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to develop their technology appraisals which provide recommendations for health professionals on the use of new and existing medicines and treatments for neurological conditions.

### NHS: Dental Services

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on average how many units of dental activity per head of population were funded by the NHS in each local authority area in England in each of the last five years. [239327]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the number of units of dental activity (UDAs) is only available under the new dental contractual arrangements, which were introduced on 1 April 2006. The numbers of UDAs delivered in England in the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 are available in Table B3 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08" report. Information is provided by strategic health authority and by primary care trust. Information is not available by local authority.

This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

### NHS: Discharges

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Community Care (Delayed Discharges etc.) Act 2003 in reducing instances of delayed discharge from hospital. [239534]

**Phil Hope:** Councils and their national health service partners have made significant progress in reducing delays in hospital discharge. Between September 2001 and June 2008, the number of people over the age of 75 delayed in hospital reduced from 5,673 to 1,602, a reduction of 72 per cent., and total delays for the same period were reduced from 7,065 to 2,180, a reduction of 69 per cent.

### NHS: ICT

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1200W, on NHS: information and communications technology, (1) at what level of the NHS comprehensive information about the financial and resource impact resulting from implementation of the Cerner system is held; and if he will ensure that information is *(a)* provided to him and *(b)* published; [236768]

(2) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the NHS hospital trusts involved providing to him the information on the financial and resource impact resulting from implementation of the NHS IT Cerner system requested in the Question. [236769]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Detailed information about local financial and resource impacts of operational business, including the implementation of the Cerner system, is held locally by the national health service organisations involved. Details of summary level expenditure by NHS trusts on information technology (IT) is requested annually by survey and the results are routinely published. However, the survey and the report does not differentiate between different elements of IT expenditure, for example on hardware, software or Cerner related costs.

To ensure local accountability is observed and to minimise the cost and the burden of central reporting, such reporting is kept to the minimum. On that basis, I do not believe that any useful purpose would be served by attempting to cost the collation of information unless this were required for essential policy or operational purposes.

## NHS: Mental Health Services

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much income NHS mental health trusts have generated from private patients, broken down by trust, in each of the last three years. [237203]

**Phil Hope:** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* The following national health service trusts provide mental health services and reported private patient and/or overseas patient income in the last three years.

£000

| | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *NHS Trust* | *Private patients* | *Overseas patients* | *Private patients* | *Overseas patients* | *Private patients* | *Overseas patients* |
| East Kent NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust[1] | 31 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust[2] | n/a | n/a | 46 | 0 | 35 | 0 |
| Manchester Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland Mental Health NHS Trust[3] | 1 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northgate and Prudhoe NHS Trust[4] | 151 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust[5] | n/a | n/a | 108 | 0 | 111 | 0 |
| Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire MH Partnership NHS Trust | 76 | 0 | 43 | 0 | 95 | 0 |
| Sheffield Care NHS Trust | 0 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South London and Maudsley NHS Trust[6] | 91 | 0 | 45 | 0 | n/a | n/a |
| Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Sussex Health and Social Care NHS Trust[7] | 10 | 0 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

[1] East Kent NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust dissolved on 31 March 2006 and the services were absorbed by Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust.
[2] Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust was established on 1 April 2006, therefore no data are available for this organisation for 2005-06.
[3] Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland Mental Health NHS Trust dissolved on 31 March 2006 and the services were absorbed by Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust.
[4] Northgate and Prudhoe NHS Trust dissolved on 31 March 2006 and the services were absorbed by Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust.
[5] Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust was established on 1 April 2006, therefore no data are available for this organisation for 2005-06.
[6] South London and Maudsley NHS Trust gained Foundation Trust status on 1 November 2006 therefore the 2006-07 figure represents only the period to 31 October 2006.
[7] West Sussex Health and Social Care NHS Trust dissolved on 31 March 2006 and the services were absorbed by Sussex Partnership NHS Trust, which had no private patient income in 2006-07 or 2007-08.

*Notes:*
1. Only national health service trusts reporting relevant income have been included in the table.
2. Some of these trusts provide services other than mental health care and the Department is unable to separate income for mental health care from other income, therefore some of the figures in the table may include income from private patients that are not mental health patients.
3. The data are from national health service trust audited summarisation schedules. Data on foundation trusts are not included as the Department does not collect information from foundation trusts. Where an NHS Trust gains foundation trust status during any financial year, the audited summarisation schedules report information only for the part of the year the organisation operated as an NHS trust.

## NHS: Public Participation

**Mr. Meale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will establish a national representative body through which local involvement networks members may enable patients and the public to engage and influence health and social care policy. [237864]

**Ann Keen:** The Government recognise the importance of providing opportunities for all members of society to be engaged in, and have their say on, national policy. There is a number of ways in which patients, carers, service users and the public can influence health and social care policy at a national level, including through the Department's strong tradition of working in partnership with third sector organisations.

Through the new Third Sector Investment programme, specifically the Strategic Partnership programme, the Department aims to invest in an appropriate number of strategic partners from the third sector. Partners will work collaboratively together and with the Department to advise and inform the Department about key issues in the health and social care field affecting the third sector organisations and

the people on behalf of whom they advocate and to whom they deliver services. The programme also aims to develop the capability and capacity in the third sector to fully engage with the wider health and social care reform agenda.

The Department is investing up to £1.65 million to support the development of user-led organisations in every local authority area .

The Department has also supported the establishment of National Voices which offers the opportunity to engage the multiple voices of service users and carers in the development of health and social care policy, particularly those from harder to hear communities, through their representative organisations.

It is for local involvement networks (LINks) to determine the need for a national representative organisation for LINks.

### NHS: Publications

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to his Department was of the Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check report for 2007-08. [228991]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The independent health care regulator, the Healthcare Commission, is responsible for assessing the performance of NHS Trusts. The results of its Annual Health Check for 2007-08 were published in October. The Health Check is the culmination of various streams of work, which take place throughout the year. The cost of the Annual Health Check, in relation to the NHS is £11.6 million.

This includes:

Management of the Annual Health Check programme;

Assessment of core standards; and

Targets and annual ratings.

This figure includes £3,384,000 specifically targeted at engagement with patients, public and clinicians to feed their views into the process.

Detailed information on the Commission's expenditure on its main business areas is given in its accounts which are published as part of its annual report. The annual report for 2007-08 was published on 8 July.

### NHS: Reorganisation

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings his Department has had with *(a)* patient groups, *(b)* professional groups and *(c)* the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the Quality and Outcomes Framework following the publication of NHS Next Stage Review: Our vision for primary and community care. [231964]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** My officials have met with representatives from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the Royal College of General Practitioners to discuss proposals for a new process for the Quality and Outcomes Framework and discussions have also taken place with the BMA. We launched a public consultation on the proposed new process for developing and reviewing clinical indicators in the Quality and Outcomes Framework to be led by NICE on 30 October 2008. The Department is holding five national stakeholder events with patient and professional groups, NHS commissioners and other stakeholders in order to consult them on how the new process should work.

### Ophthalmology: Tamworth

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many opticians there are per 1,000 people in Tamworth borough. [237333]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not available in the format requested.

The Information Centre for health and social care published the numbers of general ophthalmic services ophthalmic practitioners per 100,000 population, as at 31 December 2007, in the General Ophthalmic Services: Workforce Statistics for England and Wales: 31 December 2007 report. This report was published on 20 November 2008 and has been placed in the Library. It is also available on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/genophworkfstats07

Information is available by primary care trust and by strategic health authority, and can be found in Table B2 of the annexe of the report, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

### Patient Choice Schemes

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of all *(a)* inpatient and *(b)* outpatient appointments were made using NHS Direct's national Choose and Book appointments line in each of the last three years. [236953]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Choose and Book Appointment Line primarily books first consultant out-patient appointments. In a very small number of cases, other services available on Choose and Book might be booked by the Appointments Line, which do not differentiate these cases. Information on the proportion of bookings made by Choose and Book Appointment Line for first consultant outpatients in the past 36 months is in the following table.

*Bookings made by the Choose and Book Appointments Line (TAL) operated by NHS Direct on behalf of the national health service for first out-patient (OP) appointment as a proportion of total referrals made for first out-patient appointment, consultant-led, all specialties, England*

| 2005-06 | November | December | January | February | March |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Outpatient bookings made through TAL[1] | 2,176 | 1,619 | 2,596 | 3,484 | 6,396 |
| General practitioner (GP) referral made for first OP appointment | 781,142 | 661,511 | 800,283 | 755,630 | 817,052 |
| Proportion of out-patient bookings made through TAL (percentage) | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.8 |

| 2006-07 | April | May | June | July | August | September |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Outpatient bookings made through TAL[1] | 8,488 | 16,330 | 22,498 | 26,555 | 28,016 | 35,815 |
| GP referral made for first OP appointment | 678,793 | 831,491 | 835,166 | 788,466 | 734,612 | 795,150 |
| Proportion of out-patient bookings made through TAL | 1.3 | 2.0 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 4.5 |

| 2006-07 | October | November | December | January | February | March |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Out-patient bookings made through TAL[1] | 44,097 | 51,697 | 43,300 | 6,637 | 76,807 | 90,038 |
| GP referral made for first OP appointment | 793,869 | 764,627 | 591,624 | 866,801 | 735,994 | 809,419 |
| Proportion of out-patient bookings made through TAL (percentage) | 5.6 | 6.8 | 7.3 | 0.8 | 10.4 | 11.1 |

| 2007-08 | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Out-patient bookings made through TAL[1] | 82,072 | 93,767 | 92,752 | 90,698 | 93,687 | 92,273 | 115,183 | 114,607 |
| GP referral made for first OP appointment | 705,603 | 799,945 | 788,291 | 806,831 | 791,941 | 745,289 | 850,593 | 814,472 |
| Proportion of out-patient bookings made through TAL (percentage) | 11.6 | 11.7 | 11.8 | 11.2 | 11.8 | 12.4 | 13.5 | 14.1 |

| 2007-08 | December | January | February | March |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Out-patients bookings made through TAL[1,3] | 90,620 | 129,844 | 123,124 | 118,793 |
| GP referral made for first OP appointment[2,4] | 642,484 | 847,708 | 822,743 | 774,677 |
| Proportion of all out-patient made through TAL (percentage) | 14.1 | 15.3 | 15.0 | 15.3 |

| 2008-09 | April | May | June | July | August | September | October |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Out-patient made through TAL[1,3] | 131,471 | 135,212 | 131,507 | 148,043 | 141,927 | 158,145 | 160,783 |
| GP referral made for first OP appointment[2,4] | 907,783 | 855,581 | 877,309 | 937,744 | 803,181 | 898,372 | — |
| Proportion of out-patient bookings made through TAL (percentage) | 14.5 | 15.8 | 15.0 | 15.8 | 17.7 | 17.6 | — |

*Source:*
[1] NHS Direct
[2] GP referrals made—Department of Health Monthly Activity Return, Commissioner based
*Notes:*
[1] Bookings made through TAL may include small numbers of cases booked to services other than first outpatient (eg assessments, allied health professionals and day cases), which cannot be differentiated.
[2] Latest published data for first out-patient appointments is September 2008.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls were received on the national Choose and Book appointments line in each of the last 36 months; and what the average number of calls per booked appointment was. [236954]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The number of calls received by the Choose and Book Appointments Line (TAL) operated by NHS Direct on behalf of the national health service and the average number of calls per booked appointment are shown in the following table.

*Number of calls received by the Choose and Book Appointments Line (TAL) operated by NHS Direct on behalf of the national health service*

| | 2005 to 2006 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar |
| Calls received by TAL | 7,248 | 7,184 | 11,606 | 15,122 | 23,139 |

| | 2006 to 2007 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* | *Jan* |
| Calls received by TAL | 23,442 | 63,137 | 108,266 | 91,764 | 90,844 | 112,526 | 437,321 | 142,242 | 126,105 | 185,702 |

| | 2007 to 2008 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
| Calls received by TAL | 193,464 | 196,166 | 209,205 | 246,265 | 237,111 | 230,047 | 265,959 | 263,168 | 204,451 |

| | 2008 to 2009 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* |
| Calls received by TAL | 296,200 | 296,470 | 299,791 | 334,643 | 290,476 | 321,218 | 329,042 |

*Average number of calls per booked appointment to the Choose and Book Appointments Line (TAL) operated by NHS Direct on behalf of the national health service*

| | September 2007 to March 2008 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* |
| Average calls per booked appointment[1] | 1.74 | 1.85 | 1.38 | 1.42 | 1.39 | 1.42 | 1.41 | 1.43 | 1.43 | 1.47 | 1.46 | 1.42 | 1.40 | 1.35 |

| | April 2008 to October 2008 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* |
| Average calls per booked appointment[1] | 1.43 | 1.43 | 1.47 | 1.46 | 1.42 | 1.40 | 1.35 |

[1] Data were not collected prior to September 2007

*Source:*
NHS Direct

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints about the Choose and Book appointments line have been received in each of the last 36 months; and if he will make a statement. [236956]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Where a complaint is raised with NHS Direct regarding the Choose and Book Appointments Line, NHS Direct manages these in line with the NHS (Complaints) Regulations 2004, and the Department's Implementation Guidance for the NHS (Complaints) Regulations 2004 and Good Practice Toolkit for Local Resolution.

The number of complaints received by NHS Direct concerning the Choose and Book Appointments Line for the period April 20061 to October 2008 are shown in the following table.

| | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sept* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *April 2006 to March 2007*[1] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Complaints about the Appointments Line (TAL) (all complaints, not just those regarding TAL) | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 19 |
| Complaints per 10,000 calls | 0.9 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 1.2 |
| *2007 to 2008* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Complaints about TAL | 9 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 13 | 29 | 17 | 29 | 14 | 23 | 14 | 12 |
| Complaints per 10,000 calls | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 1.3 | 0.6 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| *2007 to 2008* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Complaints about TAL | 15 | 10 | 20 | 32 | 21 | 32 | 29 | | | | | |
| Complaints per 10,000 calls | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.9 | | | | | |

[1] Recorded complaints for the period April 2006 to March 2007 included all complaints collated by NHS Direct in relation to the Choose and Book Appointments Line, irrespective of whether they related to a third party organisation.

*Note:*
Data were not collected prior to April 2006 relating to complaints.

### Social Services: Vocational Guidance

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many copies of the employers' *(a)* resource pack and *(b)* booklets relating to (i) social care and (ii) social work have been downloaded from his Department's social care and social work careers information website in each quarter since it was established. [238425]

**Phil Hope:** The social work and social care website, at: www.socialworkandcare.co.uk provides information to prospective candidates for social care jobs, or for those considering a career in social work. The website provides information on what working in social care involves, the qualifications and experience that new entrants require and other guidance for people considering making an application. It also has resources to assist employers run their own recruitment campaign.

Figures regarding the number of resources downloaded from the site are only available from March 2008. Prior to this, the coding to allow unique identification of materials being downloaded was not in place.

The figures from March 2008 are in the following table.

| | *Number of resources downloaded* |
|---|---|
| *1 March to 31 May 2008* | |
| Employers resource pack | 206 |
| Social care booklet | 945 |
| Social work booklet | 904 |
| *1 June to 31 August 2008* | |
| Employers resource pack | 83 |
| Social care booklet | 605 |
| Social work booklet | 756 |
| *1 September to 19 November 2008* | |
| Employers resource pack | 88 |
| Social care booklet | 638 |
| Social work booklet | 832 |
| *Total: 1 March 2008 to 19 November 2008* | |
| Employers resource pack | 377 |
| Social care booklet | 2,188 |
| Social work booklet | 2,492 |

The booklets are also available to order by phone.

### Strokes

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people had strokes in *(a)* England and *(b)* the East Midlands in each of the last five years. [237897]

**Ann Keen:** Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) from 2006-07 suggest there were around 96,000 and 8,000 emergency admissions with a primary or secondary diagnosis of stroke in England and the East Midlands Strategic Health Authority respectively. However, this figure under-represents the true incidence of stroke for two reasons. Firstly, HES data only include those who were admitted to hospital with a diagnosis of stroke but not all stroke patients currently attend hospital. Secondly, the count of admissions does not represent the total number of patients as a person may be admitted more than once in the year. HES data cannot answer the question in the form requested. Academic estimates suggest there are around 110,000 strokes in England per annum.

Tables showing HES statistics for stroke admissions in England have been placed in the Library.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Animal Experiments

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what factors underlie the increases in the number of procedures conducted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in each of the last six years; and if she will take steps to reduce the number of procedures in future years. [238907]

**Meg Hillier** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* Many factors influence trends in the use of animals under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, including the economic climate, global trends in scientific endeavour and strategic decisions by funding bodies. The increase in the use of genetically altered strains seen over recent years has also had an impact as advances in genetics open up new and promising avenues of medical research.

The licensing system under the 1986 Act is demand-led and we have no control over the number of project licence applications we receive. The Act limits such animal use to where there is a clear benefit to people, animals or the environment when there is no means of obtaining these benefits without animal use, or at a lesser animal welfare cost. All scientists and researchers undertaking animal research in the UK are required to take into account the '3Rs' (measures to replace, reduce, and refine animal use) when devising their programmes of research proposals.

In 2004, the Government established the National Centre for the 3Rs to provide a focal point and resources for such activities. The NC3Rs drives advances in the 3Rs by taking a robust scientific approach, and bringing together expertise from a diverse range of areas, including academia, industry, Government and regulatory bodies.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Derbyshire

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been imposed in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* Bolsover constituency since their introduction. [238085]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued is not available at parliamentary constituency area level.

ASBOs became available in April 1999. Between 1 April 1999 and 31 December 2006 (latest available) 176 ASBOs were issued in the Derbyshire criminal justice system (CJS) area.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Hertfordshire

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many breaches of antisocial behaviour orders in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* the UK have resulted in a criminal conviction in each year since the inception of such orders. [238234]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** ASBOs became available in April 1999. ASBO breach data are available for ASBOs issued between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2006 (latest available) and are not compiled below criminal justice system (CJS) area level.

Information collected centrally on the number of breaches of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) only counts those instances where the breach of the ASBO was proven in a court in England and Wales. The available information is shown in the following table.

*Number of occasions in the Hertfordshire criminal justice system area[1] and England and Wales in each year between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2006 where persons were proven in court to have breached their ASBO*

| *Area* | *2000-02[2]* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hertfordshire | 9 | 16 | 53 | 75 | 100 |
| England and Wales | 777 | 1,409 | 3,997 | 7,248 | 7,755 |

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table by area of breach.
[2] From 1 June 2000.
*Note:*
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Source:*
OCJR Court Proceedings Database.

### Anti-social Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders have been *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* issued with penalty notices for disorder in (i) the Devon and Cornwall Police Force area and (ii) England in each year for which figures are available. [236866]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Data provided by the Ministry of Justice showing the number of offenders cautioned as well as offenders issued with a penalty notice for disorder (PND) in the Devon and Cornwall police force area and England, from 2004 to 2006 are in the following table. Data for 2007 are due to be published in late November 2008.

*Number of offenders cautioned[1,2] and issued with a penalty notice for disorder (PND), in the Devon and Cornwall police force area and England, 2004 to 2006[3]*

| | *Devon and Cornwall* | | *England* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Cautioned* | *Given a PND* | *Cautioned* | *Given a PND* |
| 2004 | 6,951 | 1,889 | 241,873 | 61,260 |
| 2005 | 7,175 | 5,134 | 283,566 | 138,262 |
| 2006 | 8,905 | 7,022 | 331,518 | 186,240 |

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

### Anti-social Behaviour: Hertfordshire

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department has allocated to tackle anti-social behaviour in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* the UK in each year since the inception of intervention programmes. [238235]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Since 2003-04, the Home Office has made £34.4 million available in each year specifically and solely to tackle antisocial behaviour in England and Wales. This includes funding for the Respect programme, which is now the responsibility of the Department for Children, Schools and Families, and a grant for antisocial behaviour co-ordinators.

As with all other Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), Dacorum, which includes Hemel Hempstead, was allocated £25,000 a year from 2003-04 as a contribution towards funding an ASB co-ordinator post. In 2005-06, in England the antisocial co-ordinators grant was pooled within the safer and stronger communities fund. This pooled budget supports the delivery of outcomes and indicators relating to antisocial behaviour in local area agreements (LAAs).

Respect programmes in Hertfordshire also have an impact on antisocial behaviour. These programmes were designed to kick start a change in the way the area worked to tackle antisocial behaviour. There are many funding streams that impact on antisocial behaviour. A more detailed account can be found in the report by the National Audit Office 'Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour' (HC99 2006-07, December 2006). Other Home Office-led activities also act to tackle antisocial behaviour, for example the introduction of community support officers, but a monetary value cannot be assigned to that contribution.

### Assaults on Police

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* assaults on police officers were recorded and *(b)* prosecutions for such assaults there were (i) in each London borough and (ii) in England in each of the last five years. [235296]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available information is given in the following tables. Figures for the number of assaults without injury on a constable are taken from the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office and relate to offences recorded by the police. These figures are on a financial year basis. Assaults without

injury are categories which apply specifically to the recorded crime data. If an assault on a police officer results in injury then the offence will be recorded under the appropriate wounding classification (i.e. more or less serious wounding).

Prosecutions data come from the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and relate to defendants. These figures are on a calendar year basis. The data refer to prosecutions for assault on a constable which may include cases where an officer receives an injury (unlike the recorded crime data). Because of this and the fact that one dataset looks at offences and the other at defendants, the figures in the two tables are not directly comparable.

Prosecutions data are not available for London boroughs but figures for England are given in Table 3.

*Table 1: Numbers of assault without injury on a constable offences recorded by basic command units (BCUs) in London region, 2003-04 to 2007-08*

| BCU / police force | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| London, City of | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 |
| Bishopsgate | 19 | 39 | 36 | 28 | 27 |
| Snowhill | 15 | 17 | 18 | 13 | 16 |
| *Metropolitan Police* | | | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 90 | 49 | 52 | 96 | 61 |
| Barnet | 66 | 73 | 91 | 105 | 122 |
| Bexley | 43 | 60 | 49 | 45 | 60 |
| Brent | 79 | 94 | 115 | 142 | 127 |
| Bromley | 62 | 77 | 53 | 62 | 49 |
| Camden | 136 | 157 | 129 | 109 | 149 |
| City of Westminster | 230 | 302 | 222 | 275 | 240 |
| Croydon | 118 | 100 | 120 | 155 | 90 |
| Ealing | 97 | 70 | 70 | 75 | 86 |
| Enfield | 97 | 83 | 99 | 91 | 79 |
| Greenwich | 109 | 115 | 122 | 108 | 106 |
| Hackney | 120 | 106 | 138 | 139 | 143 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 115 | 139 | 136 | 123 | 154 |
| Haringey | 76 | 98 | 69 | 95 | 102 |
| Harrow | 36 | 43 | 42 | 22 | 23 |
| Havering | 64 | 89 | 70 | 82 | 63 |
| Heathrow | 4 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 0 |
| Hillingdon | 49 | 99 | 94 | 105 | 64 |
| Hounslow | 90 | 68 | 97 | 100 | 109 |
| Islington | 150 | 106 | 125 | 150 | 115 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 50 | 59 | 54 | 64 | 50 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 27 | 40 | 45 | 53 | 44 |
| Lambeth | 194 | 201 | 205 | 237 | 188 |
| Lewisham | 132 | 166 | 154 | 187 | 181 |
| Merton | 52 | 51 | 55 | 61 | 44 |
| Newham | 96 | 102 | 102 | 90 | 130 |
| Redbridge | 74 | 78 | 61 | 105 | 63 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 27 | 36 | 8 | 14 | 31 |
| Southwark | 138 | 175 | 138 | 158 | 171 |
| Sutton | 21 | 39 | 64 | 58 | 66 |
| Tower Hamlets | 99 | 91 | 104 | 112 | 92 |
| Waltham Forest | 62 | 71 | 68 | 112 | 70 |
| Wandsworth | 79 | 111 | 77 | 106 | 139 |

*Table 1: Numbers of assault without injury on a constable offences recorded by basic command units (BCUs) in London region, 2003-04 to 2007-08*

| BCU / police force | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| London region | 2,830 | 3,455 | 3,054 | 3,453 | 3,262 |

*Table 2: Numbers of assault without injury offences on a constable offences recorded in England, 2003-04 to 2007-08*

| Area | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 20,640 | 21,794 | 20,739 | 20,113 | 18,889 |

*Table 3: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for assaulting a constable in England, 2002 to 2006[1,2]*

| Region | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 14,924 | 16,816 | 18,360 | 18,680 | 17,760 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

## Asylum: Work Permits

**Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permit applications were made by asylum seekers whose asylum decisions had been delayed for more than one year in the last year; and how many such applications were *(a)* accepted and *(b)* refused. [221653]

**Mr. Woolas:** The requested information on the number of work permit applications made by asylum seekers whose asylum decisions had been delayed for more than one year, and those accepted and refused, is not collated and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Borders: Personal Records

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department had spent on consultancy services for the e-borders project by 30 June 2008. [210907]

**Mr. Woolas:** The total expenditure on consultancy services and legal support by the e-Borders Programme, from 2004 until 30 June 2008, was £43.5 million.

## Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the number of *(a)* ex-offenders living in the principal seaside towns, *(b)* ex-offenders per 10,000 population in such towns and *(c)* ex-offenders per 10,000 population nationally. [220675]

**Mr. Hanson:** I have been asked to reply.

Prisons record the address to which discharged prisoners state they will be going, but are not able to confirm whether ex-offenders actually go to this address or whether they remain there.

Individual probation areas maintain records of offenders who are serving community punishments or who are under supervision following release from prison on licence, but do not generally keep records of ex-offenders.

Those records that they do maintain are on an area basis rather than a specific town.

We therefore have no basis on which to estimate the number of ex-offenders living in specific locations.

### Community Relations

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's responsibilities for preventing violent extremism are. [218428]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) in the Home Office is responsible for co-ordinating activity to deliver the Government counter terrorist strategy (CONTEST), which in this context will also include the Prevent agenda. It will increasingly become the central co-ordinating point for guidance and support on a number of key issues to all practitioners engaged with the agenda. Key to our work is supporting the police and police authorities in fulfilling their roles across the Prevent agenda.

### Community Relations: Leicestershire

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much funding will be given to community groups and organisations in Leicestershire from the funds allocated by her Department for tackling radicalisation in communities; what the procedure is for deciding *(a)* which organisations receive such funding and *(b)* how much they receive; and what public consultation will take place as part of that process; [218181]

(2) what mechanisms will be used to monitor the effectiveness of funding allocated to prevent the radicalisation of communities in Leicestershire; who will undertake that monitoring; who will be consulted as part of the monitoring process; what information will be published as a result of that monitoring; and when that information will be published." [218149]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office regularly carries out cross government consultation with all of its key stakeholders including Ministry of Justice, Communities and Local Government, the Department for Children Schools and Families, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills along with Government offices among others to identify organisations with experience in dealing with vulnerable individuals. All approved projects are scrutinised by governance boards, which feed into the NSID(E) board chaired by the Prime Minister.

The Home Office is currently funding one project for community groups and organisations in Leicestershire for tackling radicalisation in communities. Build is a community group in Leicester that supports Muslims to obtain an accredited mentoring certificate so that they can engage in outreach to other young Muslims who are risk of criminality, drug abuse and radicalisation. As well as befriending their subjects, the mentors refer them to associated education and employment programmes in order to improve their social skills, their resistance to radicalisation and their relationships with families and with the wider community.

Build is linked to Forward Thinking, which is active in community counter radicalisation work. The project is being funded with £77,490 over three years.

The project is evaluated through internal and external monitoring using forms and reports with separate reports from service users, volunteers, parents and other organisations. Focus groups for young people, parents and community members to discuss and feedback the activities are also carried out. Separately the Home Office will carry out their own internal monitoring on a regular basis to ensure the project meets the criteria laid down.

Finally, Build is expected to publish a report at the end of the project which will summarise their activities and achievements.

### Crime: Intellectual Property

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of commercial crime which is committed in the workplace in relation to intellectual property offences. [238356]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I have made no assessment of the proportion of commercial crime which is committed in the workplace in relation to intellectual property offences. The UK Intellectual Property Office (which takes the lead on the National IP Crime Strategy) publishes an annual Intellectual Property Crime Report. The 2007 report notes that the true measure of the level of IP crime in the UK is unknown but the report sets out available evidence from a number of sectors.

### Crime: Newcastle

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis is for the Prime Minister's Statement on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 944, that CCTV has reduced crime in Central Newcastle by 60 per cent. [221501]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 22 July 2008]:* CCTV has consistently proven to reduce crime as evidenced in case studies such as the one reported in the NIJ Journal Issue No. 249 CCTV: 'Constant Cameras Track Violators', 2003.

### Criminal Records Bureau: International Cooperation

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) from which countries the Criminal Records Bureau receives information regarding offences committed overseas; and how frequently such information is updated in each case; [233787]

(2) how many overseas nationals working in the UK have committed an offence overseas which if they had committed it in the UK would bar them from working with children or vulnerable adults. [233858]

**Meg Hillier:** There are two types of checks conducted by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), standard and enhanced disclosures, both of which require a detailed search for any convictions contained on the Police National Computer (PNC).

Criminal Convictions on the Police National Computer will include convictions of UK nationals in the European Union (EU) sent to the UK Central Authority for the Exchange of Criminal Records (UKCA-ECR) as well as convictions of UK nationals sent via Interpol channels to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. In addition the UKCA-ECR can request previous conviction history regarding EU nationals being proceeded against in a UK court of law. When there is previous conviction history, this information is input onto the PNC and is available for the CRB to access as part of their normal checking procedures.

Information about the number of overseas nationals working in the UK that may have committed an offence overseas which, had this been committed in the UK, would have prevented them from working with children and vulnerable adults, is not available centrally. However, conviction information coming to light through the procedures described above will be disclosed to employers should a CRB check be requested. The CRB also provides an overseas information service to all its customers via its website at: www.crb.gsi.gov.uk.

### Criminal Records Bureau: Standards

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 791-2W, on the Criminal Records Bureau: standards, how many Criminal Records Bureau disclosures involved *(a)* a not-guilty verdict following a court appearance, *(b)* a charge being issued without subsequent prosecution, *(c)* an arrest without charges pressed and (d) questioning without arrest in each year since 2003-04; and how many of these were disputed. [237104]

**Meg Hillier:** The information requested is not recorded by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and therefore is not available.

### Demonstrations: Parliament Square

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what consultation she has undertaken with *(a)* Mr. Speaker and *(b)* the House authorities on use of loudhailers in Parliament Square, pursuant to Mr. Speaker's Statement of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 729; [238291]

(2) if she will bring forward proposals to give powers to the police to confiscate amplification equipment when it is being used in *(a)* Parliament Square and *(b)* other public places without permission to (i) abuse and (ii) otherwise harass people going about their lawful occasions; and if she will make a statement; [238198]

(3) what steps she plans to take to give local authorities the power to prevent *(a)* unauthorised and *(b)* harassing or abusive broadcasting of protest messages in public places; and what assessment she has made of the potential for use of injunctions in such circumstances; [238199]

(4) what effect the proposed repeal of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 will have on the law relating to *(a)* unregulated and *(b)* unlimited use of (i) loudhailers and (ii) other amplification equipment by protestors in Parliament Square. [238292]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* The Government's draft Constitutional Renewal Bill included proposals to repeal sections 132-138 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 which set out a framework for managing demonstrations in a designated area around Parliament. The Joint Committee on the draft Constitutional Renewal Bill published its report in July 2008 including recommendations on dealing with noise and the use of loudspeakers. The Government will be responding to the Joint Committee's report imminently, addressing those recommendations in the wider context of existing legislation to address harassment and local byelaws.

Home Office officials met with the House authorities on 15 October 2008 to help inform the Government's response to the Joint Committee's report.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in her Department and its agencies in each of the last three financial years. [221177]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following are the total reimbursable expenses claimed by press officers employed by the Home Office and agencies for each of the last three financial years:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 64,979.37 |
| 2006-07 | 56,953.85 |
| 2007-08 | 50,368.59 |

All expenses claimed were checked and authorised for payment in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code section 8.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on Departmental procurement, what payments her Department made to Jeeves Jewellers in 2007-08; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [233441]

**Jacqui Smith:** Pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, based on the purchase order data held in the Home Department's financial database, the details of the payments made to Jeeves Jewellers, who provide warrant cards, in 2007-08 are as follows:

| | *Description of purchase* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| March 2007 | Purchase of ID card holders | 3,845.19 |
| May 2007 | Purchase of warrant card holders | 394.50 |

### Departmental Sick Leave

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility was in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [216108]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following table shows United Kingdom Border Agency's (UKBA) work days lost (WDL) for the last three years:

UKBA's data prior to 2005 are unavailable due to data migration to a new management system and will incur disproportionate cost to extract.

HO HQ, IPS and CRB data are unavailable and would incur disproportionate cost to manually check each record. However, the Home Office is currently undergoing a HR change programme, one area of which is looking at HR data, measures, and reporting. PQs such as this which are currently a disproportionate cost to answer will be fed into the change programme activity with a view to improving the position in the future.

The HO does not report on non-departmental public bodies data.

*Work days lost (WDL) in the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) for the last three years*

*Days*

| *Stress related sickness (WDL)* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Work days lost (WDL) | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.3 |

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility who gave (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders as the reason for their absence was in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [216109]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following table shows the average duration of single period sick leave taken by staff in the HO and agencies from 2005-06 to 2007-08.

UKBA's data prior to 2005 are unavailable due to data migration to a new management system and will incur disproportionate cost to extract.

HO HQ, IPS and CRB data are unavailable and would involve disproportionate cost to manually check each record. However, the Home Office is currently undergoing a HR change programme, one area of which is looking at HR data, measures, and reporting. PQs such as this which are currently a disproportionate cost to answer will be fed into the change programme activity with a view to improving the position in the future.

The HO management information databases do not record sickness information in the categories the PQ refers to.

The HO does not report on non-departmental public bodies data.

The following table shows the average duration of single period sick leave taken by staff in the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) from 2005-06 to 2007-08.

*Days*

| *Stress related sickness (staff)* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA)[1] | 24.6 | 19.3 | 28.1 |

[1] UKBA's data prior to 2005 are unavailable due to data migration to a new management system and will incur disproportionate cost to extract.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have taken sick days due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of staff of each body this represented in each year; and if she will make a statement. [216110]

**Mr. Woolas:** The table shows the proportion of staff in the Home Office and United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) who took sick leave due to stress from 2002-03 to 2007-08.

HO management information databases do not record sickness information in the categories the PQ refers to.

The HO does not report on non-departmental public bodies data.

*Proportion of Home Office and United Kingdom Border Agency staff who took sick leave due to stress from 2002-03 to 2007-08*

*Percentage*

| | *Home Office Headquarters* | *United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA)*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | n/a | n/a |
| 2003-04 | n/a | n/a |
| 2004-05 | n/a | n/a |
| 2005-06 | 4 | 4.12 |
| 2006-07 | 3 | 5.12 |
| 2007-08 | 3 | 4.86 |

[1] UKBA's data prior to 2005 is unavailable due to data migration to a new management system and will incur disproportionate cost to extract.

*Note:*

HO HQ, IPS and CRB data is unavailable and manually checking each HR record would incur a disproportionate cost. The Home Office is currently undergoing an HR Change Programme, one area of which focuses on HR data, measures, and reporting. PQs such as this which are currently a disproportionate cost to answer will be fed into the Change Programme activity with a view to improving the position in the future.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sick days were taken by employees in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of sick days taken this represented in each case; and if she will make a statement. [216111]

**Mr. Woolas:** The table shows the proportion of sick days taken by Home Office and United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) staff that were due to stress from 2002-03 to 2007-08.

IPS and CRB data are unavailable and would involve disproportionate cost to manually check each record. However, the Home Office is currently undergoing a HR Change Programme, one area of which is looking at HR data, measures, and reporting. PQs such as this which are currently a disproportionate cost to answer will be fed into the Change Programme activity with a view to improving the position in the future.

The HO management information databases do not record sickness information in the categories the PQ refers to.

The HO does not report on non-departmental public bodies data.

*Proportion of sick days taken by Home Office and United Kingdom Border Agency staff which were due to stress from 2002-03 to 2007-08*

| | HO HQ[1] | Percentage United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA)[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | n/a | n/a |
| 2003-04 | n/a | n/a |
| 2004-05 | n/a | n/a |
| 2005-06 | 13 | 11.35 |
| 2006-07 | 10 | 11.14 |
| 2007-08 | 8 | 13.88 |

[1] HO and UKBA's data prior to 2005 is unavailable due to data migration to a new management system and will incur disproportionate cost to extract.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days of sick leave were taken by her Department's employees in each year since 1997. [216697]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following table shows the number of sick days taken by staff in the Home Office and its agencies between 2002-03 and 2007-08:

*Number of sick days taken by staff in the Home Office and its agencies from 2002-03 to 2007-08*

| Areas | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Home Office Headquarters (HO HQ)[1] | n/a | n/a | n/a | 17,797 | 31,235 | 20,685 |
| United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA)[1] | n/a | n/a | n/a | 165,908 | 167,680 | 194,517 |
| Identity and Passport Service (IPS) | 25,851 | 26,801 | 28,736 | 34,448 | 37,425 | 40,616 |
| Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)[2] | n/a | n/a | 4,310 | 3,502 | 3,414 | 5,460 |

n/a = Not available.

[1] HO HQ and UKBA's data prior to 2005 are unavailable due to data migration to a new information management system and will incur disproportionate cost to extract.

[2] CRB data prior to 2004 are unavailable and checking each HR record manually would incur a disproportionate cost. The Home Office is currently undergoing an HR Change Programme, one area of which focuses on HR data, measures, and reporting. PQs such as this which are currently a disproportionate cost to answer will be fed into the Change Programme activity with a view to improving the position in the future.

In 2005-06 and 2006-07 the Home Office HQ included the following departments; Communities Group, National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) which have now all transferred out. Please note that NOMS and OCJR left in May 2007 to join the new Ministry of Justice, and therefore have been included for year 2005-06 and 2006-07. Communities Group transferred to Department for Communities and Local Government in May 2006.

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of staff in her Department have had more than two periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years. [218721]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following table shows the numbers and percentages of Home Office staff taking more than two periods of sick leave of less than five days over the last three years.

Note: In 2005-06 and 2006-07 the HO HQ included the following departments; Communities Group, National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR). NOMS and OCJR left in May 2007 to join the new Ministry of Justice, and Communities Group transferred to the Department for Communities and Local Government in May 2006.

This table shows the numbers and percentages of Home Office staff taking more than two periods of sick leave of less than five days over the last three years.

| | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Staff headcount[1] | Percentage headcount | Staff headcount[1] | Percentage headcount | Staff headcount[1] | Percentage headcount |
| Home Office headquarters (HO HQ) | 529 | 11 | 934 | 20 | 681 | 21 |
| United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) | 6,151 | 38 | 6,338 | 36 | 7,590 | 41 |
| Identity and Passport Service (IPS) | 1,515 | 36 | 1,556 | 36 | 1,530 | 34 |
| Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) | 117 | 29 | 106 | 28 | 116 | 28 |

[1] Staff headcount is based on paid permanent sick staff only as dictated by the Cabinet Office sickness methodology

## Deportation

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people were recommended for deportation from England and Wales in each of the last three years, broken down by county; [238873]

(2) how many people were recommended for deportation from England and Wales on more than

one occasion in each of the last three years, broken down by county. [238874]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply. The following table shows the number of recommendations for deportation orders issued by judges in the Crown Court in England and Wales in each of the last three financial years.

Figures are broken down according to the county in which the relevant Crown Court centre is located. This may differ from the county of residence of the defendant and other key parties involved in the court case. Some counties do not have a Crown Court centre located within their boundaries; these are not shown in the table.

During this period there were 28 occasions where a defendant was the subject of a recommendation for a deportation order having already been the subject of a previous such recommendation at some point since April 2000 (the earliest point at which data are available). There were six such occurrences in 2005-06, seven in 2006-07 and 15 in 2007-08. However, these data are not broken down to county level.

These figures only show judicial recommendations for deportation made during criminal proceedings in the Crown Court. More general immigration statistics can be found on the Home Office website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

*Number of recommendations for deportation orders issued by judges in the Crown Court in England and Wales, by county, 2005-06 to 2007-08*

| County | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon | 22 | 29 | 28 |
| Bedfordshire | 19 | 42 | 41 |
| Berkshire | 9 | 11 | 48 |
| Buckinghamshire | 1 | 16 | 15 |
| Cambridgeshire | 3 | 19 | 28 |
| Cheshire | 4 | 4 | 10 |
| Clwyd | — | 1 | 10 |
| Cumbria | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Derbyshire | 9 | 6 | 7 |
| Devon | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| Dorset | 5 | 13 | 20 |
| Durham | — | 3 | 2 |
| Essex | 3 | 32 | 44 |
| Gloucestershire | — | 14 | 3 |
| Greater London | 1,055 | 1,023 | 1,203 |
| Greater Manchester | 47 | 94 | 135 |
| Hampshire | 5 | 21 | 37 |
| Herefordshire and Worcestershire | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| Hertfordshire | 10 | 23 | 4 |
| Humberside | 20 | 21 | 12 |
| Kent | 25 | 129 | 139 |
| Lancashire | 3 | 5 | 20 |
| Leicestershire | 14 | 29 | 61 |
| Lincolnshire | 10 | 5 | 3 |
| Merseyside | 9 | 20 | 15 |
| Norfolk | 8 | 23 | 13 |
| North Yorkshire | 3 | 15 | 36 |
| Northamptonshire | 24 | 12 | 27 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2 | 13 | 11 |
| Oxfordshire | 6 | 11 | 29 |
| Shropshire | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Somerset | — | 1 | — |
| South Glamorgan | 11 | 20 | 33 |
| South Yorkshire | 33 | 35 | 57 |
| Staffordshire | 8 | 16 | 28 |
| Suffolk | 1 | 13 | 16 |
| Surrey | — | 7 | 12 |
| Sussex | 78 | 229 | 194 |
| Tyne and Wear | 2 | 16 | 13 |
| Warwickshire | 11 | 21 | 36 |
| West Glamorgan | — | 1 | 10 |
| West Midlands | 26 | 48 | 91 |
| West Yorkshire | 15 | 16 | 21 |
| Wiltshire | 1 | 8 | 8 |
| Total | 1,541 | 2,080 | 2,537 |

## Drugs: Crime

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crack house closures there were in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the last three years. [238100]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 introduced the provision for police to serve a closure notice on any premises that is believed by the police to be used for the production, supply or use of Class A drugs, and which is causing serious nuisance or disorder.

The Home Office collects data on the number of closure orders issued through the CDRP Survey, and police forces supply these data on a voluntary basis. Latest available data from this survey are consolidated to cover the period from October 2003 to September 2007 and show that in the Hertfordshire police force area 14 such orders have been served.

It is not possible to further break down data to constituency level (i.e. Hemel Hempstead) as this level of detail is not held centrally.

## Entry Clearances: Biometrics

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of *(a)* the likely period of time it will take a police constable to check a person's biometric visa against the Border and Immigration Agency's database and *(b)* the technology requirements needed by police forces to check the identity of a person with a biometric visa. [192453]

**Mr. Coaker:** There is currently no facility for police officers to check the holder of a biometric visa (Identity card) against the United Kingdom Border Agency database. An assessment of the technology requirements to develop such a capability has not taken place.

## Entry Clearances: Telephone Services

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average response time to a call to the MP hotline dealing with visa cases was in the last 12 months. [237630]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The vast majority of calls on the MPs hotline to our Visa Services Directorate in the last 12 months have been answered either immediately or within 24 hours. Unfortunately, some delays did occur in October due to a shortage of staff.

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of calls to the MP hotline dealing with visa cases *(a)* were answered by a person and *(b)* went to a voice message answering machine in the last 12 months. [237631]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* Records held by Visa Services Directorate's of calls to the MPs hotline do not show whether the calls were answered immediately or after receipt of a voicemail message. However, the directorate has advised that the majority of calls are answered immediately. If the MPs hotline is engaged, calls are diverted to a voicemail facility and messages are answered within 24 hours.

## Football: Arrests

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when statistics on football-related arrests and banning orders for 2007-08 will be published. [234307]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* These statistics will be published on 25 November 2008.

## Genetics: Databases

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of recorded crimes were detected using DNA from the National DNA database in each month since it became operational; and if she will make a statement. [190281]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The number and proportion of recorded crimes detected in which a DNA match was available is shown in table 1. Data on the number of crimes detected with a DNA match are not collected on a monthly basis; and the figures are therefore presented by year. The figures provided are for the years 2002-03 to 2007-08, as the recorded crime figures before and after 2002-03 are not directly comparable.

The figures for the number of crimes detected in which a DNA match was available only include crimes detected in which a DNA match was reported by the National DNA Database (NDNAD). They do not include DNA matches which arise through case work in serious crime, which usually involve comparing DNA profiles in a forensic laboratory; this data is not collected centrally. It is also important to note that the detections are achieved through integrated criminal investigation, not through DNA alone.

The presentation of crimes detected with DNA as a proportion of total recorded crime undervalues the relative contribution of DNA to the crime detection rate. It should be noted that the majority of recorded crimes do not have a crime scene (for example, minor assault, drugs offences, theft, fraud etc.) and do not have a crime scene examination. In 2007-08, just over 854,000 crimes had a crime scene examination (17 per cent. of recorded crimes). In those crimes which have a crime scene examination, some do not yield any forensic material (DNA or fingerprints). In 2007-08, potential DNA material was collected at 102,400 crimes; and of these, 41,800 crimes yielded DNA crime scene samples of sufficient quantity and quality for profiling and loading to the NDNAD. Of the 41,800 crimes in which a crime scene sample profile was loaded, a match was generated in 37,375 crimes (this represents 89 per cent. of crimes where DNA material was loaded to the NDNAD).

The proportion of 'crimes detected in which a DNA match was available', of those, 'crimes where potential DNA material was collected' is shown in table 2.

*Table 1*

| | *Detected crimes in which a DNA match was available ('DNA detections')* | *Additional detections arising from the DNA match*[1] | *Total detected crimes in which a DNA match was available or played a part* | *Total recorded crime*[2] | *Proportion of 'total crimes detected in which a DNA match was available or played a part' of total recorded crime (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 21,098 | 12,717 | 33,815 | 5,974,960 | 0.57 |
| 2003-04 | 20,489 | 15,899 | 36,388 | 6,013,759 | 0.61 |
| 2004-05 | 19,873 | 15,732 | 35,605 | 5,637,511 | 0.63 |
| 2005-06 | 20,349 | 19,960 | 40,309 | 5,555,174 | 0.73 |
| 2006-07 | 19,949 | 21,199 | 41,148 | 5,427,559 | 0.76 |
| 2007-08 | 17,614 | 15,420 | 33,034 | 4,950,671 | 0.67 |

[1] Additional detections may result from the original crime with the DNA match due to the identification of further offences through forensic linkage or through admission by the offender.
[2] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in 2002-03 and figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

*Table 2*

| | *Detected crimes in which a DNA match was available ('DNA detections')* | *Additional detections arising from the DNA match*[1] | *Total detected crimes in which a DNA match was available or played a part* | *Crimes where potential DNA material collected* | *Proportion of 'crimes detected in which a DNA match was available' of 'crimes where potential DNA material collected' (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 21,098 | 12,717 | 33,815 | 101,458 | 33.33 |
| 2003-04 | 20,489 | 15,899 | 36,388 | 104,983 | 34.66 |
| 2004-05 | 19,873 | 15,732 | 35,605 | 109,051 | 32.65 |
| 2005-06 | 20,349 | 19,960 | 40,309 | 113,025 | 35.66 |
| 2006-07 | 19,949 | 21,199 | 41,148 | 112,448 | 36.59 |

*Table 2*

| | *'Detected crimes in which a DNA match was available ('DNA detections')* | *Additional detections arising from the DNA match[1]* | *Total detected crimes in which a DNA match was available or played a part* | *Crimes where potential DNA material collected* | *Proportion of 'crimes detected in which a DNA match was available' of 'crimes where potential DNA material collected' (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 17,614 | 15,420 | 33,034 | 102,434 | 32.25 |

[1] Additional detections may result from the original crime with the DNA match due to the identification of further offences through forensic linkage or through admission by the offender.

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people there are on the national DNA database, broken down by *(a)* local authority area, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* sex; [235500]

(2) how many people have asked to have their profile removed from the national DNA database; and how many requests have been refused. [235501]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information held on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) is available on the basis of the police force which added the DNA profile, not the local authority area. For a breakdown of the NDNAD by police force and ethnicity, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green(Lynne Featherstone) on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 677-9W.

A breakdown of the NDNAD by sex, as at 30 September 2008, is given in the table. 'Unassigned' means that the police officer who took the sample did not record the individual's sex. The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because a number of subject profiles on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, a profile for a person has been loaded to the NDNAD on more than one occasion. This may arise for a number of reasons, such as a person giving a different name on different occasions they are arrested, or because of the upgrading of profiles. It is estimated that 13.3 per cent. of the subject profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates.

In relation to the number of people who have requested the removal of their record from the NDNAD, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 909-10W.

| *Sex* | *Subject Profiles* | *Estimated Individuals* |
|---|---|---|
| Male | 3,941,233 | 3,417,049 |
| Female | 1,029,873 | 892,900 |
| Unassigned | 38,841 | 33,675 |
| Total | 5,009,947 | 4,343,624 |

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people resident in *(a)* Greater Manchester, *(b)* Cumbria, *(c)* Cheshire, *(d)* Lancashire and *(e)* Merseyside have their profile stored on the national DNA database, broken down by ethnicity. [236751]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information held on the national DNA database (NDNAD) is recorded on the basis of the police force which took the DNA sample. Thus figures for any particular police force include residents from outside the force area arrested and sampled by the police force, and exclude residents in the force area who were arrested and sampled by police forces elsewhere.

The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because a number of subject profiles on the NDNAD are replicates, that is a profile for a person has been loaded to the NDNAD on more than one occasion. This may arise for a number of reasons, such as a person giving a different name on different occasions they are arrested, or because of upgrading of profiles. It is estimated that 13.3 per cent. of the subject profiles held on the entire NDNAD are replicates. However, this rate may vary between police forces, so figures for the number of individuals are not given for particular police forces.

Ethnicity is recorded on the basis of the judgment of the police officer taking the sample as to which of six broad ethnic appearance categories the person belongs to. 'Unknown' means that no ethnic appearance information was recorded by the officer taking the sample.

| *Force* | *Ethnic appearance* | *Subject profiles retained at 17 November 2008* |
|---|---|---|
| Cheshire | Unknown | 3,161 |
| | Asian | 942 |
| | Black | 928 |
| | Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian | 313 |
| | Middle Eastern | 290 |
| | White—North European | 78,695 |
| | White—South European | 787 |
| | Total | 85,116 |
| Cumbria | Unknown | 1,628 |
| | Asian | 248 |
| | Black | 178 |
| | Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian | 112 |
| | Middle Eastern | 34 |
| | White—North European | 46,621 |
| | White—South European | 193 |
| | Total | 49,014 |
| Greater Manchester | Unknown | 7,535 |
| | Asian | 18,259 |
| | Black | 14,786 |
| | Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian | 1,555 |
| | Middle Eastern | 1,910 |
| | White—North European | 213,983 |
| | White—South European | 3,379 |
| | Total | 261,407 |

| Force | Ethnic appearance | Subject profiles retained at 17 November 2008 |
|---|---|---|
| Lancashire | Unknown | 18,904 |
| | Asian | 8,025 |
| | Black | 1,640 |
| | Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian | 236 |
| | Middle Eastern | 257 |
| | White—North European | 120,983 |
| | White—South European | 1,131 |
| | Total | 151,176 |
| Merseyside | Unknown | 9,469 |
| | Asian | 1,101 |
| | Black | 3,584 |
| | Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian | 614 |
| | Middle Eastern | 781 |
| | White—North European | 123,341 |
| | White—South European | 1,447 |
| | Total | 140,337 |

### Hizb ut-Tahrir

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the threat posed to UK security by Hizb ut-Tahrir. [219351]

**Jacqui Smith:** Although I am unable to comment on intelligence matters, I can confirm that Hizb ut-Tahrir, along with other organisations which cause us concern, is kept under continuous review. As and when new material comes to light it is considered and the organisation reassessed as part of that process.

### Human Trafficking

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken in support of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking; what steps have been taken in the UK as a result of the UK high level delegation's participation in the Vienna Forum on the Global Initiative held on 12 to 15 February 2008; and if she will make a statement. [219357]

**Jacqui Smith:** Human trafficking is largely a cross border crime and the UK recognises the need for effective international collaboration to tackling this horrendous problem. The UK Government have supported UN.GIFT from the outset. The formal launch took place in London on 26 March 2007 at which my hon. Friend the Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism and Policing spoke on behalf of the Government. The UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking provides an important forum to discuss and facilitate global action against trafficking.

The Vienna Forum, at which my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Policing, Crime and Security also spoke, delivering a keynote speech, provided an excellent opportunity to outline the UK's approach to tackling human trafficking and to develop new relationships and enhance existing ones with international partners.

Recommendations from the Vienna Forum discussions are reflected in the UK Action Plan on Human Trafficking and are being taken forward as part of our on-going work. Examples include, further demonstrating our existing commitment to adopting a victim-centred, human rights approach to preventing and combating human trafficking by ratifying the Council of Europe Convention, which we are on-track to do by the end of the year; conducting research and analysis into the nature and extent of trafficking through the Police and the UK Human Trafficking Centre; on-going co-operation at operational level at home and abroad between key agencies like SOCA and its counterparts and at home between SOCA, the UKHTC, police, Government departments and NGOs especially in terms of investigations and victim identification; and continuation of the 'Blue Blindfold' awareness campaign led by the UK Human Trafficking centre.

### Human Trafficking: Romania

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with *(a)* other EU member states and *(b)* EU institutions on the trafficking of Roma children from other EU member states to the UK. [234430]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* We are very concerned about the trafficking of Roma children from certain EU member states by organised criminal networks for the purpose of criminal exploitation.

In addition to targeted operations led by the Metropolitan Police Service to bring the traffickers to justice, officials are working with the Romanian embassy in London to agree a protocol for the safe return of trafficked children where it is in their best interests.

On 1 September 2008, the Metropolitan Police Service signed an agreement with Romania, setting up a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) on Human Trafficking. This is the first such JIT on human trafficking in Europe.

No direct discussions have been held with EU institutions on this issue.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the extent of trafficking of Roma children from other EU member states to the UK; and if she will make a statement. [234431]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* Earlier this year, the Metropolitan Police Service estimated that more than 200 Roma children were being exploited in London and other locations in the UK by Romanian organised crime gangs. The Romanian police have identified 1,300 children whom they believe have been trafficked from Romania to western Europe for criminal exploitation.

### Identity Cards

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 44W, on identity cards, where a single transaction creates an audit trail relating

to more than one of the three biometric, biographical and administrative databases, whether the multiple audit trails will be brought together to create a fourth separate audit trail record to show what checks have taken place against a single transaction. [220294]

**Meg Hillier:** The Identity and Passport Service is currently in the process of procuring the different systems that will enable the establishment of the national identity register. This process will involve the creation of varying systems design from participating bidders on the basis of outcome-based requirements. They can propose a number of different technical solutions to deliver such requirements. As a result, the detailed manner in which the relevant systems will work together in order to combine, when necessary, information from different audit records on each system has not been finalised.

### Identity Cards: Contracts

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the expected delivery dates are for IT contracts in relation to the identity card scheme, including those that have been awarded and those that are yet to be awarded. [224718]

**Jacqui Smith:** The following table sets out the expected award dates for the IT enabled services contracts that have either been awarded or being procured. In the case of the 'Application and Enrolment' and 'National Biometric Identity Service', services will begin with transition of existing contracts before future capabilities to support the passport or identity card process commence.

| *Contract* | *Award* |
|---|---|
| Early releases (awarded to Thales) | August 2008 |
| Application and Enrolment | Second quarter 2009 |
| National Biometric Identity Service | Second quarter 2009 |

### Immigrants: English Language

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department had discussions with the Department for Children, Schools and Families or the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on ETS before the decision to approve ETS's Test of English as a Foreign Language for use within the United Kingdom immigration system. [220791]

**Mr. Woolas:** The selection of organisations to provide independent assessment of an applicant's English Language skills for Immigration purposes has no impact on, or relevance to, either the Department for Children, Schools and Families or the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority.

Consequently it was not considered necessary to consult either department before the decision was taken to approve ETS's Test of English as a Foreign Language for use within the United Kingdom immigration system.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what references her Department obtained in order to verify the record of ETS's past performance in delivering the Test of English as a Foreign Language before the decision to approve ETS's Test of English as a Foreign Language for use within the United Kingdom immigration system; [220793]

(2) what assessment was made of ETS's previous record of delivery of the Test of English as a Foreign Language before the decision to approve ETS's Test of English as a Foreign Language for use within the United Kingdom immigration system. [220794]

**Mr. Woolas:** The UK Border Agency under took an assessment exercise to ensure that all the tests included on the list of approved English Language tests for tier 1 satisfied our required standards of assessment and test security. In support of their application, ETS provided information on:

- Award security features
- Test methodologies
- Test security
- Test verification procedures
- How ETS mapped their test to the Common European Framework Reference for Languages: Learning, Training, assessment (CEFR)
- How ETS train their test markers and how marking standards are set
- The bona fides of their organisation

The results of ETS's English language tests are recognised by employers and institutions the world wide. However, the actual procurement of testing services is between ETS and the individual applicant taking their test.

### Immigration: Biometrics

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether foreign nationals who are issued with biometric immigration documents before the National Identity Register has been established will have their details entered on the Register when it has been set up. [237726]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* Foreign nationals who are subject to immigration control and apply for biometric immigration documents before the national identity register is established will not have to enter their biometric details onto the register. However, once biometric immigration documents are designated under the Identity Cards Act 2006, foreign nationals applying for a designated biometric immigration document will be required to provide their details for the register.

### Immigration: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the fees are for applications made in person at public inquiry offices for *(a)* indefinite leave to remain and *(b)* leave to remain. [219428]

**Jacqui Smith:** The level of fees for immigration applications is publicly available; they are published on the UKBA website at the following link:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/ukresidency/cost/

A copy of the web page is available in the Library.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter of 11 April from the hon. Member for Warley on Mr. Runjit Singh. [213600]

**Mr. Woolas:** My predecessor wrote to the hon. Member on 18 June 2008.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letters of 1 August, 18 August and 17 October 2008 from the hon. Member for Congleton on behalf of her constituent Mr. J Burt. [236242]

**Mr. Coaker:** We have had to consult on this and I shall reply to the hon. Member shortly.

### National Anti-Fraud Network

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role local authorities will have in the National Anti-Fraud Network. [236495]

**Mr. McNulty:** I have been asked to reply.

The National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) is funded by subscriptions from local authorities and exists to provide them with data, intelligence and best practice services. As of March 2008, 370 local authorities subscribed to this service.

### National Policing Information Agency: Correspondence

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the National Policing Information Agency plans to respond to the letter of 1 September 2008 from Lingotran Ltd of Christchurch. [237185]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* The National Policing Improvement Agency responded to the letter from Lingotran Ltd of Christchurch on 21 November 2008.

### Offences Against Children

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of child abuse were made to the police in the year ending March *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007 and *(e)* 2008. [237701]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The recorded crime statistics are based on legal definitions and the available statistics relate to offences recorded by the police. Statistics for the relevant recorded offences where the victim can be identified as a child are given in table 1.

Data for table 2 have been extracted from the Homicide Index and give the number of offences recorded as homicide where the age of the victim is under 16 and the apparent circumstances of killing is child/sexual abuse.

*Table 1: Selected offences where the victim was child recorded by the police in England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2007-08[1]*

| Offence | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cruelty to or neglect of children | 6,083 | 5,724 | 5,045 | 4,917 | 5,299 |
| Abandoning a child under the age of two years | 49 | 49 | 49 | 23 | 19 |
| Sexual assault on a male child under 13 | n/a | 1,227 | 1,394 | 1,237 | 1,118 |
| Rape of a female child under 16 | n/a | 3,014 | 3,153 | 2,853 | 2,418 |
| Rape of a female child under 13 | n/a | 970 | 1,388 | 1,524 | 1,472 |
| Rape of a male child under 16 | n/a | 322 | 292 | 261 | 235 |
| Rape of a male child under 13 | n/a | 297 | 364 | 458 | 427 |
| Sexual assault on a female child under 13 | n/a | 4,391 | 4,647 | 4,245 | 3,976 |
| Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13 | 212 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Sexual activity involving a child under 13 | n/a | 1,510 | 1,950 | 1,936 | 1,836 |
| Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16[2] | 1,911 | 436 | 138 | 67 | 33 |
| Sexual activity involving a child under 16 | n/a | 2,546 | 3,283 | 3,208 | 3,100 |
| Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography | n/a | 99 | 124 | 101 | 110 |
| Gross indecency with a child[2] | 1,987 | 398 | 120 | 64 | 150 |

n/a = Not available.

[1] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 introduced in May 2004 altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

[2] A small number of offences continue to be recorded relating to offences repealed by the Sexual Offences Act 2003; while these may continue to be legitimately recorded for offences committed prior to May 2004 it is also possible that some may have been recorded in these old categories in error, so recent changes based on small numbers should be interpreted with caution.

*Table 2: Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where the age of victim is under 16 and the apparent circumstances of killing is child/sexual abuse: England and Wales, 2003-04 to 2006-07[2,3]*

| Year offence initially recorded as homicide[2] | Number of victims |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 26 |
| 2004-05 | 26 |
| 2005-06 | 18 |
| 2006-07 | 16 |

[1] As at 12 November 2007; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

[3] Data for 2007-08 are not yet published.

### Offensive Weapons: Young People

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of recent trends in levels of teenage knife crime. [217323]

**Jacqui Smith:** The number of 13 to 19 year-old victims of homicide involving a sharp instrument rose from 26 in 2000-01 to 27 in 2006-07 indicating overall a slight increase.

Surveys indicate that young people may carry knives out of fear of mugging, or being bullied, or to gain respect and status within a group or gang.

In 2006 we decided to improve data collection to get a clearer picture of the scale of knife crime. These figures were published on 17 July show that there were 22,151 offences of serious violence involving knives (ie attempted murder, wounding with intent to commit GBH, wounding or inflicting GBH (ie without intent), or robbery) in 2007-08. This was the first year that these figures were

available and will in future provide information on trends for these offences. These figures are not broken down by age group.

We take knife crime extremely seriously and have announced a programme of action, based on the successful Tackling Gangs Action Programme model, to combat this issue. The action includes increased enforcement activity including the use of search equipment, prevention through educational initiatives such as Be Safe, development of the knife referral project to ensure that young people who are convicted of carrying knives but who do not receive a custodial sentence are required to attend a weapons awareness programme. We have also launched a £3 million three-year publicity campaign designed by young people focusing on the risks and consequences of knife carrying. This is being delivered via a social networking site, radio advertisements, posters and viral video clips.

### Police: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers, *(b)* police constables, *(c)* police sergeants and *(d)* police community support officers were working in the London Borough of Bexley in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008 to date. [238136]

**Mr. Coaker:** Police personnel statistics are not collected by borough. Data are collected by basic command unit (BCU), although they are not collected by rank at this level. However, Bexley is a BCU within the Metropolitan Police.

BCU figures are published annually as a supplementary table to the Police Service Strength Statistical Bulletin. The current publication can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and previous years' publication can be found in the House of Commons Library.

There were 371 full-time equivalent police officers in the BCU of Bexley as at 31 March 2007, and 361 such officers as at 31 March 2008.

There were 87 full-time equivalent police community support officers in the BCU of Bexley as at 31 March 2007, and 106 such officers as at 31 March 2008.

### Police: Driving Offences

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police drivers have been prosecuted or disciplined for driving offences committed while at work in each of the last five years. [238847]

**Mr. Coaker:** Information is not collected centrally on the occupation of offenders unless specific to the offence legislation.

### Police: Gwent

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect on the delivery of policing in Gwent of the proposed changes to the level of police grant for the forthcoming financial year. [229961]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government announced last year provisional funding totals for the three year period 2008-09 to 2010-11. The stability of funding provided by a three year settlement enables police authorities to develop medium term financial strategies and control their spending. We will finalise grant allocation for 2009-10 shortly.

Gwent police authority received £80.6 million in general grant for 2008-09, an increase of 2.5 per cent. (£2.0 million) over 2007-08. This is in line with the minimum increase guaranteed for all police authorities in England and Wales. Gwent benefits from this decision. If the needs based police funding formula had been strictly applied it would have received £2.3 million less.

Between 2006-07 and 2007-08, the Gwent police force area experienced a nine per cent. fall in overall crime, a 20 per cent. fall in theft of a motor vehicle, and violence against the person had fallen by 13 per cent. during the same period.

### Police: Pensions

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the projected savings are of the 2006 Police Pension Scheme changes in relation to public sector pensions for the police. [230355]

**Mr. Coaker:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to him on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 824W.

### Police: Resignations

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers resigned from police forces in England and Wales in each of the last three years. [224470]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* The available data are given in the following table.

*Police officer resignations[1] by police force area (FTE)[2] from 2005-06 to 2007-08*

| | 2005-06[3, 4] | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 77 | 35 | 48 |
| Bedfordshire | 24 | 23 | 31 |
| Cambridgeshire | 26 | 28 | 12 |
| Cheshire | 37 | 24 | 17 |
| Cleveland | 24 | 25 | 23 |
| Cumbria | 11 | 17 | 11 |
| Derbyshire | 20 | 41 | 39 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 44 | 34 | 38 |
| Dorset | 22 | 19 | 26 |
| Durham | 15 | 16 | 19 |
| Essex | 79 | 81 | 73 |
| Gloucestershire | 19 | 20 | 18 |
| Greater Manchester | 186 | 159 | 136 |
| Hampshire | 64 | 49 | 46 |
| Hertfordshire | 55 | 63 | 50 |
| Humberside | 31 | 34 | 40 |
| Kent | 66 | 49 | 57 |
| Lancashire | 26 | 32 | 34 |
| Leicestershire | 45 | 27 | 53 |
| Lincolnshire | 20 | 16 | 16 |
| London, City of | 11 | 11 | 16 |
| Merseyside | 83 | 61 | 41 |

*Police officer resignations[1] by police force area (FTE)[2] from 2005-06 to 2007-08*

| | 2005-06[3,4] | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metropolitan Police | 337 | 531 | 360 |
| Norfolk | 22 | 24 | 16 |
| Northamptonshire | 24 | 19 | 23 |
| Northumbria | 38 | 49 | 46 |
| North Yorkshire | 17 | 32 | 31 |
| Nottinghamshire | 14 | 28 | 23 |
| South Yorkshire | 40 | 38 | 40 |
| Staffordshire | 24 | 22 | 24 |
| Suffolk | 14 | 12 | 23 |
| Surrey | 37 | 46 | 47 |
| Sussex | 82 | 76 | 76 |
| Thames Valley | 131 | 86 | 78 |
| Warwickshire | 12 | 18 | 20 |
| West Mercia | 19 | 38 | 32 |
| West Midlands | 137 | 105 | 91 |
| West Yorkshire | 89 | 65 | 84 |
| Wiltshire | 26 | 16 | 28 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 12 | 8 | 12 |
| Gwent | 20 | 16 | 24 |
| North Wales | 27 | 22 | 16 |
| South Wales | 29 | 39 | 80 |
| Total | 2,133 | 2,151 | 2,020 |

[1] Does not include transfers to other England and Wales forces.
[2] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[3] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.
[4] Over 1,000 police officers previously working with the National Crime Squad (NCS) and the National Criminal Intelligence Squad (NCIS) left their home force to join the Serious Organised Crime Agency when it vested on 1 April 2006.

### Police: Retirement

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in Derbyshire *(a)* retired and *(b)* took early retirement on health grounds in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [238084]

**Mr. Coaker:** The numbers of police officer medical retirements have been published each year by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in their annual report. HMIC have advised that these data will no longer be published in their annual report and that the data for 2004-05 would be the last series of data to be published.

I have been advised by Derbyshire police of the data in the table subsequent to 2004-05.

*Police officer retirements in Derbyshire[1]*

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ordinary | 52 | 65 | 92 | 80 | 60 |
| Ill health | 2 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 3 |

[1] Figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number

### Secure Accommodation

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with youth and social service practitioners on alternatives to long-term secure accommodation for young people vulnerable to sexual exploitation; and if she will make a statement. [237280]

**Beverley Hughes:** I have been asked to reply.

My officials have discussed the use of secure accommodation with stakeholders in the course of developing guidance aimed at safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation. Respondents to the recent consultation exercise on the draft guidance have also expressed views about this.

In some cases, it may be necessary to secure the safety of a child or young person who is being sexually exploited by removing them to a safe place. In general, they will need good quality placements with experience of building trusting relationships and skills at containing young people. These placements do not have to be secure. Placing a child or young person in secure accommodation should be considered only in extreme circumstances, when it is necessary to secure their safety from perpetrators.

### Telecommunications: Databases

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 616W, on telecommunications: database, whether one of the proposed options to be included in the consultation paper will be giving local authorities access to the database of communications. [235864]

**Mr. Coaker:** The forthcoming consultation will set out a range of options to ensure that communications data is available in the future. Local authorities can currently access subscriber and service use data and there are no plans to change the type of data that they can access.

### UK Border Agency: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* times disciplinary proceedings were brought and *(b)* officials were disciplined by the UK Border Agency and its predecessor bodies in each of the last three years. [221863]

**Mr. Woolas:** This information could be subject to change and numbers can go up as well as down depending on a number of factors, for example successful appeals will result in records being removed.

The table provides data for the last three financial years. The figures for the number of disciplinary proceedings brought against staff encompass attendance management, discipline and performance management as a total figure.

It should also be noted that with regard to Attendance Management and Performance Management, an individual may have several separate entries under these procedures as there may have been more than one occasion where an individual was absent which required action under the policy or had performance related issues that also required action under the relevant policy.

| Financial year | Number of disciplinary proceedings (inclusive of attendance/performance management and discipline) | Number of staff |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 489 | 436 |
| 2006-07 | 966 | 848 |
| 2007-08 | 1,783 | 1,548 |

### Vetting

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks and *(b)* enhanced CRB checks were carried out in each of the last five years. [236577]

**Meg Hillier:** I refer the hon. Member to my written answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1446W.

### Vetting: Greater London

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of *(a)* the average length of time taken by the police in each London borough to provide information in support of applications for Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) clearance and *(b)* the average length of time for the completion of CRB clearance once police have been asked to provide this information in the last 12 months, broken down by London borough. [235873]

**Meg Hillier:** Data concerning the average time taken by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) to complete a disclosure by police force area and the average length of time for the completion of CRB clearance once police have been asked to provide this information are not collated by the bureau.

The CRB operates to a set of published service standards (PSS) which include to issue 90 per cent. of standard disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within 28 days. The CRB has met the PSS set in October 2008.

The CRB has been supporting those forces that have encountered problems in meeting their targets by a range of measures including the provision of additional resources, monitoring performance, providing demand forecasting data and assistance in introducing new IT initiatives.

A revised service level agreement came into effect in April 2006 between the CRB and the 43 police forces of England and Wales. This agreement, which was agreed by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), places an additional focus on delivery and the responsibilities of chief officers and ACPO to ensure that the obligations within the service level agreement are met. Monthly performance figures for each of the police forces for their part of the disclosure service are now published on the CRB website at

www.crb.gsi.gov.uk.

### Vetting: Young People

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many under 18-year-olds have had Criminal Records Bureau checks in 2008-09 to date. [234651]

**Meg Hillier:** During the financial year 2008-09 to date the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has issued 80,806 disclosures to applicants under the age of 18 years.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question 21456, tabled on 24 June 2008, on the prosecution of US personnel. [228294]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I replied to the hon. Gentleman on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 783W.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Compulsory Purchase: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many compulsory purchase orders have been issued in each of the principal seaside towns in England in each of the last 10 years. [239393]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Council Housing

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* council houses, *(b)* housing association properties, *(c)* homeless families placed in temporary accommodation and *(d)* families on the housing waiting list there are in each local authority in England. [239014]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information on the number of social dwellings owned by local authorities is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 116 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140882.xls

Copies of this table have been deposited in the Library of the House.

Information on the number of social dwellings owned by registered social landlords (RSLs) is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 115 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140879.xls

Copies of this table have been deposited in the Library of the House.

Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information on the numbers of households with dependant children (including expectant mothers with no other dependant children) in temporary accommodation is reported quarterly by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. The most recent figures reported by local authorities were for 30 June 2008 and are provided in a table, which has been placed in the Library.

Information about social housing waiting lists is collected in respect of households rather than families. Where local authorities and registered social landlords operate a common register, households registered with the RSL will be included in the data.

However, registered social landlords are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists. Information on the number of households on local authorities' waiting lists is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/144458.xls

Copies of this table have been deposited in the Library of the House.

Local authorities in England report the number of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need; it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house.

**Departmental Land**

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much surplus land *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies own; and what the (i) area and (ii) estimated monetary value of each site is; [236432]

(2) what plans she has for each of the sites owned by her Department and registered on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land; what construction projects are planned for each site; and when she expects each site to be returned to use. [236443]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold any surplus land. English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency, is an executive non-departmental public body for which my Department has responsibility. A core part of English Partnerships' work involves making the best use of the available land supply by identifying surplus previously-developed land which can be brought back into effective re-use for development, particularly housing development. My Department has similar responsibilities for the Fire Service College, which is also an executive agency and has responsibility for the delivery of training in support of fire-fighters and public safety.

English Partnerships and the Fire Service College hold land in the context of and incidental to their core businesses. To date, land that has been identified as surplus by English Partnerships and the Fire Service College totals about 17 sites covering over 250ha. The total estimated value of the sites is about £7 million.

The Register of Surplus Public Sector Land is managed by English Partnerships on behalf of my Department and HM Treasury. The Treasury publication 'Managing Public Money' requires all central government bodies and their agencies to place details of their surplus sites on the Register. The Register provides a single reference point for all participating public sector bodies on the available national supply of surplus land and helps to ensure that wider Government objectives, including housing needs and regional economic and housing strategies, are factored into land disposal decisions. English Partnerships publishes a quarterly return of surplus sites available on the Register via its website at

http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/rspsl.htm.

The most current information is on the September 2008 issue of the Register.

Local planning authorities are responsible for preparing their development plan documents as part of their local development framework. While a public sector body selling land may discuss potential future uses with the local planning authority and seek planning permission, it is the market that will finally determine when individual sites come back into effective use and the exact form of the development, taking account of the local planning needs and requirement.

**Disabled Facilities Grants**

**Mr. Sanderc:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms her Department has in place to increase funding to local authorities when there is increased demand for disabled facilities grants. [236406]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government regard the Disabled Facilities Grant programme as a very important means to help disabled and older people continue to live as independently as possible in their own homes. That is why we have more than doubled the Government funds available for the programme from £57 million in 1997 to £146 million in 2008 with an increase of £10 million in each of the subsequent years making the budget £166 million by 2010. This represents a significant investment in this important programme.

**Eco-towns**

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the central budget for the eco-town programme is; [236506]

(2) how much has been spent to date by her Department and its agencies in relation to the eco-town programme, broken down by main budget heading. [236512]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The eco-towns policy was announced in the Housing Green Paper in July 2007 and it has been developed alongside our housing policies. The costs for developing the policy form part of the Department's running costs and are set out in the Departmental Annual Report, Community, opportunity, prosperity. Future allocations to support infrastructure and local authority expenditure in relation to any of the sites will be drawn from the growth funding made available in CSR07. However the bulk of investment needed to create an eco-town will come from the private sector.

In managing the programme we are drawing on policy expertise in terms of housing, planning and sustainable communities from the Department and its agencies. However certain aspects of the programme in relation to the assessment process have required us to seek specific technical expertise, for example on the sustainability

appraisal. The costs related to this technical consultancy, along with those for marketing and consultation are set out in the following table.

| | *Funding* |
|---|---|
| Sustainability Appraisal | £80,000 (contract value – this work is not complete) |
| Financial assessment | £720,000 (contract value – this work is not complete) |
| Challenge Panel | [1]5,500 |
| TSUPB, work on practical guidance and best practice advice to local authorities and other stakeholders, including running the Eco-towns Expert Group, running events with stakeholders and producing worksheets | £225,000 (2007-08) £199,300 committed funding for 2008-09 |
| Local authority assessments – the Department has agreed to contribute to local authority costs in supporting the assessment process. Final figures for each authority have yet to be agreed. | Final cost to be agreed |
| Communications – this includes spending on market research, regional media, design work, and digital media | £385,200 |

1 The Challenge Panel members were entitled to claim the Government rate of £350 per day when working for the Panel.

Note:
All figures for expenditure have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
However, please note that a large proportion of the overall figure represents contract value, not all of which has been realised (work is still to be completed).

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget is for the eco-town programme; and how much has been spent, broken down by type of category of expenditure. [230884]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, Column (PQs 230306 and 230312.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on consultants' fees for work on eco-towns in the last 12 months. [235811]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Over the last 12 months the Department has spent approximately £670,000 on consultancy fees in relation to the eco-towns programme. This has been to support our assessment of the eco-town locations and schemes, including publication of the Sustainability Appraisal on 4 November 2008. This work will also assist local authorities considering planning applications for schemes in those locations announced in the final shortlist of locations with potential to be an eco-town next year, following the second stage consultation.

## Green Belt

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many gross hectares of Green Belt land, excluding additions to the Green Belt, have been developed in each year since 1996 for which figures are available, broken down by region. [236102]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Decisions about the use of land which is designated as green belt, or whether land should be designated as green belt, must be taken in accordance with the policy in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 on green belts. This policy has performed an important role in preventing urban sprawl and protecting the countryside for 50 years. There is a presumption against inappropriate development in green belt but the policy allows for some development there, such as to support agriculture or forestry or as limited infill in existing villages. Development that is inappropriate may be permitted only where the benefits clearly outweigh any harm to the green belt and where very special circumstances are also demonstrated. The Government remain committed to current green belt policy and have no intention of making changes to it.

Detailed information of the designated 1996 green belt boundary is not centrally held. Information on designated green belt boundaries is held for only 1997 and 2007. Land use change statistics on the green belt are now based on the 2007 designated boundary, but as the question specifically excludes additions to the green belt since 1996, in this case the 1997 designated boundary has been used.

Estimates for land changing to developed use within the designated 1997 green belt are provided for 1996 to 2003 as this is the most up to date information on changes to the 1997 green belt available. All the estimates in the attached table reflect development each year within land designated as green belt in 1997 irrespective of whether or not the land was actually designated as green belt at the time of change.

The total for the area of green belt in England was 1,649,600 hectares in 1997. The total area of the green belt in 2007 shows a net national increase of over 33,000 hectares since 1997.

## Homelessness

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless households were accepted as *(a)* eligible for housing, *(b)* unintentionally homeless and *(c)* in priority need by local authorities in each year since 1997. [234931]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected includes the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as *(a)* eligible for assistance, *(b)* unintentionally homeless and *(c)* in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). These households are known as 'accepted' households.

Data on accepted households are provided in our quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, which is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Acceptances by local authority are published in each quarter's Statistical Release, in the Supplementary Tables. In addition, a table showing these data since 1997-98 has been placed in the Library.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of people who were rough sleeping in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area on the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by (i) age group, (ii) gender and (iii) ethnic background. [238705]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The 2008 estimate of the number of rough sleepers in England showed 483 people sleeping rough on any single night—a 74 per cent. reduction on the 1998 baseline. The estimate is based on the results of local authority street counts in those areas where a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem has been identified.

Number of rough sleepers in each region/local authority based on rough sleeper counts are in the following tables.

| *Region* | *Rough sleepers* |
|---|---|
| SW | 54 |
| SE | 55 |
| NW | 54 |
| NE | 2 |
| WM | 18 |
| EM | 6 |
| EM | 21 |
| Y&H | 35 |
| L | 238 |
| ENG | 483 |

| *Local authority* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *Street counts* | |
| Westminster | 111 |
| City of London | 48 |
| Exeter | 15 |
| Liverpool | 13 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 12 |
| Bournemouth | 11 |
| Lambeth (Joint with Southwark) | 11 |
| Manchester | 11 |
| Bedford | 10 |
| Brighton and Hove | 10 |
| Hillingdon | 10 |
| Hull | 10 |
| Oxford | 10 |
| Taunton Deane | 10 |
| Chester | 9 |
| Torbay | 9 |
| Canterbury | 8 |
| Preston | 8 |
| York | 8 |
| Blackpool | 7 |
| Dover | 7 |
| East Staffs | 7 |
| Tower Hamlets | 7 |
| Birmingham | 6 |
| Leeds | 6 |
| North Lincs | 6 |
| Peterborough | 6 |
| Reading | 6 |
| Redbridge | 6 |
| Waltham Forest | 6 |
| Medway | 5 |
| Southwark | 5 |
| Watford | 5 |
| Wolverhampton | 5 |
| Brent | 4 |
| Camden | 4 |
| Hackney | 4 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 4 |
| Islington | 4 |
| Swindon | 4 |
| Kettering | 3 |
| Nottingham | 3 |
| Sheffield | 3 |
| Thanet | 3 |
| Worthing | 3 |
| Cheltenham | 2 |
| Crewe and Nantwich | 2 |
| Hastings | 2 |
| Lewisham | 2 |
| Macclesfield | 2 |
| Newcastle | 2 |
| Barnsley | 1 |
| Calderdale | 1 |
| Halton | 1 |
| North Devon | 1 |
| Poole | 1 |
| Shepway | 1 |
| Stockport | 1 |
| Teignbridge | 1 |
| Ashford | 0 |
| Cambridge | 0 |
| Chorley | 0 |
| Congleton | 0 |
| Ellesmere Port and Neston | 0 |
| Fylde | 0 |
| Greenwich | 0 |
| Maldon | 0 |
| Newham | 0 |
| North Somerset | 0 |
| Rotherham | 0 |
| South Ribble | 0 |
| Staffordshire Moorlands | 0 |
| Vale Royal | 0 |
| Warrington | 0 |
| England total | 483 |

We do not hold national data on the proportion of rough sleepers who are male or female, their age group or ethnic background. However, there is specific data for London provided under the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) recording system. In 2007-08, for those rough sleepers in London contacted by services, CHAIN records show around 87 per cent. of rough sleepers to be male and 13 per cent. to be female. The breakdown by age is as follows:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Under 18 years | 0 |
| 18-25 years | 7 |
| 26-35 years | 28 |
| 36-45 years | 34 |
| 46-55 years | 19 |
| Over 55 years | 11 |

### Housing Associations

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether housing associations are public bodies for the purposes of EU procurement legislation. [239210]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Yes.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of increasing the *(a)* proportion and *(b)* number of social and intermediate market housing units in the annual house building targets in each region in the light of recent changes in the housing market. [235975]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 766W.

### Housing: Standards

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council and housing association homes met the Decent Homes standard in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [236709]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Estimates from 1996 to 2006 and including 1997 are provided in the following table from the English House Condition Survey. There was no survey in 1997 and therefore figures are interpolated from within the overall time series, but this can be provided only for the social rented sector as a whole. The most recent EHCS data available is 2006.

All estimates are based on the original definition of the decent homes standard which incorporates the Fitness Standard as one of the four criteria a home must meet if it is to be considered decent. This definition was updated in 2006 to replace the Fitness Standard with Housing Health and Safety Rating System. However there are no estimates available for years earlier than 2006 based on the updated definition and estimates based on the updated definition are not comparable with those for previous years.

*Social housing by decency status[1], 1996-2006*

| | *Local authority* | | *RSL* | | *All social* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Decent* | *Non-decent* | *Decent* | *Non-decent* | *Decent* | *Non-decent* |
| *Number (Thousand)* | | | | | | |
| 1996 | 1,600 | 1,869 | 493 | 448 | 2,092 | 2,318 |
| 1997[2] | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 2,192 | 2,184 |
| 2006 | 1,391 | 695 | 1,414 | 436 | 2,805 | 1,131 |
| *Percentage* | | | | | | |
| 1996 | 46.1 | 53.9 | 52.4 | 47.6 | 47.4 | 52.6 |
| 1997[2] | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 50.1 | 49.9 |
| 2006 | 66.7 | 33.3 | 76.4 | 23.6 | 71.3 | 28.7 |

[1] Estimates are based on the original definition of decent homes which incorporates the fitness standard as one of the four criteria a home must meet if it is to be considered decent.
[2] Figures interpolated from all results (1996, 2001 and annually from 2003). Figures can not be interpolated for local authority and RSL housing separately for 1997 because of changes arising from transfers between the tenures.
*Source:*
English House Condition Survey.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department and its predecessors have made of trends in standards of accommodation in *(a)* houses in multiple occupation and *(b)* the private rented sector in the last 10 years. [238424]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Following research undertaken by the Building Research Establishment (BRE), the Department published "Evaluating the Impact of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing: The baseline before licensing in April 2006" in August 2007. The BRE is currently carrying out a review of the HMO licensing regime which will look at the practical implications, effectiveness and the impact of HMO legislation since implementation. The final report is due to be published in spring 2009.

The English House Condition Survey collects information on housing conditions and includes the private rented sector.

Since 1996, there has been substantial improvement in the number of non-decent homes in the private rented sector, from 62 per cent. in 1996 to 40 per cent. in 2006, based on the Fitness Standard which was the original definition of the decent homes standard.

The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) rating is based on energy costs for space and water heating, ventilation and lighting per square metre of floor area within each home, representing a measure of its energy efficiency. Since 1996, there private rented sector has become more energy efficient and the average SAP has increased from 38 in 1996 to 47 in 2006.

### Housing: Thames Gateway

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the new homes to be built as part of the Thames Gateway project she expects to be affordable homes; and what assessment she has made of the effect of the current economic climate on that estimate. [235805]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Thames Gateway needs a mix of housing to be successful—from affordable starter homes and family units to aspirational homes—across the full range of tenures. The Government's aspiration is therefore for 160,000 additional new homes of all tenures from 2001 to 2016.

When the Thames Gateway Delivery Plan was published in November 2007, the Housing Corporation estimated that over the period 2008-11 it would invest in between 11,500 and 14,300 affordable homes in the Thames Gateway. Overall, delivery of social rented homes through the Housing Corporation are on trajectory for 2008-09. However, it remains too early, given global financial turbulence and subsequent market conditions, to predict outputs in later years with certainty.

### Listed Buildings

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the provisions of section 54A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1991. [238016]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I believe the hon. Member may be referring to section 54A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, which was repealed and replaced by section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This requires determinations under the planning Acts to be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The effect of proposed development on a listed building, conservation area or other heritage asset could constitute a material consideration. The provision ensures that heritage assets are given due consideration when planning applications are being determined.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations her Department has received relating to section 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1991. [238017]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Section 66(1) requires decision makers, when considering planning applications which would affect a listed building or its setting, to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest it possesses. The Secretary of State has not received any representations about this specific provision and its operations, although it is common for people to make representations about specific listed buildings in relation to individual planning cases.

### Local Authorities: Conservation

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of local authorities employed a conservation officer in each of the last five years. [238147]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** This information is not collected by the Department, as staffing issues in local authorities are a matter for the organisations themselves, taking into account their local circumstances. In 2006, a survey by the Institute of Historic Building Conservation showed there were 757 full-time equivalent buildings conservation staff. English Heritage are carrying out a survey to be completed by the end of this year, which will cover all historic environment professionals (conservation officers and archaeologists) working in local government.

### Multiple Occupation

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from *(a)* voluntary organisations and *(b)* local authorities on amending housing regulations for houses in multiple occupation. [238091]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The building research establishment is currently carrying out a review of the HMO licensing regime across all local authorities in England which will look at the practical implications, effectiveness and the impact of HMO legislation since implementation. As part of the review they have consulted a range of key stakeholders including local authorities, private landlords and tenant representatives. The final report is due to be published in spring 2009.

### Multiple Occupation: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effects of mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupation in seaside towns; what estimate she has made of the take up rate; and if she will make a statement. [238419]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Building Research Establishment is currently carrying out a review of the HMO licensing regime across all local authorities in England which will look at the practical implications, effectiveness and the impact of HMO legislation since implementation. The final report is due to be published in spring 2009.

Information requested on the take up rate of mandatory HMO licensing in seaside towns is not available centrally.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on relationships between houses in multiple occupation and levels of transient and vulnerable people living in the principal English seaside towns; and if she will make a statement. [238420]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Building Research Establishment is currently carrying out a review of the HMO licensing regime across all local authority areas which will look at the practical implications, effectiveness and the impact of HMO legislation since implementation. Where appropriate, this will include impacts on areas with high levels of transient and vulnerable households. The final report is due to be published in spring 2009.

The Department's report 'England's Seaside Towns—A Benchmarking Study', published in November 2008, includes findings on migrant workers (who form part of transient populations) and certain vulnerable households (such as disabled people and the elderly) in England's 37 principal seaside resorts, though recent data were not available on their housing tenure in these places.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what controls are available to local authorities to manage houses in multiple occupation in the principal English seaside towns; what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the use of such controls; and if she will make a statement. [238423]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** All houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) in England that are of three or more storeys housing five or more persons forming more than one household are now subject to mandatory HMO licensing. Local authorities also have the discretion to introduce additional HMO licensing schemes to cover smaller HMOs where they have identified problems such as poor management standards and property condition.

All HMOs, regardless of whether they are licensable, are subject to management regulations. The regulations impose duties on the manager of the property to ensure that minimum safety requirements are met, the HMO and facilities within it are maintained and in reasonably good order and that fire precautionary equipment are properly maintained.

The building research establishment is currently carrying out a review of the HMO licensing regime across all local authorities in England which will look at the practical implications, effectiveness and the impact of HMO legislation since implementation. The final report is due to be published in spring 2009.

### Non-domestic Rates

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have been prosecuted successfully for non-payment of business rates in each of the last 12 months. [239213]

**John Healey:** The Department does not collect such statistics.

### Non-domestic Rates: Ports

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation was undertaken with businesses based in ports before the decision was taken to make retrospective demands for business rates on UK port occupiers. [238312]

**John Healey:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Canterbury (Mr. Brazier) on 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1410W.

### Planning

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of Planning Policy Guidance 15 and 16. [238014]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Planning Policy Guidance Notes 15 and 16 set out Government policy on, respectively, Planning and the Historic Environment, and Archaeology and Planning. They explain and provide guidance on the robust regime for protecting listed buildings, conservation areas and other heritage assets that is enshrined in legislation, and are valued by stakeholders as key heritage protection documents. We recognise the need to keep these documents up to date, and are currently revising them in consultation with officials in English Heritage and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism. [238015]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We have made no assessment of the effectiveness of our Good Practice Guidance on Planning for Tourism. However, the Department for Culture Media and Sport has been engaging proactively with local authorities and business since the publication of the guide in May 2006 to ensure its effective implementation.

### Regeneration: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress her Department has made with HM Treasury on the national regeneration framework in seaside towns. [238310]

**John Healey:** The wide economic and social variations between individual seaside towns underline the need for local regeneration solutions that are integrated within wider sub-regional and regional strategies—an approach set out in the Government's Regeneration Framework consultation document issued in July 2008. These variations are highlighted in the Department's recent report, 'England's Seaside Towns—A Benchmarking Study,' published in November.

During the consultation period on the framework, which closed at the end of October, my officials met with many stakeholders including those with interests in seaside towns. We are currently considering responses to the consultation document with the aim of publishing a final framework early in 2009. The framework is being taken forward in close co-operation with Treasury officials and other Government Departments.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to improve its arrangements for co-ordination of policy with other Government departments on coastal towns since the publication of the Communities and Local Government Committee's Second Report of Session 2006-07, Coastal Towns, HC 351. [238655]

**John Healey:** My Department established a cross-departmental working group on coastal towns in February 2008, comprising officials from eight Departments (BERR, CLG, DCMS, DfT, DIUS, DOH, DEFRA, and DWP), the Government Offices for the Regions and key government agencies—the Environment Agency, Commission for Rural Communities and Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if her Department will bring forward proposals to establish a permanent network to facilitate the spread of best practice in coastal town regeneration. [238659]

**John Healey:** The Coastal Towns Network, which is led by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and includes central Government Departments, local authorities, regional development agencies (RDAs) and national coastal town networks, provides a forum for facilitating the dissemination of best practice in coastal town regeneration.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the work of each regional improvement and efficiency partnership in respect of the principal seaside towns in England which lie in their areas. [238917]

**John Healey:** Information of the work of each Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEPs) in respect of the principal seaside towns is not held centrally. However, we are continually monitoring the progress of the RIEPs and a full assessment of RIEP progress will be available when the annual end of year report is produced next year.

### Regional Planning and Development

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 175W, on planning, when her Department plans to publish a summary of responses to its consultation on the Town and Country (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. [239406]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We aim to publish the summary of responses in January.

### Rented Housing: Private Sector

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many properties in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England are privately rented; [239682]

(2) how many private landlords there are in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England; [239683]

(3) how many people have been registered as private tenants in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [239684]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Annual estimates of the stock of privately rented properties in the North East and in England are set out in table 1. Annual estimates for South Tyneside and Jarrow are not available.

*Table 1: Estimated stock of privately rented properties 1997-2006*

| | North East | Thousand England |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 73 | 2,196 |
| 1998 | 78 | 2,192 |
| 1999 | 82 | 2,171 |
| 2000 | 82 | 2,155 |
| 2001 | 79 | 2,152 |
| 2002 | 78 | 2,208 |
| 2003 | 87 | 2,293 |
| 2004 | 99 | 2,375 |
| 2005 | 105 | 2,497 |
| 2006[1] | 106 | 2,611 |

[1] Provisional.

*Source:*
CLG live table 109

Based on the recent report "The Private Rented Sector: its contribution and potential", published by the Centre for Housing Policy, University of York, the number of private landlords in England in 2006, excluding resident landlords, is estimated to have been about 1.2 million. Reliable estimates of the number of private landlords are not available at below national level.

The question asks for the number of registered private tenants. However, private tenants are not required to register, so the figures in table 2 are survey-based estimates of the number of households in the private rented sector for the North East and for England, 1997 to 2007. Estimates are only available at regional and national level.

*Table 2: Estimated number of households in the private rented sector 1997-2007*

| | North East | Thousand England |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 71 | 2,078 |
| 1998 | 75 | 2,063 |
| 1999 | 81 | 2,000 |
| 2000 | 79 | 2,029 |
| 2001 | 72 | 2,062 |
| 2002 | 73 | 2,131 |
| 2003 | 87 | 2,234 |
| 2004 | 103 | 2,284 |
| 2005 | 101 | 2,445 |
| 2006 | 107 | 2,566 |
| 2007 | 117 | 2,690 |

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics, Labour Force Survey

The most recent estimate of the number of households in the private rented sector in South Tyneside, from the 2001 Census, was 3,259. The comparable Census 2001 figures for South Tyneside, North East and England were as follows:

*Table 3: Number of households in the private rented sector, estimated from the 2001 Census*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| South Tyneside | 3,259 |
| North East Region | 76,987 |
| England | 2,037,470 |

The estimates for North-East Region and England in table 3 are more reliable than those in table 2 because they are derived from a census as opposed to a sample survey.

Estimates of the number of private renters in the Jarrow constituency based on the 2001 Census are not available.

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she intends to publish her response to the findings of the Rugg Report on the private rented sector; and if she will make a statement. [239686]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We will be responding to the Julie Rugg and David Rhodes review of the private rented sector within our forthcoming housing reform Green Paper. Ministers are currently considering the full range of evidence and policy issues for the Green Paper in its entirety and as such no decision has been made on timing for its publication. At the same time, we are discussing initial views on Rugg/Rhodes's interesting and helpful review with key stakeholders. Those discussions will inform our initial response to the review.

### Repossession Orders: Telephone Helplines

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which telephone advice lines are funded from the public purse to provide advice to those facing repossessions; how much funding the Government have provided to financial advice lines in each of the last five years; and how many incoming calls have been *(a)* received and *(b)* answered by each of those advice lines in each of the last 12 months. [236536]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** National Debtline (NDL) is a free, confidential and independent national telephone helpline for people with debt problems in England, Scotland and Wales. NDL also offer expert advice on the full range of debt related problems for example rent arrears, mortgage/repossession etc. The service can be accessed via the telephone, email and written inquiries. Government part funds the National Debtline (NDL) with industry through contributions by BERR, MoJ and the Scottish Executive.

In the past five years BERR have paid £1 million to NDL in each of the past five years (2003-04 onwards); MoJ have paid £500,000 in 05-06, £800,000 in 06-07 and £1 million in 2007-08.

Community Legal Advice (CLA) is the telephone helpline of the Legal Services Commission (LSC), a non -departmental public body sponsored by the Ministry of Justice. In addition to the telephone service, the LSC also funds 88 Housing Possession Court Duty Schemes in 113 courts throughout England and Wales to provide on-the-day emergency advice and advocacy to anyone facing possession proceedings. These figures include those schemes that will start from next week, following a recent tender process. The schemes allow anyone in danger of eviction or having their property repossessed to get free legal advice and representation on the day of their hearing, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Community Legal Advice is funded by Mo J. Details of funding is set out in the following table.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 3,926,989 |
| 2005-06 | 5,423,343 |
| 2006-07 | 11,219,528 |
| 2007-08 | 13,193,769 |

In addition, the PBR announced further measures to help householders facing financial difficulties, including £5.85 million additional investment to March 2011 in telephone advice and £10 million to March 2010 invested in Citizens Advice Bureaux to expand face-to-face debt advice capacity.

Government have also allocated £200 million to local authorities and voluntary organisations over the next three years to tackle and prevent homelessness in their area. Many local authorities will use some of this money to fund advice agencies or Citizen Advice Bureaux to provide an advisory service. We also provide £2.5 million funding to the National Homelessness Advice Service (NHAS) which is a partnership between Shelter and the Citizens Advice Bureaux ((CABx) providing high quality advice on homelessness prevention through the network of participating CABx and other voluntary agencies across England.

Records of numbers of calls received and answered by these services are not held centrally.

### Revenue Support Grant

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account her Department takes of levels of *(a)* elderly and *(b)* transient populations of seaside towns when deciding upon the formula for the revenue support grant. [238295]

**John Healey:** Formula Grant is made up from Revenue Support Grant, redistributed Business Rates and principal formula Police Grant and distributed to local authorities in England. The distribution of Formula Grant takes into account the relative need to provide services in an area and the relative ability of an area to raise council tax locally, relative to all other authorities providing the same service. It also contains a central allocation and a floor damping mechanism.

There are relative needs formulae (RNF) for each of the main service areas that are provided by authorities—children's services, adults' personal social services, highways maintenance, police, fire and rescue, environmental, protective and cultural services, and capital finance. Except for highways maintenance and capital finance, the resident population (measured by the Office for National Statistics's sub-national population projections) are the main driver of the formula. In all formulae, there are additional elements to take into account additional factors related to need.

There are two RNFs within Adults' personal social services to reflect services for Younger Adults and Older People. The main factor in the Older People's Personal Social Services is the population of people aged 65 and over who are residents in households or are local authority supported residents in permanent care homes. Additional factors to reflect age, deprivation, low income and sparsity are also included in the RNF.

There is no explicit measure of transient population within the formula grant distribution system.

### Second Homes

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of homes in each county in England are registered as second homes. [239013]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Details of the number of properties registered as second homes for council tax purposes and the percentage this is of the total number of homes in each county in England in October 2007 are given in the following table.

| | Second Homes | Total number of dwellings | Second homes as percentage of total dwellings |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bedfordshire | 720 | 169,528 | 0.4 |
| Buckinghamshire | 1,014 | 200,999 | 0.5 |
| Cambridgeshire | 2,043 | 250,488 | 0.8 |
| Cheshire | 2,543 | 307,500 | 0.8 |
| Cornwall | 13,201 | 243,249 | 5.4 |
| Cumbria | 8,084 | 234,954 | 3.4 |
| Derbyshire | 1,733 | 337,102 | 0.5 |
| Devon | 11,233 | 337,152 | 3.3 |
| Dorset | 6,257 | 189,483 | 3.3 |
| Durham | 707 | 229,175 | 0.3 |
| East Sussex | 4,749 | 236,537 | 2.0 |
| Essex | 4,621 | 589,066 | 0.8 |
| Gloucestershire | 3,133 | 259,853 | 1.2 |
| Hampshire | 4,436 | 544,576 | 0.8 |
| Hertfordshire | 2,509 | 453,967 | 0.6 |
| Kent | 6,255 | 610,097 | 1.0 |
| Lancashire | 2,795 | 514,005 | 0.5 |
| Leicestershire | 1,501 | 266,668 | 0.6 |
| Lincolnshire | 2,649 | 311,516 | 0.9 |
| Norfolk | 11,686 | 386,407 | 3.0 |
| North Yorkshire | 7,055 | 267,360 | 2.6 |
| Northamptonshire | 1,057 | 289,230 | 0.4 |
| Northumberland | 2,767 | 144,026 | 1.9 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,250 | 340,660 | 0.4 |
| Oxfordshire | 3,382 | 263,111 | 1.3 |
| Shropshire | 1,194 | 129,597 | 0.9 |
| Somerset | 2,820 | 231,139 | 1.2 |
| Staffordshire | 682 | 356,107 | 0.2 |
| Suffolk | 5,387 | 316,253 | 1.7 |
| Surrey | 3,424 | 462,149 | 0.7 |
| Warwickshire | 1,846 | 232,739 | 0.8 |
| West Sussex | 6,118 | 347,840 | 1.8 |
| Wiltshire | 2,161 | 195,414 | 1.1 |
| Worcestershire | 1,328 | 242,983 | 0.5 |
| Total | 132,340 | 10,490,930 | 1.3 |

The data are from a snapshot taken each year and are as recorded, by each local authority, in council tax base returns submitted annually.

## Shared Ownership Schemes

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* people and *(b)* key workers have purchased a property through each of the HomeBuy and shared ownership schemes in each region of the country in each year since the schemes were introduced. [234157]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The following tables 1, 2 and 3 set out the homes provided through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme, including through the Starter Home Initiative, from 1999-2000 to 2007-08 by region and by shared ownership and HomeBuy scheme.

Tables 4 and 5 show how many of the homes in tables 1, 2 and 3 were provided specifically for key workers through these schemes, although some key workers may have benefited from the general shared ownership and HomeBuy products.

Figures have been provided from 1999-2000 as this was the start of the first open market Homebuy scheme. Social HomeBuy was introduced in 2006-07.

*Table 1: Shared Ownership/New Build HomeBuy*

| | London | South-east | South-west | East midlands | Eastern | West midlands | Yorkshire and Humberside | North-east | North-west | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 1,078 | 250 | 261 | 369 | 79 | 351 | 235 | 88 | 436 | 3,147 |
| 2000-01 | 959 | 430 | 104 | 191 | 75 | 171 | 133 | 93 | 395 | 2,551 |
| 2001-02 | 699 | 305 | 121 | 230 | 53 | 138 | 119 | 110 | 436 | 2,211 |
| 2002-03 | 912 | 467 | 122 | 158 | 34 | 143 | 92 | 6 | 381 | 2,315 |
| 2003-04 | 1,397 | 920 | 183 | 282 | 140 | 189 | 87 | 21 | 355 | 3,574 |
| 2004-05 | 1,789 | 1,708 | 622 | 432 | 205 | 440 | 42 | 88 | 424 | 5,750 |
| 2005-06 | 1,938 | 2,286 | 929 | 831 | 958 | 785 | 221 | 139 | 550 | 8,637 |
| 2006-07 | 3,539 | 2,866 | 844 | 815 | 1,211 | 659 | 303 | 100 | 724 | 11,061 |
| 2007-08 | 4,789 | 2,994 | 1,376 | 1,311 | 1,770 | 1,351 | 393 | 109 | 914 | 15,007 |

*Table 2: Open Market HomeBuy*

| | London | South-east | South-west | East midlands | Eastern | West midlands | Yorkshire and Humberside | North-east | North-west | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 445 | 133 | 127 | 34 | 63 | 42 | 23 | 7 | 11 | 885 |
| 2000-01 | 655 | 187 | 285 | 70 | 145 | 69 | 25 | 18 | 33 | 1,487 |
| 2001-02 | 479 | 382 | 205 | 88 | 109 | 58 | 19 | 11 | 9 | 1,360 |
| 2002-03 | 1,799 | 1,250 | 326 | 63 | 302 | 106 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 3,868 |
| 2003-04 | 4,012 | 2,793 | 515 | 108 | 734 | 227 | 14 | 3 | 4 | 8,410 |
| 2004-05 | 2,258 | 1,847 | 316 | 124 | 679 | 274 | 25 | 3 | 12 | 5,538 |
| 2005-06 | 3,211 | 1,894 | 256 | 286 | 1,017 | 533 | 49 | 4 | 187 | 7,437 |
| 2006-07 | 998 | 863 | 65 | 47 | 277 | 129 | 31 | | 65 | 2,475 |
| 2007-08 | 624 | 904 | 286 | 60 | 455 | 133 | 97 | 9 | 181 | 2,749 |

*Table 3: Social HomeBuy*

| | London | South-east | South-west | East midlands | Eastern | West midlands | Yorkshire and Humberside | North-east | North-west | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2000-01 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2001-02 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2002-03 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2003-04 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2004-05 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2005-06 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2006-07 | 24 | 2 | — | 3 | — | — | 12 | 2 | 4 | 47 |
| 2007-08 | 79 | 20 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 34 | 160 |

*Key Worker*

*Table 4: New Build HomeBuy*

| | London | South-east | South-west | East midlands | Eastern | West midlands | Yorkshire and Humberside | North-east | North-west | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2000-01 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2001-02 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2002-03 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2003-04 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2004-05 | 151 | 372 | — | — | 28 | — | — | — | — | 551 |
| 2005-06 | 535 | 659 | — | — | 184 | — | — | — | — | 1,378 |
| 2006-07 | 1,248 | 736 | — | — | 137 | — | — | — | — | 2,121 |
| 2007-08 | 1,056 | 209 | — | — | 107 | — | — | — | — | 1,372 |

*Table 5: Open Market HomeBuy*

| | London | South-east | South-west | East midlands | Eastern | West midlands | Yorkshire and Humberside | North-east | North-west | Grand total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2000-01 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2001-02 | 13 | 68 | 5 | — | 4 | — | — | — | — | 90 |
| 2002-03 | 1,373 | 894 | 117 | — | 147 | 5 | — | — | — | 2,536 |
| 2003-04 | 2,639 | 2,368 | 296 | — | 486 | 21 | — | — | — | 5,810 |
| 2004-05 | 1,482 | 1,507 | 25 | — | 537 | — | — | — | — | 3,551 |
| 2005-06 | 2,659 | 1,655 | — | — | 847 | — | — | — | — | 5,161 |
| 2006-07 | 829 | 700 | — | — | 227 | — | — | — | — | 1,756 |
| 2007-08 | 423 | 565 | — | — | 267 | — | — | — | — | 1,255 |

## Shelter: Eco-Towns

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much financial support her Department provided to Shelter for the production of documents concerning eco-towns; and if she will make a statement; [232764]

(2) what support, other than financial, her Department provided to Shelter for the production of documents concerning eco-towns; what information her Department provided to Shelter for the production of the documents; how many members of her Department were involved in the production of the documents; and if she will make a statement; [232765]

(3) who initiated the project for Shelter to produce a range of documents relating to each proposed eco-town with funding from her Department; when the project was initiated; and if she will make a statement. [232766]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Shelter publications do not promote eco-town locations, but provide information about the housing situation in and around the potential eco-town locations, so that people are able to make an informed input to decisions about whether an eco-town should go ahead. Any views expressed in the document are those of the authors and not the Department.

Shelter put their proposal to the Department about producing publications to provide factual information to local people about the housing situation in and around potential eco-town locations on 29 May 2008. The Department agreed to provide funding to Shelter to assist them with this initiative on 5 June 2008. The Department has committed £166,000 + VAT to this project.

Support was also provided from a number of officials from the Department to give advice on statistics and sources for statistical information related to housing and to cross-check the factual accuracy of the publications.

### Sleeping Rough

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress is being made on the street needs audit of rough sleeper counts. [239437]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Under the new rough sleeping strategy 'No One Left Out' we intend to develop a 'Street Needs Audit' in 2009 to supplement rough sleeper counts to ensure that counts are not just an opportunity to identify need but more importantly to do something about it.

The Street Needs Audit will gather more information about people found on counts, including whether there is an active action plan in place for the person and the lead agency that is taking responsibility.

We will consult on these changes.

### Tenants Rights: Duchy of Cornwall

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether residents in domestic properties owned by the Duchy of Cornwall have *(a)* rights of leasehold extension or enfranchisement and *(b)* a right to buy their properties. [239029]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Duchy of Cornwall has voluntarily undertaken to give its tenants rights equivalent to those under the Leasehold Reform Act 1967 and the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993 subject to certain exceptions. The exceptions include properties that are in, or intimately connected with, the curtilage of Historic Royal Parks and Palaces or where properties or the areas in which they are situated have a long historic or particular association with the Crown, and those where there are particular security considerations.

The right to buy available to social tenants under the Housing Act 1985 does not extend to tenants of the Duchy of Cornwall.

### Travelling People

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cost to a local authority was of providing *(a)* an authorised site and *(b)* an authorised pitch for Gypsies and Travellers in each of the last three years. [237752]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Based on the value of successful bids for Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant, the average cost of providing a pitch on a new local authority site was £57,154 in 2005-06, £93,692 in 2006-07, and £81,615 in 2007-08. This cost will be affected by the location of the site—often sites are on brownfield land which requires remediation, or are some distance from essential utilities—and whether land needs to be purchased. The cost of a new site will also vary according to the number of pitches it provides.

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Gypsies and Travellers there were in England in *(a)* 1988, *(b)* 1998 and *(c)* 2008. [237788]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We do not collect information on the number of Gypsies and Travellers in England. The bi-annual count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans provides information on the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in England. Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Communities and Local Government website at

www.communities.gov.uk.

The number of caravans counted was as follows:

| | *Number of caravans* |
|---|---|
| January 1988 | 10,816 |
| January 1998 | 13,064 |
| January 2008 | 17,898 |

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the occupancy rate was for publicly-owned authorised sites for Gypsies and Travellers in *(a)* Essex, *(b)* Suffolk, *(c)* Norfolk, *(d)* Kent, *(e)* Hertfordshire, *(f)* Berkshire, *(g)* Cambridgeshire and *(h)* Greater London in each of the last three years. [237789]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The occupancy rate recorded for residential pitches on authorised local authority sites was as follows:

| | *January 2008* | *January 2007* | *Percentage January 2006* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Essex | 96.5 | 98.7 | 99.1 |
| Suffolk | 92.2 | 100 | 92.9 |
| Norfolk | 91.3 | 100 | 93 |
| Kent | 98.6 | 99.1 | 97.3 |
| Hertfordshire | 95.6 | 94.8 | 96.4 |
| Berkshire | 96.7 | 97.5 | 96.6 |
| Cambridgeshire | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Greater London | 98 | 97.9 | 95 |

### Travelling People: Caravan Sites

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many compulsory purchase orders to acquire land for the purpose of building Gypsy and Traveller sites have been rejected by her Department in the last 10 years; [239407]

(2) how many times her Department has rejected the recommendation of planning inspectors on compulsory purchase orders to acquire land for Gypsy and Traveller sites in the last 10 years; [239409]

(3) how many times planning inspectors have recommended against proceeding with a compulsory purchase order to acquire land for Gypsy and Traveller sites in the last 10 years. [239410]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many compulsory purchase orders to acquire land for Gypsy and Traveller sites have been made in the last 10 years. [239408]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, PQ 237786.

### Travelling People: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the needs of transient populations in seaside towns. [238422]

**John Healey:** The Department's report "England's Seaside Towns—A Benchmarking Study" published in early November contains findings on migrant workers, who form part of transient populations, in England's 37 principal seaside resorts. The report identifies that most of the districts including seaside towns, have attracted fewer migrant workers, in relation to their population, than the English average. The report can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/englishseasidetowns

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 25 November 2008*

## JUSTICE

### Approved Premises

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of the Probation Services budget was spent on staffing in approved premises in the latest period for which figures are available. [239127]

**Mr. Hanson:** The total budget for approved premises in 2008-09 is £58.4 million, made up of £51.1 million for probation-run premises and £7.3 million for voluntary-run premises. This amounts to 6.3 per cent. of the total probation service budget. Staffing patterns and the associated costs differ from area to area; it would not be possible to determine the exact proportion for each area without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Approved Premises: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many bail hostels there are in each of the principal seaside towns in England. [238311]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Bail Accommodation and Support Service provided by ClearSprings Ltd, under contract to the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), to which I take this question to refer, does not provide hostels. It provides people on bail and on Home Detention Curfew with private, rented accommodation in small houses and flats with up to five people sharing. The numbers of houses currently provided in coastal towns in England and Wales, are shown in the following table:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Blyth | 1 |
| Bournemouth | 2 |
| Cardiff | 3 |
| Grimsby | 1 |
| Hull | 1 |
| Liverpool | 4 |
| Plymouth | 2 |
| Portsmouth | 3 |
| Southampton | 2 |
| Sunderland | 2 |
| Swansea | 2 |
| Weston-super-Mare | 1 |

### Coldingley Prison: Employment

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements HM Prison Service staff make for the payment of tax and national insurance of prisoners participating in the Barbed project at HM Prison Coldingley. [239455]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Barbed project at Coldingley has now ended. But as a matter of general principle prisoners working inside prisons are at all times under prison rules and cannot be treated as employees. Therefore there is no requirement for Prison Service staff to arrange for tax and national insurance to be deducted.

### CORE Electoral Database

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the CORE electoral database specification may be used for the introduction of individual electoral registration. [238810]

**Mr. Wills:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer to him on 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 786W.

Any work that is carried out in respect of individual registration will be done on its own merits, and is not reliant on the progress of the CORE project.

A final decision as to the scope and specification of the CORE project will be made once an analysis of both the business and user requirements has been made. However, in accordance with good practice on the management of projects, any database that is developed will be, as far as is possible, capable of adapting to future requirements that may be anticipated.

### Coroners Court: Stoke-on-Trent

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding his Department has allocated to the construction of a new coroners' court in Stoke-on-Trent; and if he will make a statement. [239508]

**Bridget Prentice:** The funding and operation of the coroners service including the provision of courtroom accommodation is the responsibility of individual local authorities, in this case Stoke-on-Trent city council.

### Cost Effectiveness

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assumptions his Department has made of the availability of increased funding for his Department in its financial plan for the Comprehensive Spending Review. [232967]

**Maria Eagle:** Departmental budgets were set out in the comprehensive spending review (CSR) in October last year. Further information about the Ministry of Justice's financial and value for money plans can be found in the departmental annual report and the forthcoming autumn performance report. In addition to the CSR settlement, a total of £500 million resource and £500 million capital has also been provided over the CSR period to enhance prison capacity, as my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor (Jack Straw) announced on 5 December 2007.

### Crime: Drugs

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of drugs offences in the East Midlands in each of the last six years. [239083]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of persons found guilty at all courts for drug offences in the East Midlands region, 2001 to 2006 can be viewed in the table.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available at the end of November 2008.

*The number of persons found guilty at all courts for drug offences in the East Midlands region, 2001 to 2006*[1]

| | Found guilty | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Drug offence type* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
| Unlawful importation—Class A | 3 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Unlawful importation—Class B | 4 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Unlawful importation—Class C | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unlawful importation—Class unspecified | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Unlawful exportation—Class A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Unlawful exportation—Class B | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unlawful exportation—Class C | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unlawful exportation—Class unspecified | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Production, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug—Class A | 370 | 407 | 420 | 511 | 525 | 444 |
| Production, —Class B | 204 | 209 | 313 | 234 | 198 | 99 |
| Production, —Class C | 5 | 2 | 9 | 126 | 217 | 250 |
| Production—Class unspecified | 19 | 7 | 2 | 36 | 50 | 41 |
| Possession—of a controlled drug (Class A) | 977 | 870 | 911 | 793 | 693 | 732 |
| Possession—of a controlled drug (Class B) | 1,271 | 1,317 | 1,488 | 696 | 319 | 239 |
| Possession—of a controlled drug (Class C) | 12 | 19 | 22 | 380 | 674 | 629 |
| Production—Class unspecified | 8 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| Other drug offences | 23 | 20 | 32 | 31 | 29 | 23 |
| Total | 2,980 | 2,977 | 3,118 | 2,825 | 2,747 | 2,440 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.

*Note:*
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and these inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

*Source:*
OCJR—E and A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

## Department for Constitutional Affairs Cemetery and Burials Advisory Group

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library copies of the minutes of the meetings of the Department for Constitutional Affairs Cemetery and Burials Advisory Group; and whether the Advisory Group continues to operate in his Department. [230698]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Burial and Cemeteries Advisory Group, chaired by the Ministry of Justice, was established in 2001 and met most recently on 31 October 2008. Approved copies of the minutes of the meetings are available on request from the Department. I am arranging for copies to be placed in the Library.

## Departmental ICT

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what provision will be made for IT expenditure in his Department's financial plan for the 2008-11 Comprehensive Spending Review; and what steps he will take to ensure that such expenditure *(a)* is necessary and *(b)* offers good value for money. [231765]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice's financial plan includes provision for IT expenditure of £557 million for 2008-09. This includes the cost of running the live operational services across the Ministry as well as the costs of new IT developments.

Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. These will be subject to a further budget review in December 2008, as part of the Ministry's wider review of all areas of expenditure. Strong governance arrangements are in place within the budget setting process and thereafter, to ensure that expenditure is necessary and offers value for money.

## Departmental Postal Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which postal service provider carried most of the *(a)* letters and *(b)* parcels sent by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last three years. [230320]

**Mr. Wills:** In the past three years, the postal service provider who carried the majority of letters sent by the Ministry of Justice, and formerly the Department for Constitutional Affairs, was the Royal Mail. The postal service provider who carried the majority of parcels sent by the Department was Document Exchange.

## Departmental Television

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the television licence fee in his official ministerial residence is paid for from public funds. [235297]

**Mr. Straw:** I have no official ministerial residence and therefore no television licence fee is paid for it.

## Driving Offences

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1505W, on justice: driving offences, on how many occasions an individual has been sentenced with a custodial sentence and a driving ban at the same hearing in *(a)* each of the last 10 years and *(b)* 2008 to date; [231764]

(2) on how many occasions an individual has been sentenced with a custodial sentence and a driving ban to run concurrently in (*a*) each of the last 10 years and (*b*) 2008 to date. [237765]

**Maria Eagle:** The requested information for years from 1997 to 2006 (latest available) on the number of offences for which persons received both a custodial sentence and a disqualification in each of the last 10 years is contained in the following table. Data for 2007 will become available once 'Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, 2007' has been published on 27 November while data for 2008 will become available a year later.

*Number of driving offences attracting a custodial sentence and a disqualification, all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006*[1]

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 18,436 |
| 1998 | 18,729 |
| 1999 | 18,915 |
| 2000 | 17,924 |
| 2001 | 18,676 |
| 2002 | 19,379 |
| 2003 | 20,181 |
| 2004 | 19,284 |
| 2005 | 16,862 |
| 2006 | 13,868 |

[1] The figures in the table represent a count of offences for which persons received both a custodial sentence and a disqualification.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
OCJR Evidence and Analysis

A driving ban starts immediately it is imposed and will, therefore, always run concurrently with a custodial sentence. The Sentencing Guidelines Council guideline on causing death by driving offences says that

"When ordering disqualification from driving, the duration of the order should allow for the length of any custodial period in order to ensure that the disqualification has the desired impact".

## Driving Offences: Cameras

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what percentage of all motoring convictions in England and Wales in each year since 1997 speed cameras have provided evidence. [237933]

**Maria Eagle:** Available information taken from the Court Proceedings Database, from 1997 to 2006 (latest available) on all motoring and speed limit convictions is provided in the table below. Data for 2007 should be available at the end of November this year.

Volumes of convictions for camera detected speed limit offences cannot be accurately established because in many cases the method of detection is not clear from the court data. We do not know exactly in how many cases it was in fact a camera or a visual detection by a police officer.

*Findings of guilt at all courts for speed limit offences*[1,2,3] *as a percentage of all motoring offences, England and Wales, 1997-2006*

*Number of offences*

| | *Findings of guilt* | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence type* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
| Total all motoring offences | 1,475,355 | 1,464,492 | 1,403,174 | 1,364,631 | 1,324,924 | 1,382,674 | 1,549,608 | 1,549,194 | 1,392,699 | 1,226,696 |
| Total all speed limit offences | 132,798 | 133,600 | 133,572 | 141,415 | 135,613 | 124,619 | 140,052 | 143,200 | 160,425 | 154,447 |
| Percentage | 9.0 | 9.1 | 9.5 | 10.4 | 10.2 | 9.0 | 9.0 | 9.2 | 11.5 | 12.6 |

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ss. 16, 81, 84, 86, 88 7 89; Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regs. 1973; Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926 - byelaws made thereunder.
[2] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
[3] Volumes of convictions for camera detected speed limit offences cannot be accurately established because in many cases the method of detection is not identified in the court data. We do not know exactly in how many cases it was in fact a camera or a visual detection by a police officer.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

## Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers (*a*) in total and (*b*) under the age of 25 years were (i) prosecuted and (ii) given a fixed penalty notice for using a mobile telephone whilst driving in each region of England and Wales in each year since 2003. [237931]

**Maria Eagle:** Available information on prosecutions within the period 1 December 2003 to end 2006 (latest available) taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by my Department, is provided in table A as follows. Data for 2007 should be available at the end of November this year.

Information provided by the Home Office on fixed penalties issued to drivers of all ages from December 2003 to 2006 (latest available) is provided in table B as follows. Data on the number of drivers aged under 25 years issued with fixed penalties are not available as information on the age of recipients of fixed penalties is not reported to the Home Department.

*Table A: Proceedings at magistrates courts[1,2] for the offence of 'use of hand held mobile phone whilst driving', by all ages and by drivers under age 25, and by Government office regions, England and Wales, 2004-06*

*Number of offences*

| Government office region | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total all ages | Under age 25 | Total all ages | Under age 25 | Total all ages | Under age 25 |
| North East | 39 | 7 | 31 | 5 | 134 | 25 |
| North West | 145 | 28 | 285 | 51 | 384 | 72 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 45 | 10 | 132 | 30 | 174 | 37 |
| East Midlands | 46 | 7 | 121 | 24 | 108 | 19 |
| West Midlands | 102 | 11 | 206 | 15 | 248 | 20 |
| East | 74 | 16 | 212 | 19 | 316 | 45 |
| London | 243 | 52 | 672 | 115 | 710 | 103 |
| South East | 55 | 13 | 259 | 35 | 373 | 35 |
| South West | 62 | 11 | 110 | 16 | 138 | 23 |
| Wales | 33 | 4 | 62 | 13 | 79 | 14 |
| England and Wales | 844 | 159 | 2,090 | 323 | 2,684 | 393 |

[1] Includes cases where a fixed penalty notice was originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.
[2] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2) and 110 (3). Introduced 1 December 2003. In December 2003, there was one prosecution in the Bedfordshire police force area. The offender was aged over 25.
*Notes:*
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Table B: Number of fixed penalty notices issued[1] for the use of a hand held mobile phone while driving[2] by region, England and Wales, 2003-06*

*Number of fixed penalty notices issued*

| Government office region | December 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East[3] | 69 | 2,841 | 5,327 | [3]6,515 |
| North West | 47 | 14,938 | 25,579 | 35,520 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 33 | 5,447 | 10,741 | 12,444 |
| East Midlands | 38 | 4,216 | 6,877 | 11,550 |
| West Midlands | 136 | 6,949 | 13,575 | 15,260 |
| East[4] | 69 | 7,620 | 13,194 | [4]19,338 |
| London | 726 | 13,718 | 19,682 | 24,717 |
| South East | 258 | 10,214 | 20,698 | 21,215 |
| South West | 492 | 4,551 | 7,075 | 10,209 |
| Wales | 0 | 3,482 | 4,020 | 8,202 |
| England and Wales | 1,888 | 73,976 | 126,768 | 164,910 |

[1] Includes fixed penalties paid where there is no further action
[2] Introduced 1 December 2003.
[3] Includes revised figure for Durham police force area for year 2006.
[4] Excludes figures for Norfolk police force area for 2006. The force was unable to supply data for that year due to technical reasons.
*Note:*
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

## Electoral Administration in the UK

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department plans to issue a formal response to the Electoral Commission's August 2008 document, Electoral Administration in the UK; and if he will make a statement on its recommendations for regional electoral management boards in England. [238688]

**Mr. Wills:** We welcome the Electoral Commission's report on 'Electoral Administration in the UK' and are currently considering what form our response should take.

## Electoral Register

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has established a timetable for the introduction of individual electoral registration in Great Britain; and if he will bring forward legislative proposals to introduce one. [238806]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government agree with the principle of individual electoral registration. Work on how and when individual voter registration could be implemented continues.

In preparing for a move away from the current system of household based registration we need to take steps to ensure that this does not result in disenfranchisement of eligible voters.

## Freedom of Information

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether a fees limit applies to requests for information under *(a)* the Freedom of Information Act and *(b)* the Environmental Information Regulations. [238814]

**Mr. Wills:** Under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to people who have made or who propose to make requests for information. The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 set out the rules and procedures for charging a fee to respond to a request for information.

The legislation makes no provision for public authorities to charge for providing advice and assistance.

There is no fees limit for requests for information under the environmental information regulations. The regulations stipulate only that a public authority may charge what is, in its view, a reasonable amount (regulation 8 (3)). DEFRA is the Department responsible for these

regulations and publishes guidance, including advice on costs and charging, on its website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/opengov/eir/guidance/eir-feeguidance.htm

I am making a copy available to the hon. Member.

### Magistrates Courts

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates' courts there were in each of the last 11 years. [239243]

**Bridget Prentice:** Up until the 1 April 2005 magistrates courts were the responsibility of locally managed Magistrates Courts Committees who were statutorily independent. They were not required by statute to inform the Department of the number of magistrates courts or closures that were not subject to an appeal under section 56(3) of the Justices Peace Act 1997 (now repealed). The following table shows the number of magistrates courts at year end since 2005:

| *Year end* | *Number of magistrates courts* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 365 |
| 2006 | 363 |
| 2007 | 359 |
| At 25 November 2008 | 358 |

### National Offender Management Service: Finance

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his estimate is of the change to the budget of the National Offender Management Service Legacy Programme under the Ministry of Justice Financial Plan for the Comprehensive Spending Review for 2008-11. [235913]

**Maria Eagle:** Under the agreement reached in the last comprehensive spending review the Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

Alongside the work to determine what savings can be achieved by introducing new HQ structures and new ways of working in prisons and probation, the National Offender Management Service will be implementing into prisons a number of projects that have been under development for some time. It is anticipated that these legacy programmes will contribute £22 million savings in 2009-10 and a further £17 million in 2010-11.

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his estimate is of the change to his Department's budget as a result of Prison Service de-layering under his Department's Financial Plan for the Comprehensive Spending Review for 2008 to 2011. [236246]

**Maria Eagle:** Discussions are currently taking place with all National Offender Management Service trade unions on broad proposals for pay and workforce reform. The financial impact of the overall programme will not be fully known until those negotiations have concluded. However, the Government have already announced that they are willing to invest an extra £50 million in pay for prison staff in 2008-09 to support the implementation of an agreement that would deliver long-term improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of public sector prisons.

### Non-Molestation Orders

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the operation of non-molestation orders; [236856]

(2) how many non-molestation orders have been made in each year since their introduction; [236857]

(3) whether he plans to review the way non-molestation orders are processed through the courts; [236858]

(4) whether he plans to review the operation of ex parte applications for non-molestation orders. [236859]

**Bridget Prentice:** In August 2008 the Ministry published research on the early findings of the impact of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. Key findings were:

there had been a positive impact since common assault became an arrestable offence (as are all criminal offences now)—strengthening and clarifying police powers and the positive arrest policy. Early findings indicated an increased use of common assault provisions;

the impact of making breach of non-molestation orders a criminal offence was less clear-cut among professionals. Victims and advocates generally welcomed the measure, in the hope that better enforcement and heavier sanctions would result; and

it was not possible to conclude that the drop in family court injunctions was wholly as a result of implementation of section 1 of the Act.

Given the relatively short time since the change in the law on 1 July 2007, it is not possible to conclude that the drop in family court injunction applications and orders is a direct result of the change in legislation, or whether it represents a consolidation of previous trends as the number of family court injunction orders (non-molestation and occupation orders) has fallen gradually. It is apparent that there are variations between geographical areas and changes in volumes of non-molestation and occupation orders being made.

The number of applications to the county courts for domestic violence remedies decreased by 7 per cent. in 2007 compared with 2006. Compared with 2003 they have fallen by 19 per cent[1].

The number of non-molestation orders, in full calendar years, made in the County and High Courts since implementation (in October 1997) of the Family Law Act 1996 are as follows:

| | *Total* |
|---|---|
| *Manual data collection* | |
| 1998 | 18,614 |
| 1999 | 17,877 |
| 2000 | 18,017 |
| 2001 | 20,789 |
| *FamilyMan data collection* | |
| 2002 | 24,999 |
| 2003 | 25,428 |
| 2004 | 23,741 |
| 2005 | 22,843 |

| | Total |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 22,038 |
| 2007 | 19,917 |

*Note:*
Figures for 2002 to 2007 are not comparable to figures for 1998 to 2001 as they are based on different methods of data collection.
*Source:*
1998 to 2001: Manual returns by county courts. Published in individual editions of Judicial Statistics 1998 to 2001. 2002 to 2007: HMCS FamilyMan system. Published in Judicial and Court Statistics 2006 and 2007.

In the year the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act was passed (2004), the criminal courts dealt with 34,839 cases involving domestic violence[2]. By 2007, this figure rose to 63,819. More victims are choosing to report incidents to the police to take the criminal court route.

Furthermore, the charge to conviction rate in the final quarter of 2007-08 was to 70.7 per cent., exceeding the CPS's April 2008 target of 70 per cent. This is a significant improvement against the background of the 59.7 per cent. conviction rate four years ago. The national average for all domestic violence prosecutions was 72 per cent. in July-September 2008, meeting the 2008-09 target ahead of time.

The key message is that both family and criminal court jurisdictions helped 22,975 more victims in 2007 than in 2004.

The Ministry will continue to monitor the levels of applications and orders for non-molestation orders and is working with the judiciary and stakeholders to improve the family and criminal justice systems response to victims of domestic violence.

While there are no specific plans to review the way non-molestation orders or ex parte applications are processed through the courts, a new Allocation and Transfer of Proceedings Order will come into effect on 25 November 2008. The objective is to ensure that proceedings are heard at the appropriate level of court and that the capacity of magistrates courts is properly utilised. This may mean that more cases under the Family Law Act 1996 will be dealt in the Family Proceedings Courts, as opposed to the county courts.

[1] Judicial and Court Statistics 2007

[2] Crown Prosecution Service

### Offences Against Children: Convictions

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for child abuse offences were made in the year ending March *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007 and *(e)* 2008. [237700]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of defendants convicted at all courts for offences relating to child abuse in England and Wales, 2004 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

Child abuse can be covered by a number of offences, including section 5 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 which came into force on 21 March 2005.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available at the end of November 2008, and data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

*The number of defendants convicted at all courts for offences relating to child abuse in England and Wales, 2004 to 2006*[1,2,3,4]

| | | Found guilty | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Statute* | *Offence description* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
| Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 s.5 | Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Children and Young Persons Act 1933 sec 1 | Cruelty or neglect of children | 537 | 476 | 487 |
| Offences against the Person Act 1861 sec 27 | Abandoning children under 2 years | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.1 | Rape of a female aged under 16 | 261 | 219 | 207 |
| Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.1 | Rape of a male aged under 16 | 21 | 22 | 13 |
| Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.5 | Rape of a female child under 13 by a male | 4 | 43 | 59 |
| Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.5 | Rape of a male child under 13 by a male | 0 | 3 | 17 |
| Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.7 | Sexual assault of a female child under 13 | 25 | 239 | 192 |
| Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.8(1)(2)(1)(3), s.10(1a,b,ci)(3), s.9(1a,b,cii)(2), s.9(1a,b,cii)(3), s.10(1,a,b,cii)(2), s.10(1,a,b,cii)(3) | Sexual activity involving a child | 20 | 113 | 175 |
| Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.16(1ei,2-5), s.16(1eii,2-5), s.17(1ei,2-5), s.18(1ii,2-5), s.19(1ei,2-5), s.17(1eii,2-5) | Abuse of a position of trust: Sexual activity with children | 3 | 14 | 18 |
| Common Law Offences against the Person Act 1861 sec 1, 9, 10 | Murder of infants under 1 year of age | 4 | 4 | 7 |
| Infanticide Act 1938 s.1(1) | Infanticide | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Total | | 875 | 1,035 | 1,180 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, It is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations, are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 s.5 came into force on 21 March 2005.
[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.
*Source:*
OCJR—E and A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

## Penalty Notices: Drugs

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many penalty notices for disorder have been issued to those with *(a)* drug and *(b)* alcohol-related problems since their inception. [234875]

**Maria Eagle:** PNDs can be issued for alcohol-related offences such as being drunk and disorderly. Data showing the number of PNDs issued for such offences to persons aged 16 and over, in England and Wales, 2004 to 2006, are shown in the following table. PNDs cannot be issued for drug-related offences, so no data exist. The PND scheme was rolled-out to all 43 forces in 2004.

*The number of persons aged 16 and over, issued with a penalty notice for disorder for alcohol related offences, in England and Wales, 2004 to 2006*[1,2]

| | Offence | Year 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DA06 | Drunk and disorderly | 26,609 | 37,038 | 43,556 |
| DA07, new code is DA18 | Selling alcohol to person under 18 | 113 | 2,058 | 3,195 |
| DA08, new code is DA19 | Purchasing alcohol in licensed premises for under 18 | 113 | 170 | 407 |
| DA09, new code is DA20 | Purchasing alcohol for consumption in licensed premises for under 18 | 66 | 83 | 60 |
| DA10, new code is DA21 | Delivery of alcohol to under 18 or allowing delivery | 20 | 209 | 297 |
| DA16 | Sale of alcohol to drunken person | [3]— | 32 | 47 |
| DA17 | Supply of alcohol to person under 18 | [3]— | 3 | 60 |
| DB05 | Drunk in highway | 2,497 | 3,138 | 2,712 |
| DB07 | Consuming alcohol in a designated public place | 485 | 712 | 1,061 |
| DB09, new code is DB12 | Consumption of alcohol by under 18 in licensed premises | 485 | 84 | 75 |
| DB10, new code is DB13 | Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 in bar in licensed premises | 7 | 27 | 14 |
| DB11, new code is DB14 | Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by under 18 | [3]— | 21 | 73 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] Penalty Notices for Disorder came into force in November 2004.
[3] PND offence not introduced at this time
*Source:*
Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit.

## Peterborough Prison

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of prisoners held at HMP Peterborough are *(a)* British citizens, *(b)* EEA citizens and *(c)* non-EEA citizens; and if he will make a statement. [237950]

**Mr. Hanson:** Information on the citizenship of individual prisoners is not available, and may not be the same as their nationality.

As at 30 September 2008, 81 per cent. of the prisoners at HMP Peterborough were UK nationals, 6 per cent. were EEA nationals and 10 per cent. were non-EEA nationals. There were a further 3 per cent. whose nationality was not yet recorded. Although nationality may not yet be recorded in certain instances, this is not indicative of where nationality is unknown. Relevant checks with other Government Departments will be conducted as appropriate in order to ascertain further details.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Powers of Entry: Debt Collection

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 157-58W, on powers of entry: debt collection, what the latest timetable is for *(a)* further consultation and *(b)* the implementation of new powers for bailiffs; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the completed scoping exercise. [238696]

**Bridget Prentice:** Following Royal Assent in July 2007, a scoping exercise which involved a series of meetings with stakeholders to discuss implementation was undertaken. The options for implementing the enforcement provisions within the Act are, at present, being considered and an announcement will be made in the next few months. A statement will be placed in the Library.

## Prisoners: Employment

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects of the Prison Service's ruling that prison inmates may not be employed by outside employers on the situation of prisoners in open prisons who are employed by outside employers while subject to Prison Rules. [239430]

**Mr. Hanson:** Prisoners who are employed in partnership with private industry or any other third party to carry out work while in prison are not directly employed by the organisations involved. This enables the governor to rightly retain primacy on prison control and prisoner management issues.

Prisoners, who are released on temporary licence to work outside the prison, are also subject to prison rules. The policy remains appropriate.

## Prisoners: Females

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) in which prisons were women from Wales held on 1 April *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2004; [237693]

(2) how many women whose homes were in Wales were held in prison on 1 April *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2004. [237694]

**Mr. Hanson:** The table shows the total number of women prisoners with a home address in Wales held in prison, and the establishments at which they were held for September 2005-08. Information is not available for 1 April each year or for September 2004.

| *Prison* | *September 2005* | *September 2006* | *September 2007* | *September 2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Askham Grange | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Bronzefield | 4 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Bullwood Hall | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cookham Wood | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Downview | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Drake Hall | 16 | 19 | 14 | 7 |
| East Sutton Park | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Eastwood Park | 77 | 81 | 92 | 98 |
| Foston Hall | 8 | 15 | 11 | 16 |
| Holloway | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Low Newton | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Morton Hall | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| New Hall | 1 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Peterborough | 3 | 9 | 7 | 3 |
| Send | 17 | 19 | 16 | 23 |
| Styal | 21 | 20 | 24 | 32 |
| Total | 168 | 183 | 183 | 209 |

Where no home address is listed for a prisoner the committal court is used as a proxy address.

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women were held in prison in England and Wales on 1 April *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2004. [237695]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table gives the number of women prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales as at 31 March each year from 2004 to 2008.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 4,632 |
| 2005 | 4,383 |
| 2006 | 4,385 |
| 2007 | 4,298 |
| 2008 | 4,420 |

This information is available at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## Prisoners: Pay

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Prison Service plans to review its practice of paying prisoners in cash. [237587]

**Mr. Hanson:** Prisoners are not permitted to hold cash in their possession while in custody. There are no plans to review the policy.

## Prisoners: Transport

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many times taxis have been used to transport prisoners and young offenders to and from each *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offenders institution in each of the last five years; [238452]

(2) what the cost of using taxis to transport prisoners and young offenders to and from each *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offender institution was in each of the last five years. [238453]

**Mr. Hanson:** I refer to my answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 754W.

Taxis are rarely used for transporting prisoners to and from court or for inter-prison transfers. On occasions they may be used for emergency transport, including hospital admission where an ambulance is not appropriate.

A risk assessment is conducted to ensure that the use of a taxi is appropriate.

The number of occasions taxis are used, and the cost, is not recorded centrally and could be provided by contacting each prison only at a disproportionate cost.

## Prisons: Drugs

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the use of mobile telephones to bring drugs into prisons. [238045]

**Mr. Hanson:** David Blakey CBE QPM DL, a former inspector of constabulary and chief constable of West Mercia was commissioned to review the measures in place to disrupt the supply of drugs into prison. His report was published in July 2008 and the Government are working to implement his recommendations.

Prisons deploy a robust and comprehensive range of security measures to reduce drug supply, including:

passive search dogs, which are available in all prisons, to detect visitors carrying drugs and active search dogs, used to search goods and vehicles. There are 440 search dogs in total;

local searching strategies which comply with the National Security Framework;

strict measures to tackle visitors who smuggle or attempt to smuggle drugs, including—on suspicion of smuggling—'closed' visits (i.e. through a glass screen) or visit bans, and arrest and prosecution where there is sufficient evidence;

the criminal process is invoked against visitors and prisoners alike wherever sufficient evidence exists of an attempt to supply. A range of internal sanctions exists for prisoners caught using drugs;

visitor biometric systems in 34 prisons;

CCTV surveillance in most social visits areas and low-level furniture in social visits areas in all category C prisons and above, to make it more difficult to pass drugs;

intelligence systems, including targeted monitoring of telephone traffic through the PIN-phone system;

close working with the police to target serious criminals outside prison who are increasingly involved in supply. Each prison has access to a police liaison officer;

Supply Reduction Good Practice Guide used by all prisons to improve performance. Regular review of the poorer performing prisons by the Director of Operations;

deployment of technology and strategies to detect and disrupt mobile phones, and analysis of recovered handsets and SIM cards (we believe that the most common criminal use of mobile phones is to arrange the supply of illicit drugs);

a Corruption Prevention Unit, and

disciplinary sanctions for positive MDT tests.

### Prisons: Elderly

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those detained in HM prisons were *(a)* men aged over 65 years and *(b)* women aged over 60 at the latest date for which figures are available. [239443]

**Mr. Hanson:** At 30 June 2007, there were 1,978 male and 49 female sentenced prisoners aged 60 and over who were detained in prison establishments in England and Wales. Information is only published for the 60 and over category, as opposed to 65 and over.

These figures are taken from table 7.3 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library and which can be found at this website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Prisons: Employment

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent assessment has been made by the Prison Service of the merits of prisoners being constructively employed; [237753]

(2) what plans he has to ensure that prisoners who are serving long sentences are able to engage in productive work; and if he will make a statement. [237755]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Prison Service understands the benefits in providing productive employment in prisons for prisoners and there is a constant process of developing and improving work for prisoners.

Significant numbers of prisoners are meaningfully employed on a daily basis in a range of activities. This includes essential work producing a variety of goods for internal consumption and providing in-house services such as catering, cleaning and laundries. This activity not only provides constructive employment but also reduces the cost of imprisonment and has an element of restitution. Prisoner employment in prison also acts as an aid to good order and control and aids resettlement through skills and qualifications.

In addition there are a number of employer partnerships with the private sector that not only provide real employment and training but also the possibility of employment on release. The Prison Service is keen to grow these initiatives so that increasing number of prisoners and society can benefit. In addition to those working in individual prisons and probation areas there is also an existing Corporate Alliance with employers from the private, public and third sectors which informs strategy and delivery.

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on links between the nature of work undertaken by prisoners and (i) employment of prisoners after release and (ii) re-offending rates. [239192]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Ministry of Justice has commissioned the 'Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction Survey' which will examine the nature of prisoners' work and training in prison and the associations of this with the take up of employment after release and the nature of such employment. When these data are linked with re-offending data from the Police National Computer it will be possible to examine the statistical associations between prison work/training and re-offending. The post-release employment data will be available in the summer of 2009 while the re-offending data will be available in 2010.

In respect of previous findings, a review by the then Department for Education and Skills[1] concluded that prison-based employment interventions were effective in helping offenders gain and retain employment.

There is recognition of the role of employment agencies and employers in helping to secure employment for ex-prisoners in England and Wales. The emerging evidence on basic skills training in prison suggests that these courses can improve prisoners' skills[2].

In terms of international evidence, a United States study examined evaluations of programmes that attempt to augment the educational, vocational, and job skills of adult offenders in both prison and community settings and found that on average, these programmes do reduce re-offending[3]. Another study evaluated the impact of prison work and vocational and apprenticeship training on post-prison rates of employment and offending among a study group and a comparison sample matched on a range of factors predictive of participation in the scheme and other demographic and background variables. The study group was 35 per cent. less likely to breach the terms of their supervision or be re-arrested during the first 12 months following release. The study group was also 14 per cent. more likely to be employed[4].

[1] Hurry, J., Brazier L., Parker M. and Wilson A., (2006). Rapid evidence assessment of interventions that promote employment for offenders. London: Department for Education and Skills.

[2] Stewart, D. (2005). An evaluation of basic skills training for prisoners. Home Office Research Findings 260. London: Home Office.

[3] Washington State Institute for Public Policy (2006). Evidence-Based Adult Corrections Programs: What Works and What Does Not. Washington State Institute for Public Policy. Available online at:

www.wsipp.wa.gov

[4] Saylor, W.G. and Gaes, G.G. (1997) 'Training inmates through industrial work participation and vocational and apprenticeship instruction'. Corrections Management Quarterly, 1 (2) 32-43

### Prisons: Per Capita Costs

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his latest assessment is of the cost of keeping an adult male in prison for 10 years. [237754]

**Mr. Hanson:** The overall average resource cost per prisoner in England and Wales in 2007-08 was £39,000 (rounded to nearest £500); for 10 years this would equate to £390,000. A separate figure for adults is not

available. This excludes prisoners held in police and court cells under Operation Safeguard. The figure includes some estimation and is given to the nearest £500. Expenditure met by other Government Departments (eg for health and education) is not included. The prisoner escort service is included.

### Prisons: Transport for London

**Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in England and Wales are undertaking work for Transport for London. [237588]

**Mr. Malik:** There are currently no prisoners in England and Wales undertaking work for Transport for London.

### Probation: Cambridgeshire

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the flat cash grant allocation is for the Cambridgeshire probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [237756]

(2) what the forecast shortfall is for the flat cash grant allocation Cambridgeshire probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [237757]

(3) what the estimated share of national savings the Cambridgeshire probation area is expected to achieve in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [237758]

(4) how many staff employed by his Department he expects to be lost through *(a)* natural wastage, *(b)* retirement and *(c)* redundancy in the Cambridgeshire probation area during (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [237759]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. As is the case across Government, the National Probation Service will need to make efficiency savings, in this case around 2.5 per cent. next financial year.

The National Offender Management Service is working to determine how the saving can be achieved in ways that protect front line services. The aim is to remove overhead and administration and drive improvement in underperforming or expensive services.

Ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

### Probation: Devon and Cornwall

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the flat cash grant allocation for the Devon and Cornwall probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 is; [238786]

(2) what estimate he has made of the share of national probation service savings to accrue from the Devon and Cornwall probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [238787]

(3) how many staff he expects the Probation Service to lose through *(a)* natural wastage, *(b)* retirement and *(c)* redundancy from the Devon and Cornwall probation area in (a) 2009-10, (b) 2010-11 and (c) 2011-12. [238788]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry Of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. As is the case across Government, the National Probation Service will need to make efficiency savings, in this case around 2.5 per cent. next financial year.

The National Offender Management Service is working to determine how the saving can be achieved in ways that protect front line services. The aim is to remove overhead and administration and drive improvement in underperforming or expensive services.

Ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

### Probation: Essex

**Jon Cruddas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the *(a)* flat cash grant allocation, *(b)* forecast shortfall and *(c)* estimated share is of Probation Service national savings for the Essex probation area in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12; [238047]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of staff who will leave the Probation Service through *(a)* natural wastage, *(b)* retirement and *(c)* redundancy in the Essex probation area in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [238048]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. As is the case across Government, the National Probation Service will need to make efficiency savings, in this case around 2.5 per cent. next financial year.

The National Offender Management Service is working to determine how the saving can be achieved in ways that protect front line services. The aim is to remove overhead and administration and drive improvement in underperforming or expensive services.

Ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

### Probation: Gwent

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what percentage of national probation services savings are expected to be made by the Gwent probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [239006]

(2) what the flat cash grant allocation is for the Gwent probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [239009]

(3) how many staff he estimates will be lost through *(a)* retirement, *(b)* redundancy and *(c)* natural wastage in Gwent probation area in (a) 2009-10, (b) 2010-11 and (c) 2011-12. [239010]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. As is the case across Government, the National Probation Service will need to make efficiency savings, in this case around 2.5 per cent. next financial year.

The National Offender Management Service is working to determine how the saving can be achieved in ways that protect front line services. The aim is to remove overhead and administration and drive improvement in underperforming or expensive services.

Ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

**Probation: South Yorkshire**

**Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the flat cash grant allocation for the South Yorkshire probation area is in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [239522]

(2) what estimate he has made of the reduction in future planned spending for the South Yorkshire probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [239523]

(3) what the estimated share of national savings from the Probation Service's budget is which falls to the South Yorkshire probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [239524]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of Probation Service staff expected to leave the South Yorkshire probation area as a result of *(a)* natural wastage, *(b)* retirement and *(c)* redundancy in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [239525]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. As is the case across Government, the National Probation Service will need to make efficiency savings, in this case around 2.5 per cent. next financial year.

The National Offender Management Service is working to determine how the saving can be achieved in ways that protect front line services. The aim is to remove overhead and administration and drive improvement in underperforming or expensive services.

Ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

**Probation: Gloucestershire**

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the flat cash grant allocation for the Gloucestershire probation area is for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [238533]

(2) what estimate has been made of the share of national Probation Service savings to be contributed by the Gloucestershire probation area for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [238534]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of Probation Service staff expected to leave the Gloucestershire probation area as a result of *(a)* natural wastage, *(b)* retirement and *(c)* redundancy in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12; [238535]

(4) what the reduction in planned expenditure there will be for the Gloucestershire probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [239505]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. As is the case across Government, the National Probation Service will need to make efficiency savings, in this case around 2.5 per cent. next financial year.

The National Offender Management Service is working to determine how the saving can be achieved in ways that protect front line services. The aim is to remove overhead and administration and drive improvement in underperforming or expensive services.

Ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

**Probation: Greater London**

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the grant allocation for the London probation area will be in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12; [238097]

(2) what the estimated share of national savings from the Probation Service's budget is which falls to the London probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [238098]

(3) how many staff he estimates will be lost through *(a)* natural wastage, *(b)* retirement and *(c)* redundancy in the London probation area during (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [238099]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. As is the case across Government, the National Probation Service will need to make efficiency savings, in this case around 2.5 per cent. next financial year.

The National Offender Management Service is working to determine how the saving can be achieved in ways that protect front line services. The aim is to remove overhead and administration and drive improvement in underperforming or expensive services.

Ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

**Probation: Hampshire**

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the number of staff who will leave the Probation Service through *(a)* natural wastage, *(b)* retirement and *(c)* redundancy in the Hampshire probation area in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12; [238052]

(2) what the *(a)* flat cash grant allocation, *(b)* forecast shortfall and *(c)* estimated share of national Probation Service savings are for the Hampshire probation area for (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [238053]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. As is the case across Government, the National Probation Service will need to make efficiency savings, in this case around 2.5 per cent. next financial year.

The National Offender Management Service is working to determine how the saving can be achieved in ways that protect front line services. The aim is to remove overhead and administration and drive improvement in underperforming or expensive services.

Ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

### Probation: Leicestershire

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimated share of the total Probation Service budget will be allocated to the Leicestershire probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [238102]

(2) how many Probation Service staff will be lost through either natural wastage, retirement or redundancy in the Leicestershire probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [238103]

(3) what the flat cash grant allocation for the Leicestershire probation area is in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [238184]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. As is the case across Government, the National Probation Service will need to make efficiency savings, in this case around 2.5 per cent. next financial year.

The National Offender Management Service is working to determine how the saving can be achieved in ways that protect front line services. The aim is to remove overhead and administration and drive improvement in underperforming or expensive services.

Ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

### Probation: Norfolk

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the *(a)* flat cash grant allocation and *(b)* forecast shortfall is for the Norfolk Probation Area in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12; [237774]

(2) what estimated share of Probation Service national savings the Norfolk probation area is expected to achieve in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [237775]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of staff employed by his Department who will leave through *(a)* natural wastage, *(b)* retirement and *(c)* redundancy in the Norfolk probation area during (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [237776]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. As is the case across Government, the National Probation Service will need to make efficiency savings, in this case around 2.5 per cent. next financial year.

The National Offender Management Service is working to determine how the saving can be achieved in ways that protect front line services. The aim is to remove overhead and administration and drive improvement in underperforming or expensive services.

Ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

### Probation: North Wales

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the flat cash grant allocation is for the North Wales Probation Area for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [238446]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of probation service staff expected to leave the Dyfed Powys Probation Area as a result of *(a)* natural wastage, *(b)* retirement and *(c)* redundancy in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12; [238447]

(3) what the flat cash grant allocation for the Dyfed Powys Probation Area is for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [238448]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of Probation Service staff expected to leave the North Wales Probation Area as a result of *(a)* natural wastage, *(b)* retirement and *(c)* redundancy in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [238468]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. As is the case across Government, the National Probation Service will need to make efficiency savings, in this case around 2.5 per cent. next financial year.

The National Offender Management Service is working to determine how the saving can be achieved in ways that protect front line services. The aim is to remove overhead and administration and drive improvement in underperforming or expensive services.

Ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

### Probation: South Wales

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the number of Probation Service staff expected to leave the South Wales Probation Area as a result of *(a)* natural wastage, *(b)* retirement and *(c)* redundancy in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12; [238483]

(2) what estimate he has made of the share of National Probation Service savings which will be achieved by South Wales probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [238498]

(3) what the flat cash grant allocation for the South Wales probation area is for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [238499]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. As is the case across Government, the National Probation Service will need to make efficiency savings, in this case around 2.5 per cent. next financial year.

The National Offender Management Service is working to determine how the saving can be achieved in ways that protect front line services. The aim is to remove overhead and administration and drive improvement in underperforming or expensive services.

Ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

### Probation: Thames Valley

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the *(a)* flat cash allocation and *(b)* forecast shortfall is for the Thames Valley probation area in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12; [237772]

(2) what estimated share of Probation Service national savings the Thames Valley probation area is expected to achieve in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [237773]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of people employed by his Department who will leave the Thames Valley probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 through (i) retirement, (ii) redundancy and (iii) natural wastage; [237777]

(4) what the estimated share of savings to be achieved by the Probation Service is for each of the Wales Probation Areas in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [238459]

(5) what estimate he has made of the number of Probation Service staff expected to leave the Wales Probation areas as a result of *(a)* retirement, *(b)* redundancy and *(c)* natural wastage in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12; [238469]

(6) what the flat cash allocation is for each of the Wales Probation Areas in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [238470]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. As is the case across Government, the National Probation Service will need to make efficiency savings, in this case around 2.5 per cent. next financial year.

The National Offender Management Service is working to determine how the saving can be achieved in ways that protect front line services. The aim is to remove overhead and administration and drive improvement in underperforming or expensive services.

Ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

### Redundancy

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (Y) his Department and its predecessor (Z) each of his Department's agencies; [237347]

(2) how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [239150]

**Maria Eagle:** There have been no compulsory redundancies since the creation of the MoJ in May 2007. Data on the number and costs for voluntary staff exits are not held centrally in the format requested and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Looking forward, it has been clear since the publication of MoJ's CSR07 settlement that the Department and its constituent bodies would have to reduce previously planned budgets. The MoJ will be taking all necessary steps to reduce overheads, remove duplication and increase efficiencies in order to prioritise front line services.

The efficiency savings plan for MoJ for 2008-09 is underway. We are developing over the next few months the performance and efficiency plan for MoJ and its constituent bodies to cover 2009-10 and 2010-11. When that plan is agreed for 2009-10 and 2010-11, we will be in a position to inform Parliament of the impact on MoJ.

### Repossession Orders: Mortgages

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the number of home repossessions in Chipping Barnet constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [237918]

**Bridget Prentice:** There were 184 mortgage possession orders made and 325 landlord possession orders made at Barnet county court in the third quarter of 2008.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, county courts jurisdictions are not coterminous with borough or constituency boundaries. Therefore the above figures are likely to count possession orders relating to properties in a number of other constituencies besides Chipping Barnet.

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made while not all court orders result in repossession. Figures showing the number of repossessions of mortgaged homes are published separately by the Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Financial Services Authority. However, these are not available at regional or constituency level.

## Secure Training Centres

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been detained in secure training centres in the last 12 months. [239441]

**Mr. Hanson:** Between 1 November 2007 and 31 October 2008, in 318 cases where a young person was remanded to the care of a local authority with a secure requirement, he or she was accommodated (with the Secretary of State's consent, under section 23 (7A) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969) in a secure training centre. During the same period, in 671 cases where a young person received a custodial sentence, he or she was accommodated in a secure training centre. These figures, which have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board, count separately any instance where a young person was accommodated in a secure training centre on more than one occasion.

## Sentencing

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of *(a)* custodial sentence handed down by magistrates' courts and *(b)* sentence served in prison is by persons sentenced by magistrates' courts in each of the last three years. [238264]

**Maria Eagle:** The average custodial sentence length handed down by magistrates courts has been three months in each of the last three years (2004-06) for which annually published statistics are available. Data for 2007 will become available once "Sentencing Statistics, England and Wales, 2007" has been published on 27 November.

All offenders sentenced to less than 12 months are released automatically half way through their sentence. They may also be eligible for earlier release on end of custody licence or home detention curfew. In addition, foreign national prisoners who are to be deported at the end of sentence may be liable for earlier removal under the Early Removal Scheme.

Adults are not subject to supervision following release, but young offenders are subject to a minimum of three months supervision. All are 'at risk' until the very end of their sentence; that is, if they commit a further imprisonable offence before the end of their original sentence, the court dealing with the new offence may add all or part of the outstanding sentence to any new sentence it imposes.

The following table shows the proportion of sentence served in custody by prisoners discharged from sentences of six months or less. The average sentence length for young offenders is longer than for adult offenders, reflecting the fact that DTO sentences (which apply to juveniles) have a minimum sentence length of four months. The figures include those sentenced in the Crown Court; it is not possible to separately provide the information for those sentenced by magistrates courts. This information was published in tables 9.1 and 9.2 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007, a copy of which is available via the Library of the House, and on the Ministry of Justice website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm.

*Average time served in prison by prisoners discharged from sentences of six months or less on completion of sentence or on licence*[1,2]

| | *Adults* | | | *Young offenders* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Number of discharges[3,4] | 36,600 | 34,100 | 32,500 | 7,800 | 7,500 | 7,800 |
| Average sentence length in months[5] | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Average time served including remand in months[5] | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Percentage of time served including remand[5] | 47 | 48 | 48 | 52 | 53 | 53 |

[1] Methodology has been revised. Totals may not match previously published data.
[2] On discharge: the sentence may change after reception if there are further charges or an appeal.
[3] Excludes discharges following recall after release on licence, non-criminals, persons committed to custody for non-payment of a fine, persons reclassified as adult prisoners and deported prisoners.
[4] Rounded to the nearest 100. Due to rounding sub totals may not match grand totals.
[5] Rounded to nearest whole number.

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average age of persons sentenced to custodial sentences was in each of the last 10 years. [238861]

**Maria Eagle:** All adult offenders where the age has not been reported to the Ministry of Justice are assumed to be age 25. This will create a bias in the calculation of average age and therefore we do not produce figures on this basis.

## Unpaid Fines: Sentencing

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the prison population in England and Wales were in prison for non-payment of fines on 1 April *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2004. [237689]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table gives the number of fine defaulters held in all prison establishments in England and Wales at 31 March in each year from 2004 to 2008.

| | *All fine defaulters* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 75 |
| 2005 | 52 |
| 2006 | 102 |
| 2007 | 83 |
| 2008 | 68 |

This information is available at the Ministry of Justice website at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Valuation Office: Land Registry

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1985W, on Valuation Office: Land Registry, when the agency became a registered user of the Land Registry Direct Service. [238699]

**Mr. Wills:** The Valuation Office Agency have set up a number of accounts with Land Registry Direct for their different offices across England and Wales. Their first account was set up in February 2007.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1985W, on Valuation Office: Land Registry, what *(a)* property information and *(b)* individual property attributes the Valuation Office Agency has access to as a consequence of its membership of the Land Registry Direct Service. [238700]

**Mr. Wills:** The Valuation Office Agency will be able to obtain the same information as any other users of Land Registry's services, whether they are in the public or private sector. As users of Land Registry Direct, the Valuation Office Agency will have access to our register. The Land Register has been available for public inspection since December 1990 and official copies of registers, title plans and deeds and most documents referred to on the register can be obtained by post or electronically. The information included on a register is:

title number of property or land;
the tenure (freehold or leasehold);
the price paid (where available);
the name of the registered proprietor(s);
lease details (deed date, term, rent);
property address, including town name;
property description (detached, flat etc.); and
local authority name.

There are over 21 million titles registered with Land Registry covering England and Wales.

### Youth Offending Teams: Standards

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what national performance targets have been set for youth offending teams; and what the performance of Torbay youth offending team was against those targets in 2007-08. [237937]

**Mr. Hanson:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 53W, which shows the national performance targets and Torbay youth offending team's performance for 2007-08. It also shows the national performance targets and Torbay youth offending team's performance in 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan: Asylum

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Government of Pakistan on the Afghan refugees now living in Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [237284]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The UK Government have regular discussions with the Government of Pakistan on the issue of Afghan refugees. The Department for International Development (DFID) is involved in this process.

### Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how the continuing effectiveness of development projects completed in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in each of the last five years is assessed; [237274]

(2) how many development projects completed in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each of the last five years are still operational. [237275]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The need to ensure our projects deliver lasting benefits is central to the design of all projects, including in Iraq and Afghanistan. Particular attention is given in project design to ensure that our partner organisations (in particular governments) have the resources (money and capacities) to continue to provide the benefits the project was designed to deliver. Project implementation progress is closely monitored through formal annual reviews—and once complete, a thorough Project Completion Report (PCR) is undertaken to assess future impact and lessons learned. Thereafter, ongoing operation of completed individual projects lies with the recipient partner. To the extent of our knowledge, all the completed projects in both Iraq and Afghanistan are still delivering the expected benefits.

In addition, DFID's Evaluation Department manage a series of independent country evaluations which build on all PCRs and further reviews to provide further assessment of the impact of programmes. These evaluations are mandatory for all countries where DFID has major involvement and are timed to fit into the country planning cycle so that lessons learned are incorporated into future interventions. An evaluation of the Afghanistan country programme is currently ongoing.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what restrictions staff of his Department deployed under Foreign and Commonwealth Office deployment rules in Afghanistan have had placed upon them. [237277]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) does not comment on specific issues of staff security overseas.

### Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what stabilisation advisers' posts there are in Afghanistan; and to whom the post holders are responsible. [237278]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** There are currently seven Stabilisation Officer posts in Helmand: two in Musa Qala; two in Sangin; one in Gereshk, and; two in Garmsir. All Stabilisation Officers report within the reporting structure of the Helmand Civil Military Mission—to the Deputy Head (Delivery). In addition,

a Stabilisation Adviser in Kandahar provides advice to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Regional Command (South).

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237504]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** One civil servant supports the special advisers in my office, providing administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers".

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned. Costs will be accounted for in the Department's annual resource accounts.

### Human Rights: Women

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in implementing the UK's National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325. [231786]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

The UK National Action Plan is a policy framework against which the UK monitors progress on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Detailed updates on progress against the plan are published periodically on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/unscr-1325-uk-action-plan.

Recent progress includes the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1820 in June this year, focussing on longer-term measures to tackle sexual violence in conflict, and a Security Council Open Debate on 'Women, Peace and Security' which reiterated the need to strengthen the participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The UK played a major role in this debate and drafted a presidential statement that was adopted by the Council on 29 October. This called on the Secretary-General to appoint more women to senior operational UN positions and to provide the Security Council with a report and recommendations on this issue. By working closely with the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the UK is also making good progress on its aim to ensure that planning for Peace Support Operations includes gender components, and that they recruit more female military and police personnel.

### Redundancy

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by his Department; [237346]

(2) how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [237350]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** DFID had no compulsory redundancies in 2005-06 or since.

The following table shows the number of staff whose voluntary departure was approved by DFID under early retirement or early severance schemes in each year:

| | Up to £25,000 | £25,001 to £50,000 | £50,001 to £75,000 | £75,001 to £100,000 | Over £100,000 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 38 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 58 |
| 2006-07 | 19 | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| 2007-08 | 35 | 26 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 76 |

[1] One member of staff was on a career break, so no salary was paid to the year before departure

[2] Three staff were on career breaks, so no salary was paid to them in the year before departure

Compensation for early departure is paid from the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. DFID meets the cost of early departures, including the cost of lump sum severance payments and the additional cost of any benefits beyond the normal Civil Service Pension Scheme benefits in respect of those employees who retire early.

The following table shows the total cost of early departure made by DFID in each year since 2005-06, which in some cases is spread over a number of years until the individual attains pension age but is recorded against the year in which departure was first agreed. It would incur disproportionate cost to provide the costs incurred in each year for each departure.

| | £000 |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 2,630 |
| 2006-07 | 3,220 |
| 2007-08 | 7,300 |

To date, four early departure provisions have been made in 2008-09 at a total cost of £256,950. There are no current plans for any further early departures in 2008-09 or 2009-10.

### Stabilisation Unit

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the Stabilisation Unit's performance against its aim of improving its understanding of the tasks involved in a stabilisation effort in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [237271]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Stabilisation Unit seeks continually to learn lessons from the UK's experience in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as from other partners and theatres. Its understanding of stabilisation is summarised in two documents. In June 2008, the Stabilisation Unit produced its "Stabilisation Task Matrix", which describes a menu of tasks which might be required to achieve stability and suggests who would need to take lead responsibility (the military, the police or civilians) for each task in "non-permissive" and "permissive" environments. The primary purpose of the Matrix is to

enable the UK to further develop its capability to meet future challenges. The Matrix will be reviewed by spring 2009. Later this month, the Stabilisation Unit will also publish the "UK Approach to Stabilisation", which will describe emerging UK experience and best practice.

Both documents will be available on the Stabilisation Unit's web-site:

www.stabilisationunit.gov.uk.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the Stabilisation Unit's performance against its aim of improving capacity to finance stabilisation activities to achieve desired effects in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [237272]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The UK Government have increased the funding available for stabilisation activities, and have put in place a better mechanism for managing these funds.

In April 2008, the UK Government established the Stabilisation Aid Fund (SAF) as a shared budget to support stabilisation activities. The SAF has improved the effectiveness of UK stabilisation operations by requiring and enabling a more integrated approach to their development, management and delivery.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer given on 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2578W, to the hon. Member for Newark (Patrick Mercer), regarding the role of the Stabilisation Unit in respect of the Stabilisation Aid Fund.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the Stabilisation Unit's performance against its aim of getting SMARTer at delivering key enablers in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [237273]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The UK Government have made significant progress in the past year, to ensure that key enablers (transport, accommodation, communications, and close protection) are in place in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In Afghanistan, the UK Government have leased a Beechcraft to provide a 'shuttle run' between Kabul and Lashkar Gah and to increase our reach elsewhere in the country. We expect to increase this capability in this next year. Access to rotary assets has improved but remains perhaps the greatest constraint on civilian movement. There are now sufficient vehicles in theatre (or on order) to meet the requirement. The construction of permanent office and personal accommodation for civilian teams in Sangin, Musa Qala, Gereshk and Garmsir has enabled the UK Government to dramatically improve their engagement with communities to deliver the UK strategy in Helmand.

A visit by FCO Operations Group to Afghanistan this month will assess future requirements, across platform and transport.

Our engagement in Iraq is more established, and we have the assets in place to fulfil our mission.

The Stabilisation Unit maintains a rapidly-deployable expeditionary capability including armoured vehicles, deployable accommodation, and communications. We will be reviewing this capability early next year to identify any possible enhancements required.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development by what means the Stabilisation Unit develops and maintains operating capacity in support of stabilisation operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [237276]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Stabilisation Unit primarily delivers through the civilian experts it deploys. It is taking a number of steps to improve its ability to provide high quality experts on as sustainable basis, to Afghanistan, Iraq and other theatres. There are two principal initiatives.

First, in August it started a nine month process to improve the quality of its database of civilian experts by turning it from a list of 900 people where most experts have only been subject to a basic paper sift to one where all experts will have been assessed face-to-face against professional and behavioural requirements. This greater understanding will enable the Unit to improve its ability to respond to demands for experts.

Second, civilian experts need to be properly prepared to work and live in what can be professionally challenging and austere conditions. The unit is improving its existing training prior to their deployment. By December the unit will complete the design of a more extensive structured, tailored development programme for deploying experts to Afghanistan with implementation on a pilot basis starting in January 2009.

### Zimbabwe: International Assistance

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department proposes should be taken to address the shortfalls in funding for the World Food Programme's operations in Zimbabwe; and what assessment has been made of the effects of those shortfalls on the provision of humanitarian aid in the country. [237246]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The UK Government have contributed £9 million to the World Food Programme (WFP) appeal for Zimbabwe this year, making it the second largest donor to this appeal so far. We are encouraging other donors who have not yet done so to make a contribution. We are also working with WFP on the ground to review ways of ensuring that the current supply of food aid is used to maximum effect. Donor contributions so far have ensured that WFP operations are fully funded until January 2009.

A national nutritional survey, conducted by the UN, is almost complete. As soon as the data are available, we will be able to assess with more confidence the effects of current food shortages and the case for a further contribution. We will also be weighing the need for further food aid against other life-saving humanitarian priorities.

## TREASURY

### 11 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the budget was for the recent repairs to 11 Downing Street; whether planning permission was required; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the schedule of the works *(a)* undertaken to date and *(b)* planned. [233393]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury pays a contribution to the Cabinet Office for the rent and service charge of the space used by HM Treasury and by the Chancellor of the Exchequer within the Downing Street estate. There are no separate charges for maintenance and renovation. Costs incurred on refurbishments and improvements to the Downing Street complex in 2008-09 will be available when the Cabinet Office resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament.

### Bank Services

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on trends in the numbers of people who (i) exceed their overdraft limit and (ii) have a cheque or direct debit refused; and if he will make a statement. [233907]

**Ian Pearson:** On 16 July 2008, the OFT published the results of its market study into personal current accounts, which considered customers who exceeded arranged overdraft limits and had insufficient funds to meet cheque and direct debit payments. The OFT's report is available at:

http://www.oft.gov.uk/advice_and_resources/resource_base/marketstudies/current/personal/pca/

On 4 November, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) published a consultation document, "Regulating retail banking conduct of business (CP08/19)", on proposed reforms of the regulation of retail banking services.

### Banks: Iceland

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what commitments were given to him during the first week of October by the Icelandic finance minister in relation to obligations to British depositors. [232818]

**Ian Pearson:** *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The Chancellor had a number of conversations throughout October with the Icelandic Finance Minister and Icelandic Prime Minister, and no commitments were provided.

### Banks: Isle of Man

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on assistance for UK citizens with savings in Isle of Man banks that have gone into receivership. [229340]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 539W to the hon. Member for New Forest, West (Mr. Swayne).

### Cost Effectiveness

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department received its first Value For Money programme report from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport; and what assessment he has made of the report. [238148]

**Yvette Cooper:** Departments are responsible for delivering, monitoring and reporting on progress against their CSR07 VFM targets and will report on initial progress in their autumn performance reports. The National Audit Office have agreed to audit reported gains on a departmental basis during the course of the programme.

### Council Tax: Valuation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1669W, on council tax: valuation, if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance provided to Valuation Office Agency staff on using the Agency's council tax banding support tool. [235859]

**Mr. Timms:** The guidance provided to Valuation Office Agency Staff known as 'MAT2 Case Worker Application—User Guide' will be placed in the Library. Any commercially sensitive or confidential information has been redacted.

### Departmental Advertising

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [227604]

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [226794]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 16 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 116W to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban). In 2007-08 the total spend for advertising costs was £381,000, the majority of the Treasury's spending on advertising is for the purpose of recruitment. Information on recruitment consultants used in the last five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Postal Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department uses the Royal Mail as the primary company for sending its post, parcels and packages. [238318]

**Angela Eagle:** It does.

### Departmental Retirement

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees of his Department have been asked to retire on reaching 65 in each year since 2000. [218405]

**Angela Eagle:** The mandatory retirement age in the Treasury is 65. Before the change in legislation in October 2006 the mandatory retirement age was 60. No employees of HM Treasury have been asked to retire on reaching 65 in any year since 2000.

### Departmental Surveillance

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many applications *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to (i) undertake directed surveillance, (ii) use covert human intelligence sources, (iii) acquire communications data and (iv) undertake intrusive surveillance in the last 24 months. [221998]

**Angela Eagle:** Figures on public authority use of covert techniques controlled by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') are published annually by the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the Chief Surveillance Commissioner and the Intelligence Services Commissioner who each have particular inspection and oversight responsibilities under RIPA. The latest reports were laid before Parliament and copies placed in the House Library on 22 July. The figures provided in the reports are not broken down by individual public authority use of specific covert technique as, depending on the particular technique and authority using it, this could either reveal sensitivities or be misleading. The question of further disclosure for any particular public authority is a matter for the relevant Commissioner.

### Economic and Monetary Union

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he next plans to assess the UK's progress in meeting the five economic tests in joining the euro. [238332]

**Ian Pearson:** The Chancellor announced in Budget 2008 that

"the Government does not propose a euro assessment to be initiated at the time of this budget."

The Treasury will again review the situation at Budget time next year as required by the Chancellor's June 2003 statement.

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has held with his counterparts in the eurozone on membership of the single currency. [239557]

**Ian Pearson:** Treasury Ministers discuss a wide range of issues with their counterparts in other countries, including the eurozone. The Government's policy on membership of the single currency in unchanged. It remains as set out by the Chancellor in his statement to the House of Commons in October 1997, and again in the Chancellor's statement on the five tests assessment in June 2003.

### Economic Situation: Hungary

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he made of the effect of the financial crisis in Hungary and Belarus on the UK economy. [238331]

**Ian Pearson:** The UK's exposure to Hungary and Belarus is small and the direct effect of the financial crises in these countries on the UK economy is likely to be limited.

### Energy: Prices

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish an index of domestic energy prices *(a)* in total and *(b)* separately for (i) gas and (ii) electricity for each year since 1998. [234196]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out an index of domestic energy prices (a) in total and (b) separately for (i) gas and (ii) electricity for each year since 1998. (234196)

Energy prices are included in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) and are collected each month by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The above indices are published monthly, and attached is a spreadsheet containing the annual data for each since 1998.

| | *D7CH PUBL 15 January 2008* | *D7DU PUBL 15 January 2008* | *D7DT PUBL 15 January 2008* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 79 | 75 | 88 |
| 1999 | 79 | 75 | 87 |
| 2000 | 79 | 73 | 85 |
| 2001 | 80 | 75 | 84 |
| 2002 | 81 | 80 | 84 |
| 2003 | 83 | 82 | 85 |
| 2004 | 88 | 88 | 90 |
| 2005 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 2006 | 125 | 131 | 122 |
| 2007 | 134 | 141 | 131 |

D7CH—CPI Index 04.5: Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels 2005=100
D7DU—CPI Index 04.5.2: Gas 2005=100
D7DT—CPI Index 04.5.1: Electricity 2005=100

### Equitable Life

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report on Equitable Life. [239214]

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Government will respond to the Ombudsman's report on Equitable Life. [239330]

**Ian Pearson:** I refer my hon. Friends to the answer given on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1000W.

### Financial Services Authority

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells of 30 April 2008, column 476W, on the Financial Services Authority: College Public Policy, if he will place in the Library a copy of the reply from the Chairman; [237722]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells of 30 April 2008, column 476W, on the Financial Services Compensation Scheme: Lansons Public Affairs, if he will place in the Library a copy of the reply from the Chairman. [237723]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* Treasury Ministers were not a party to the correspondence and are therefore not in a position to deposit the letter concerned in the Library.

### Financial Services Compensation Scheme

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the financial services compensation scheme levies on the building society sector. [236158]

**Ian Pearson:** The rules under which the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) raises levies from financial services firms are set by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) as set out in the FSA Handbook on its website. The accounts of the scheme and information about levies are set out in the FSCS's annual report and on its website.

Building societies are members of the FSCS and their depositors benefit from the cover provided by the FSCS in the same way as bank depositors.

### Housing: Valuation

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 682W, on housing: valuation, if he will place in the Library a list of locality reference numbers for valuation areas in England outside London ranked in order of value significance by valuation area. [236037]

**Mr. Timms:** This information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been in the *(a)* lowest and *(b)* highest income tax band in each of the last 10 years. [239262]

**Mr. Timms:** Information on the number of taxpayers by marginal rate of income tax for the period 1990-91 to 2008-09 can be found in Table 2.1 "Number of individual income taxpayers" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/incnsu.htm

### Inflation

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government has taken to address the problems associated with rising inflation. [221328]

**Angela Eagle:** In common with experience across the world, UK inflation increased during 2008 as the surge in global commodity prices fed through to retail prices of food, petrol and diesel, and household energy bills. In the UK, CPI inflation increased from 2.2 per cent. in December 2007 to a peak of 5.2 per cent. by September 2008 before falling back to 4.5 per cent. in October.

With global commodity prices having fallen sharply since the summer, petrol and diesel prices have already declined by 12 per cent. and food price inflation appears to have passed its peak. In line with external forecasts, CPI inflation is expected to fall sharply over the coming year.

The Government have shown its continued determination to help families and businesses affected by higher global prices, with targeted support when people need it most.

### Kaupthing Singer and Friedland: Isle of Man

**Mr. Binley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on guaranteeing investments in Kaupthing, Singer and Friedland held in the Isle of Man by individuals who are treated as corporate clients. [230980]

**Ian Pearson:** *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for New Forest, West (Mr. Swayne) on 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 539W.

### Northern Rock

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to designating Northern Rock a public authority for the purposes of the Welsh Language Act 1993. [234326]

**Ian Pearson:** There has been no such consideration. As the Chief Secretary to the Treasury explained to the House on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 634-37, Northern Rock is not performing a function of public administration. During its period of temporary public ownership Northern Rock is being managed at arm's length from the Government on commercial principles.

### Pensioners: Income

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the income decile boundaries are *(a)* excluding state pension and benefits and *(b)* including state pension and benefits for people (i) between 60 and 65, (ii) between 65 and 70, (iii) between 70 and 75, (iv) between 75 and 80 and (v) over 80 years. [211774]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I have been asked to reply.

This information is given in the following tables.

The Households Below Average Income publication uses equivalised household disposable incomes before and after housing costs as a proxy for material living standards. Both before and after housing cost incomes are net of income tax, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates, pension contributions, maintenance/child support payments and parental contributions to students.

Negative before housing costs incomes are possible if a loss is made from self-employment, however any such incomes are set to zero as part of the Households Below Average Income methodology. This means that all before housing costs income are zero or greater. After housing

cost incomes can be negative if housing costs exceed the before housing cost incomes. All incomes excluding benefit income can be negative, as no further adjustment beyond removing benefit income is made.

Benefits (particularly state pension, pension credit and disability benefits) are key elements of pensioner incomes. Incomes excluding such benefits are based mainly on earnings, investment income, self-employed earnings, private pension and other miscellaneous sources, will frequently be very small or negative, and will therefore not reflect the standard of living for a household.

Distributions by equivalised income decile below are based on a three-year average to help take account of small sample sizes in certain deciles and statistical variation across the years. Decile boundaries are presented in 2006-07 prices.

*Table 1: Household income decile boundaries including state pension and benefits by age band, before housing costs, 2004-05 to 2006-07, United Kingdom*

£

| Age | Decile 1 | Decile 2 | Decile 3 | Decile 4 | Decile 5 | Decile 6 | Decile 7 | Decile 8 | Decile 9 | Decile 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 60-64 | <179 | 179 to 235 | 236 to 275 | 276 to 319 | 320 to 364 | 365 to 419 | 420 to 489 | 490 to 582 | 583 to 747 | 748+ |
| 65-69 | <190 | 190 to 231 | 232 to 262 | 263 to 291 | 292 to 326 | 327 to 370 | 371 to 426 | 427 to 506 | 507 to 653 | 654+ |
| 70-74 | <186 | 186 to 223 | 224 to 251 | 252 to 277 | 278 to 306 | 307 to 343 | 344 to 387 | 388 to 451 | 452 to 576 | 577+ |
| 75-79 | <179 | 179 to 209 | 210 to 236 | 237 to 262 | 263 to 289 | 290 to 322 | 323 to 364 | 365 to 424 | 425 to 529 | 530+ |
| 80+ | <172 | 172 to 202 | 203 to 234 | 235 to 263 | 264 to 291 | 292 to 323 | 324 to 365 | 366 to 417 | 418 to 503 | 504+ |

*Table 2: Household income decile boundaries including state pension and benefits by age band, after housing costs, 2004-05 to 2006-07, United Kingdom*

£

| Age | Decile 1 | Decile 2 | Decile 3 | Decile 4 | Decile 5 | Decile 6 | Decile 7 | Decile 8 | Decile 9 | Decile 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 60-64 | <154 | 154 to 196 | 197 to 243 | 244 to 289 | 290 to 335 | 336 to 390 | 391 to 459 | 460 to 552 | 553 to 715 | 716+ |
| 65-69 | <170 | 170 to 202 | 203 to 233 | 234 to 267 | 268 to 302 | 303 to 349 | 350 to 406 | 407 to 484 | 485 to 639 | 640+ |
| 70-74 | <170 | 170 to 199 | 200 to 225 | 226 to 255 | 256 to 287 | 288 to 327 | 328 to 371 | 372 to 438 | 439 to 564 | 565+ |
| 75-79 | <166 | 166 to 192 | 193 to 214 | 215 to 237 | 238 to 265 | 266 to 303 | 304 to 349 | 350 to 410 | 411 to 529 | 530+ |
| 80+ | <154 | 154 to 188 | 189 to 209 | 210 to 235 | 236 to 267 | 268 to 305 | 306 to 350 | 351 to 401 | 402 to 495 | 496+ |

*Table 3: Household income decile boundaries excluding state pension and benefits by age band, before housing costs, 2004-05 to 2006-07, United Kingdom*

£

| Age | Decile 1 | Decile 2 | Decile 3 | Decile 4 | Decile 5 | Decile 6 | Decile 7 | Decile 8 | Decile 9 | Decile 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 60-64 | <-15 | -15 to 34 | 35 to 111 | 112 to 188 | 189 to 259 | 260 to 329 | 330 to 411 | 412 to 511 | 512 to 686 | 687+ |
| 65-69 | <-17 | -17 to 0 | 1 to 38 | 39 to 78 | 79 to 119 | 120 to 176 | 177 to 245 | 246 to 336 | 337 to 494 | 495+ |
| 70-74 | <-17 | -17 to -4 | -3 to 24 | 25 to 53 | 54 to 88 | 89 to 129 | 130 to 191 | 192 to 266 | 267 to 398 | 399+ |
| 75-79 | <-16 | -16 to -8 | -7 to 9 | 10 to 33 | 34 to 62 | 63 to 100 | 101 to 152 | 153 to 228 | 229 to 350 | 351+ |
| 80+ | <-17 | -17 to -13 | -12 to -5 | -4 to 12 | 13 to 36 | 37 to 70 | 71 to 118 | 119 to 190 | 191 to 310 | 311+ |

*Table 4: Household income decile boundaries excluding state pension and benefits by age band, after housing costs, 2004-05 to 2006-07, United Kingdom*

£

| Age | Decile 1 | Decile 2 | Decile 3 | Decile 4 | Decile 5 | Decile 6 | Decile 7 | Decile 8 | Decile 9 | Decile 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 60-64 | <-55 | -55 to 7 | 8 to 88 | 89 to 163 | 164 to 232 | 233 to 302 | 303 to 382 | 383 to 478 | 479 to 647 | 648+ |
| 65-69 | <-68 | -68 to -22 | -21 to 15 | 16 to 57 | 58 to 102 | 103 to 158 | 159 to 225 | 226 to 313 | 314 to 471 | 472+ |
| 70-74 | <-70 | -70 to -26 | -25 to 1 | 2 to 34 | 35 to 71 | 72 to 114 | 115 to 174 | 175 to 251 | 252 to 382 | 383+ |
| 75-79 | <-80 | -80 to -32 | -31 to -14 | -13 to 11 | 12 to 41 | 42 to 83 | 84 to 137 | 138 to 214 | 215 to 341 | 342+ |
| 80+ | <-106 | -106 to-57 | -56 to -30 | -29 to-15 | -14 to 10 | 11 to 47 | 48 to 103 | 104 to 177 | 178 to 299 | 300+ |

*Notes:*

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data.
2. The reference period for household below average income figures is single financial years. Distributions by equivalised income decile are based on a three-year average to help take account of small sample sizes in certain deciles and statistical variation across the years. Decile boundaries are presented in 2006-07 prices.
3. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
4. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
5. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are.
6. This response includes incomes for the lowest deciles of the population. These figures are not National Statistics and caution must be applied because those people stating the lowest incomes in the FRS may not actually have the lowest living standards.
7. Weekly incomes have been rounded to the nearest whole pound.
8. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

## Private Equity: Taxation

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what taxation is applied by HM Revenue and Customs to profits on carried interests of individuals working in the private equity industry. [238567]

**Mr. Timms:** There is no specific tax treatment that applies to individuals working in private equity firms. The tax treatment of carried interest is prescribed by legislation on employment-related securities and applies to all individuals in receipt of these, not just to individuals working in the private equity industry.

## Public Expenditure

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what evaluation he has made of the effect on local economies of increases in public spending. [238480]

**Angela Eagle:** HM Treasury has not undertaken work to evaluate the effects of public spending at a local level. This is because total public spending data are not disaggregated to a local level.

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236907]

**Angela Eagle:** The procedures for investigating complaints of racial abuse have been initiated less than five times in the last 12 months. I am not able to give the precise numbers on the grounds of confidentiality.

### Revenue and Customs: Manpower

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* Civil Service staff and *(b)* senior Civil Service staff were employed by HM Revenue and Customs when it was formed in 2005. [238725]

**Mr. Timms:** The first staff in post figures for the merged Department were produced on 30 April 2005. HMRC was formed on 18 April 2005.

The total civil service staff in post for HM Revenue and Customs (including the senior civil service at that point was 104,696 headcount (97,046 full-time equivalent.)

The number of senior civil service staff in post at that point was 407 headcount (401 FTE.)

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* Civil Service staff and *(b)* senior Civil Service staff were employed by HM Revenue and Customs on 31st October 2008. [238726]

**Mr. Timms:** At 31 October 2008 the HM Revenue and Customs staff in post figures were:

Civil service staff (including the SCS) numbered 88,295 headcount (81,055 full-time equivalent); and

Senior civil staff numbered 413 headcount.

### Tax Avoidance

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* tax avoidance schemes and *(b)* tax avoided by individuals (i) artificially converting income into capital gains and (ii) taking bonuses not in cash but in instruments subject to capital gains tax when sold over the period 1997-98 to 2007-08. [238566]

**Mr. Timms:** The only estimates the Government have made of the cost to the public purse of direct tax avoidance schemes during the period since 1997-98 are contained in a paper published in March 2008 that set out analysis from 2005 that attempted to derive broad-brush estimates of the direct tax gap at the start of the current decade. The HMRC paper 'Measuring the "tax gap"—an update'

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/measuring-tax-gap.pdf

summarises that analysis.

### Tax Avoidance: Research

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has commissioned since 1997-98 on the potential cost to the public purse of *(a)* tax avoidance schemes and *(b)* tax avoided by individuals (i) artificially converting income into capital gains and (ii) taking bonuses not in cash but in instruments subject to capital gains tax; what the conclusions were of such research; and if he will make a statement. [238756]

**Mr. Timms:** Neither HM Treasury nor HMRC have commissioned any such research.

### Valuation Office

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's most recent Central Memorandum of Agreement. [235143]

**Mr. Timms:** A copy of the 2008-09 Valuation Office Agency's Central Memorandum of Agreement (IT), has been placed in the Library.

### Valuation Office: Databases

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 684W, on Valuation Office: databases, whether the database alignment exercise is being conducted with the support of external consultants. [236021]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I have been asked to reply.

No.

### Valuation: Information and Communications Technology

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much expenditure has been incurred on the Valuation Office Agency's Automated Valuation Model, including expenditure on contracts with external suppliers, to date. [235078]

**Mr. Timms:** To 30 September 2008 (the latest date for which figures are available), the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has spent approximately £13.1 million (excluding VAT) on its use of Automated Valuation Modelling (AVM) technology to support a range of its activities. The figure does not include staffing costs, which are not recorded separately.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1090W, on alcoholic drinks: licensing, how many premises licences authorising the sale or supply of alcohol there were in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 after figures were scaled up to national totals for England and Wales. [238731]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The most recent DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment reports, as at 31 March 2007, there were around 155,200 premises licences authorising the sale or supply of alcohol (32,800 on-sale only; 44,500 off-sales only; and 77,900 with both on and off-sales of alcohol) for England and Wales, after figures were scaled up to national totals.

As at 31 March 2008, there were around 162,300 premises licences authorising the sale or supply of alcohol (34,600 on-sale only; 47,000 off-sales only; and 80,800 with both on and off-sales of alcohol) for England and Wales, after figures were scaled up to national totals.

### Arts

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Arts Council has taken to implement the objectives of the Creative Economy Programme. [227185]

**Barbara Follett:** Arts Council England is currently working with its national and regional offices to draft a delivery plan which will identify areas of activity that will contribute to its commitment to help deliver the objectives of the Creative Economy Programme. These will be aligned with their future work and will support Arts Council England's mission of great art for everyone. Arts Council England will finalise this plan in January 2009, which will include £6 million towards the find your talent pilots, encouraging the take-up of apprenticeships amongst its regularly funded organisations, and its contribution to skills development in the creative sectors.

### Big Lottery Fund: Public Relations

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what public relations services were provided to the Big Lottery Fund by Cake in each of the last three years; and what the total cost was in each year. [238031]

**Barbara Follett:** The Big Lottery Fund have advised that Cake provided the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) with PR campaign support specifically for the one-off People's £50 million ITV public vote programme, which took place in 2007-08.

| *Financial year* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 130,000 |

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations provided the Big Lottery Fund with public relations services in each of the last five years; and how much the Big Lottery Fund spent on public relations in each year. [238032]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* The Big Lottery Fund has advised that it has received public relations services from the following public relations service providers: Stan Blackley, Concourse Initiatives, Chocolate Communications, COI Communicators and Cake.

| *Financial year* | *Spend on public relations (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 1,117 |
| 2005-06 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 135,593 |

### Churches Conservation Trust: Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by the Churches Conservation Trust on employing press and communications officers in each of the last five years. [227206]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested has been provided by the Churches Conservation Trust. Inclusive of NIC and pensions, the total spent in each of the last five years is:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 29,500 |
| 2004-05 | 30,700 |
| 2005-06 | 31,900 |
| 2006-07 | 33,200 |
| 2007-08 | 34,500 |

*Note:*
For consistency, figures are rounded up to the nearest £100

### Conference Centres: Great London

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he has taken to promote the concept of a new major international conference centre in London. [238026]

**Barbara Follett:** In "Winning: A tourism strategy for 2012", published by the Department in September 2007, we reiterated the KPMG study of 2005 which advises that an international convention centre should be located in London. However, this is primarily a matter for the London Mayor and I will continue to work with his office on this decision.

### Creative and Business International Network

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much he expects his Department to spend on the Creative and Business International Network in each of the next three years; and how much he expects the Network's inaugural meeting to cost. [238033]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* In Creative Britain—New Talents for the New Economy, we committed to launching a world creative business conference. The final cost of the event will depend on a number of factors, including the number of attendees. However, DCMS has allocated approximately £3 million to the delivery of this, now called the Creativity and Business International Network (C&binet) between 2008 and 2011. The approximate cost of C&binet's inaugural meeting, bringing together 20 leading international figures from the creative industries on 20 November in Liverpool, is £47,600 not including travel costs.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many invitations to attend the inaugural Creative and Business International Network meeting have been sent; and how many recipients have indicated that they will attend. [239586]

**Barbara Follett:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer to his earlier question on this subject, on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1210W. No invitations have yet been sent. It is expected that formal registration for the event will begin next spring.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether there have been any incidents of loss of employees' personal data from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the organisations for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years; what procedures apply when such losses occur; and if he will make a statement. [238071]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** There have been no incidents of the loss of employees' personal data from my Department. I have been informed of one loss of personal data from an NDPB, which concerned payroll data including bank account details. The organization in question has informed staff, the Office of the Information Commissioner and the trade union side.

All NDPBs have been informed of the recommendations of the Hannigan Review and clearly informed that the responsibility for ensuring the proper handling of personal data resides with their Accounting Officer.

### Departmental Early Retirement

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many employees in his Department took early retirement in each of the last five financial years; and at what cost. [238435]

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many employees of his Department took early retirement in each of the last five financial years; and at what cost. [238504]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information relating to the overall early retirements numbers and costs in the last five years is contained in the table.

| | *Number of staff* | *Overall cost to Department until the minimum pension age of 60 (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 1 | Confidentiality applies |
| 2004-05 | Nil | Not applicable |
| 2005-06 | 5 | 847,469.49 |
| 2006-07 | 6 | 912,624.54 |
| 2007-08 | 8 | 800,812.56 |

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department and its agency have spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237435]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department has spent the following amounts in each of the last three years.

£

| | *Flat screen televisions* | *DVD players* | *Stereo equipment* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | [1]3,231 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 7,023 | 1,639 | 0 |

[1] This amount includes a flat screen television, stand, protective screen and case. It is not possible to separate the cost of each item.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* the British Library, *(b)* the British Museum, *(c)* the Geffrye Museum, *(d)* the Horniman Museum and *(e)* the Imperial War Museum. [225755]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested has been provided by the following organisations:

*The British Library*

The British Library currently employs nine full-time equivalent staff as press and communications officers.

*The British Museum*

The British Museum currently employs four full-time equivalent staff as press and communications officers.

*The Geffrye Museum*

The Geffrye Museum currently employs 1.8 full-time equivalent staff as press and communications officers.

*The Horniman Museum*

The Horniman Museum currently employs one full-time equivalent member of staff as press and communications officer.

*The Imperial War Museum*

The Imperial War Museum currently employs five full-time equivalent staff as press and communications officers.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers his Department has employed in each year since 1997-98; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [238441]

**Barbara Follett:** The number of press officers employed by the Department in each year since 1997-98 and the cost, is shown in the table:

| | *Number of press officers* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 7 | — |
| 1998-99 | 9 | — |
| 1999-2000 | 8 | — |
| 2000- 01 | 9 | — |
| 2001-02 | 8 | — |
| 2002-03 | 9 | 459,952 |
| 2003- 04 | 10 | 552,677 |
| 2004-05 | 9 | 466,206 |
| 2005-06 | [1]13 | 550,124 |
| 2006-07 | [1]13 | 733,412 |
| 2007-08 | 11* | 682,858 |

[1] This includes press officers working on the Olympics.

The cost for each year is available only from 2002-03 as the information for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Leave

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the rate of staff *(a)* absenteeism and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) his Department, (ii) its agency and (iii) each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08; what the target rates in each case are for his Department; and if he will make a statement. [238508]

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the rate of staff *(a)* absenteeism and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) his Department, (ii) its agency and (iii) its non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997-98; what targets have been set for his Department in each respect; and if he will make a statement. [238505]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** *(a)* The rate of staff absenteeism for DCMS and the Royal Parks Agency (DCMS's executive agency) is zero.

*(b)* The sickness absence figures for DCMS and the Royal Parks Agency are contained in the annual report Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service published by the Cabinet Office, website at

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

The sickness absence reports on the Cabinet Office website cover the dates from 2003-07. DCMS and the Royal Parks Agency do not hold sickness absence records prior to 2003.

*2007-08*

| *Department* | *Average working days lost (per staff)* |
|---|---|
| DCMS | 4.8 |
| Royal Parks Agency | 4 |

The Department does not have targets set for sickness absence. However, we continue to ensure that we monitor and manage sickness absence and to promote a healthy environment and culture in the Department through the Department's sickness absence policy.

The information in relation to the non-departmental public bodies could be provided at only disproportionate costs.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237320]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** In each of the last three years one Civil Servant has assisted the special advisers in my office. This Civil Servant provides administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers and the Civil Service Code.

Individual Civil Servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [238167]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** None. The Government Car Agency does not provide officials cars for special advisers.

### Departmental Postal Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department uses the Royal Mail as the primary company for sending its post, parcels and packages. [238117]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Royal Mail is the primary company used by the Department for sending post, parcels and packages.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press releases were issued by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238514]

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press releases his Department has issued in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238439]

**Barbara Follett:** The number of press releases issued by the Department in each year since 1997-98 is shown in the following table:

| | *Number of releases* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 315 |
| 1998-99 | 338 |
| 1999-2000 | 294 |
| 2000-01 | 370 |
| 2001-02 | 227 |
| 2002-03 | 160 |
| 2003-04 | 116 |
| 2004-05 | 181 |
| 2005-06 | 154 |
| 2006-07 | 165 |
| 2007-08 | 130 |

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department completed its preliminary review of its Public Engagement and Recognition Unit; which grade of official carried out the review; and if he will place a copy of the report in the Library. [238183]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** We regularly monitor the performance of the Public Engagement and Recognition Unit (PERU) but as yet there has been no review of the unit. PERU, along with the other outputs of the DCMS change programme, will be examined in the course of the Capability Re-review of DCMS which will begin in January 2009. The findings of that Re-review will be published.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on recruitment consultants in each of the last five years; and which companies provided these services. [230079]

**Barbara Follett:** The table shows how much my Department spent on recruitment consultants in each of the last five years, and which companies provided these services.

£000

| | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | 2005-06 | 2004-05 | 2003-04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Taylor Bennett | 19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Odgers, Ray and Berndtson | 238 | 149 | 36 | 71 | 96 |
| Capita Resourcing | 12 | 32 | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| Whitehead Mann Ltd. | 0 | 164 | 53 | 0 | 0 |

### Departmental Redundancy Pay

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [239160]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport there have been no *(a)* involuntary or *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in any year since 2005-06.

### Gambling Commission: Manpower

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff *(a)* the Gambling Commission and *(b)* the National Lottery Commission employs; at what cost; and what budget has been set for each for (a) 2008-09, (b) 2009-10 and (c) 2010-11. [237640]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Gambling Commission have advised that as of 19 November 2008 they employed a total of 230 staff and that the budget for 2008-09 includes provision for a total of 246 staff, at a cost of £9.2 million. The Gambling Commission's staff budget has not yet been set for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The National Lottery Commission have advised that they will employ 42 staff at a cost of £2.253 million for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

### Gambling: Regulation

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 11W, on gambling: regulation, how many remote gambling website operators are based in the UK. [238335]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Gambling Commission has advised that 164 operators in Great Britain hold remote operating licences permitting them to operate a gambling website.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 11W, on gambling: regulation, how many remote gambling operations failed the mystery shopper tests. [238336]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Gambling Commission has advised that in just over a third of mystery shopper tests, deficiencies have been identified that could, in some circumstances, allow under 18s to gamble.

However, the majority of mystery shopper tests conducted showed that policies and procedures to prevent children from gambling on remote gambling sites are effectively in place, and all of the licensed operators identified as having questions over their procedures in a pilot study undertaken in 2007 were found to have effective measures in place in more recent testing.

Further details of the number of operators with deficiencies will be published in the Gambling Commission's 2008-09 Annual Report.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 11W, on gambling: regulations, for what reason the Gambling Commission has not carried out tests of overseas operators since the summer of 2007; and when he expects further tests of overseas operators to be undertaken. [238337]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Since 1 September 2007 the focus of the Gambling Commission's ongoing compliance programme has been on operators licensed in Great Britain.

The tests the Gambling Commission currently plans to undertake in respect of overseas operators are mystery shopping visits, as part of their ongoing compliance and enforcement activities. The Gambling Commission has already made plans to undertake mystery shopper visits to gambling websites located in overseas jurisdictions and expects these visits to form part of its ongoing compliance programme in 2009.

### Horse Racing

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what reports he receives on the work of the Horserace Betting Levy Board; how often he receives such reports; and what procedures are in place for making such reports public. [237647]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Horserace Betting Levy Board presents an Annual Report to the Secretary of State, to be laid before Parliament. The Annual Report for 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 was laid before Parliament on 15 July 2008. Copies are available in the House Library. The annual report is also available via the board's website:

http://www.hblb.org.uk/sndFile.php?filelD=30

### Hotels: Standards

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he has taken to increase the percentage of visitor accommodation which is

accredited since identifying a target figure in his Department's report Winning: A Tourism Strategy for 2012 and Beyond. [239461]

**Barbara Follett:** A number of initiatives have been implemented across the country to help us reach our target figure of increasing National Quality Accreditation Schemes (NQAS) participation to 80 per cent. across Britain by 2010 and to 85 per cent. by 2012. Particular focus has been given to London where the take-up rate is lower than the national average. We continue to work with VisitBritain, Visit London, the regional development agencies, the London Development Agency and local authorities to provide incentives for individual businesses and sectors and tailor business support to increase participation in the NQAS. Progress on NQAS is being monitored by the Tourism Ministerial Advisory Group.

### Improvement and Development Agency

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support his Department provided for the Local Government Association's Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) in each of the last five years; and how many local authorities used the cultural and leisure service-specific advice supplied by IDeA. [239587]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The total funding provided by the Department to the Improvement and Development Agency over the last five years is £85,000. A full breakdown is in the following table.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | Programme not established |
| 2005-06 | 20,000 |
| 2006-07 | 20,000 |
| 2007-08 | 20,000 |
| 2008-09 | 25,000 |

IDeA is co-funded to build capacity in the local government sector and as such, has provided a range of support for councils. An indication of support used by the local authorities is a recent communications survey carried out by IDeA: of the 153 councils that responded, 69.3 per cent. said they used at least one of the self-assessment tools.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support his Department plans to provide to the Improvement and Development Agency in each of the next three years. [239588]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department is currently reviewing its work programme and has yet to formally agree the level of funding it will provide to the Improvement and Development Agency in future.

### Olympic Games 2012: Football

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1364-65W, on the Olympic Games 2012: football, what progress has been made in the discussions between the relevant parties on the formation of a Great Britain football team to compete at the London 2012 Olympics. [234079]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I met with the FIFA General Secretary and Lord Triesman, Chairman of the FA on 11 November to discuss, among other issues, a Great Britain football team at the London 2012 Olympics. Discussions are continuing.

### Olympic Games 2012: Transport

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment has been made of the number of people likely to visit the London 2012 Olympics by caravan. [239232]

**Barbara Follett:** No assessment has currently been made of the number of people likely to visit the London 2012 Olympics by caravan.

### Play: Finance

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of progress towards meeting the Government's commitment to provide £200 million for improving children's play opportunities under his Department's review of children's play. [238363]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My Department has not set a target of providing £200 million towards children's play. However, as part of our response to Getting Serious About Play, the review of children's play undertaken by my right hon. Friend the Member for Holborn and St. Pancras (Frank Dobson) in 2004, my right hon. Friend the right hon. Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell), stated that she expected £200 million to be provided for children's play through lottery funding by 2012.

That expectation is being met in England through the Big Lottery Fund £155 million play initiative.

### Public Libraries: Derbyshire

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has allocated to public libraries in Derbyshire in each of the last five years. [237907]

**Barbara Follett:** This information is not held centrally. However, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) publish figures of total revenue expenditure and total revenue income for each library authority in their report Public library statistics. The figures are provided per thousand population. When used with resident population statistics (also provided in the publication), the amount of core funding allocated by Derbyshire county council to its public libraries can be calculated. The House of Commons Library holds copies of the report, including the most recent edition which contains estimated figures for 2007-08 and actual data for 2006-07.

### Tourism

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the change in the UK's ranking in the Anholt Nation Brand Index as part of his work to champion UK tourism in the last three years. [238012]

**Barbara Follett:** The latest results from the reformed 2008 Anholt GFK Brand Index Survey (under the new methodology) reveal that the UK has moved up one place, from fourth in 2007 to third in 2008, in terms of 'holistic nation brand', behind Germany and France. This broadly reconfirms that the UK is still one of the leading visitor destinations in the world.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in which region the tourism satellite accounting pilot took place in 2004; what assessment he has made of the results; and if he will place a copy of the results in the Library. [238151]

**Barbara Follett:** The pilot 'UK Tourism Satellite Account (TSA)—First Steps Project (2004)' was produced for the United Kingdom. A similar pilot was undertaken by Ireland alongside this project, and a separate pilot report for the English regions published in 2005.

Results from the UK pilot are used as the basis for the estimation of tourism's contribution to the economy. The latest figures estimate that tourism contributed 2.7 per cent. to UK Gross Value Added in 2007.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 12 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1375W, on tourism, when he expects to publish his Department's report on the elasticities of tourism demand. [238411]

**Barbara Follett:** "The Drivers of Tourism Demand in the UK" report will be placed in the House Library shortly and published on the DCMS website.

### Tourism: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what Visit Britain's national strategy for coastal and seaside tourism is. [238093]

**Barbara Follett:** Visit Britain has advised that it does not have a national strategy for coastal and seaside tourism. However, the DCMS Tourism Strategy "Winning: A tourism Strategy for 2012 and Beyond", published in partnership with Visit Britain, covers tourism across the country, including coastal and seaside tourism. In addition, this Department has made available a funding package of £45 million (£15 million pa over the next three years) through the Sea Change Programme, which aims to help catalyse the regeneration of seaside resorts in England through cultural and heritage projects.

### UK Film Council: Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on employing press and communications officers by the UK Film Council in each of the last five years. [224867]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested has been supplied by the UK Film Council. Inclusive of NIC and pensions, the total spent in each of the last five years is:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 96,300 |
| 2004-05 | 102,700 |
| 2005-06 | 95,300 |
| 2006-07 | 108,100 |
| 2007-08 | 119,800 |

*Note:*
For consistency, figures are rounded up to the nearest £100

### Video Games

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent *(a)* discussions he has had with and *(b)* representations he has received from representatives of the computer gaming industry on (i) skills shortages and (ii) levels of taxation in the industry. [238266]

**Barbara Follett:** My predecessor and I have received a number of representations from, and held regular meetings with, representatives of the computer gaming industry about a range of issues, including skills requirements and taxation issues. For example, discussions were held in July and November with the Entertainment and Leisure Software Publishers Association (ELSPA) and the right hon. Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge) addressed these issues at a Westminster Media Forum event in July.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Census

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost of the 2001 census was; and what estimate he has made of the cost of the forthcoming census. [236309]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 6 November 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the cost of the 2001 Census was; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the forthcoming Census. (236309)

The published figure of £207 million for the 2001 Census covered the base cost. When certain support activities funded by ONS including funding for the dissemination of outputs, initial local authority follow-up studies and the ongoing census support such as customer services are added, the overall cost of the 2001 Census in England and Wales equates to £214 million.

On the basis of present planning assumptions, the estimates of the cost of the 2011 Census in England and Wales over the period 2005-2016 is £482 million. Provision for the later years from 2012/13 will be subject to future spending reviews and will cover the final stages of data and output processing, dissemination and a number of subsequent output services and releases.

In order to compare these figures, inflation, population growth and technical innovations must be taken into account. Innovations for the 2011 Census include online completion of questionnaires and the tracking of each questionnaire from printing to processing through a robust form tracking system. We are also carrying out significant address register development and address checking work for the 2011 Census.

The Censuses in Northern Ireland and Scotland are devolved matters.

## Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency have spent on Christmas (a) cards, (b) parties and (c) decorations in the last 12 months. [237493]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him and to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns) by my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2176W.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit to be served by his Department at Christmas functions which will be sourced from British producers. [239544]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested is not collected.

The Government will shortly be publishing a report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and National Offender Management Service (previously HM Prison Service) between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008.

This report will be available on the PSFPI website at

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm.

## Death: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 100 of population in (i) each of the principal seaside towns in England and (ii) England in the latest period for which figures are available. [237668]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there were (a) in total and (b) per 100 population in (i) each of the principal seaside towns in England and (ii) England in the latest period for which figures are available. (237668)

The table attached provides (a) the number of deaths and (b) the age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population for (i) principal seaside towns in England, and (ii) England. The number of deaths for both principal seaside towns and England are available up to 2007, as are mortality rates for England. However, mortality rates for principal seaside towns are available only for 2006.

*Table 1: Number of deaths and age-standardised mortality rate[1], principal seaside towns and England[2] 2006 and 2007[3,4]*

*Persons*

| | 2006 | | 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Area* | *Number of deaths* | *Mortality rate* | *Number of deaths* | *Mortality rate* |
| Blackpool Urban Area | 3,545 | 760 | 3,522 | |
| Bognor Regis | 1,007 | 592 | 1,023 | |
| Bournemouth Urban Area | 4,536 | 523 | 4,659 | |
| Bridlington | 486 | 634 | 471 | |
| Brighton | 1,390 | 647 | 1,391 | |
| Burnham-on-Sea | 196 | 526 | 230 | |
| Clacton | 899 | 634 | 851 | |
| Deal | 368 | 528 | 463 | |
| Eastbourne | 1,521 | 565 | 1,498 | |
| Exmouth | 497 | 612 | 460 | |
| Falmouth | 240 | 556 | 264 | |
| Folkestone/Hythe | 784 | 644 | 725 | |
| Great Yarmouth Urban Area | 853 | 660 | 828 | |
| Greater Worthing | 1,426 | 597 | 1,343 | |
| Hastings/Bexhill | 1,943 | 650 | 1,789 | |
| Ilfracombe | 192 | 738 | 149 | |
| Isle of Wight Unitary Authority | 1,678 | 536 | 1,666 | |
| Lowestoft | 777 | 597 | 826 | |
| Minehead | 191 | 499 | 206 | |
| Morecambe and Heysham | 813 | 713 | 845 | |
| Newquay | 255 | 529 | 261 | |
| Scarborough | 644 | 638 | 634 | |
| Sidmouth | 242 | 464 | 282 | |
| Skegness | 258 | 748 | 250 | |
| Southend-On-Sea | 872 | 705 | 747 | |
| Southport | 1,225 | 612 | 1,294 | |
| St Ives | 139 | 540 | 125 | |
| Swanage | 177 | 523 | 166 | |
| Thanet | 1,649 | 657 | 1,575 | |
| Torbay | 1,431 | 553 | 1,536 | |
| Weston-Super-Mare Urban Area | 1,096 | 636 | 1,050 | |
| Weymouth Urban Area | 679 | 569 | 680 | |
| Whitley Bay | 401 | 533 | 418 | |
| Whitstable/Herne Bay | 901 | 592 | 844 | |
| England | 470,326 | 592 | 470,721 | 579 |

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparisons between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[3] Mortality rates for principal seaside towns are available only for 2006.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* each of its non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in each year since 1997-98; how much each plans to spend in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement; [238517]

(2) how much the Prime Minister's Office spent on external consultancy in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [239069]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [238164]

**Kevin Brennan:** Special advisers are temporary civil servants. They have no entitlement to an allocated Government car. Special advisers' travel arrangements are made in accordance with the rules and guidance set out in the Civil Service Management Code and departmental staff handbooks.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget each has been set for (*a*) 2008-09, (*b*) 2009-10 and (*c*) 2010-11. [236916]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Cabinet Office currently sponsors eleven non-departmental public bodies: nine advisory and two executive. The details of each body and terms of reference can be found in the Cabinet Office Annual Reports and Accounts 2007-08. Budgetary and other financial information for the Cabinet Office public bodies can also be found in the Reports and Accounts and the Cabinet Office Public Appointments Report 2007. Copies of these documents are available in the Libraries of the House and also from the Cabinet Office website

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk.

Further information about the Cabinet Office's Executive public bodies can be found on their respective websites:

*Capacitybuilders*

www.capacitybuilders.org.uk

*Commission for the Compact*

www.thecompact.org

### Departmental Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much his Department spent on (*a*) focus groups and (*b*) opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement; [238506]

(2) how much the Prime Minister's Office has spent on (*a*) focus groups and (*b*) opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239046]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many Questions for written answer were tabled to his Department in Session (*a*) 2002-03, (*b*) 2003-04, (*c*) 2004-05, (*d*) 2005-06, (*e*) 2006-07 and (*f*) 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235401]

**Kevin Brennan:** The number of ordinary written and named day questions received by the Cabinet Office in each session since 2002-3 is set out in the following table:

| Session | Number |
|---|---|
| 2002-3 | 429 |
| 2003-4 | 406 |
| 2004-5 | 303 |
| 2005-6 | 558 |
| 2006-7 | 689 |
| 2007-8 (to end of October) | 1,350 |

Details of how many of these questions were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost are not recorded.

### Employment

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were (*a*) employed (i) full-time and (ii) part-time and (*b*) unemployed in (A) City of York constituency, (B) the City of York local authority area, (C) Yorkshire and the Humber and (D) the UK (1) on the latest date for which figures are available and (2) on the same date in each of the previous 10 years. [237046]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, November 2008:*

'As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many people were (*a*) employed (i) full-time (ii) part time and (*b*) unemployed in (A) City of York constituency, (B) City of York local authority area, (C) Yorkshire and The Humber and (D) the United Kingdom (1) at the latest date for which figures are available and (2) at the same date in each of the previous 10 years.

(237046)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of people aged 16 and over who were in full-time and part-time employment, and those people who were unemployed, in the City of York Parliamentary Constituency, York Unitary Authority, Yorkshire and The Humber and the UK. Estimates are provided for the 12 months ending in February from 1998 to 2004 from the annual LFS, and for the 12 months ending in March from 2005 to 2008, from the APS.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

*Table 1: Persons in full-time and part-time employment[1] and unemployment[1] in City of York parliamentary constituency, York unitary authority, Yorkshire and the Humber and UK*

*thousand*

| | City of York | | | York UA | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Full-time* | *Part-time* | *Unemployment* | *Full-time* | *Part-time* | *Unemployment* |
| February 1998 | 51 | 14 | 4 | 57 | 20 | 4 |
| February 1999 | 53 | 15 | 3 | 59 | 24 | 5 |
| February 2000 | 54 | 12 | 2 | 61 | 21 | 4 |
| February 2001 | 57 | 15 | 3 | 65 | 28 | 4 |
| February 2002 | 56 | 15 | 2 | 66 | 26 | 4 |
| February 2003 | 57 | 16 | 2 | 65 | 28 | 3 |
| February 2004 | 59 | 16 | 3 | 67 | 28 | 4 |
| March 2005 | 54 | 11 | 2 | 68 | 29 | 2 |
| March 2006 | 56 | 12 | 1 | 71 | 28 | 3 |
| March 2007 | 60 | 18 | 5 | 71 | 30 | 6 |
| March 2008[2] | ***61 | ***16 | ****2 | **73 | ***30 | ****4 |

| | Yorkshire and the Humber | | | UK | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Full-time* | *Part-time* | *Unemployment* | *Full-time* | *Part-time* | *Unemployment* |
| February 1998 | 1,587 | 577 | 173 | 19,827 | 6,604 | 1,926 |
| February 1999 | 1,620 | 593 | 165 | 20,079 | 6,620 | 1,744 |
| February 2000 | 1,626 | 587 | 153 | 20,279 | 6,734 | 1,704 |
| February 2001 | 1,639 | 620 | 141 | 20,440 | 6,854 | 1,528 |
| February 2002 | 1,665 | 601 | 122 | 20,699 | 6,890 | 1,466 |
| February 2003 | 1,677 | 616 | 121 | 20,706 | 7,056 | 1,510 |
| February 2004 | 1,682 | 644 | 123 | 20,793 | 7,222 | 1,464 |
| March 2005 | 1,715 | 633 | 108 | 21,165 | 7,181 | 1,412 |
| March 2006 | 1,746 | 643 | 131 | 21,328 | 7,237 | 1,527 |
| March 2007 | 1,776 | 636 | 143 | 21,548 | 7,322 | 1,629 |
| March 2008[2] | *1,815 | *634 | **134 | *21,780 | *7,407 | *1,590 |

[1] *Levels of employment and unemployment* are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality as follows:

*Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV – for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

*Key: Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness*

* 0 < CV < 5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 < CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 < CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Labour Force Survey/ Annual Population Survey

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK born people, *(c)* foreign nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals, *(e)* EU A8 nationals and *(f)* non-EU nationals of working age were in employment in the UK in (i) July to September 2006 and (ii) July to September 2008; and what the employment rate was in each group. [237717]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) UK nationals, (b) UK born people, (c) foreign nationals, (d) non-UK EU nationals, (e) EU A8 nationals and (f) non-EU nationals of working age were in employment in the UK in (i) July to September 2006 and (ii) July to September 2008; and what the employment rate was in each group. (237717)

The information requested is shown in the attached table. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, or the migrant worker figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

*Employment levels and rates for working age[1] people, by nationality or country of birth[2], three months ending September 2006 and 2008 – United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted*

*Thousand and percentage*

| | *UK nationals* | | *UK born* | | *Non-UK nationals* | | *Non-UK EU nationals[3]* | | *EU A8 nationals[4]* | | *Non-EU nationals* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Level* | *Rate (%)* | *Level* | *Rate (%)* | *Level* | *Rate (%)* | *Level* | *Rate (%)* | *Level* | *Rate (%)* | *Level* | *Rate (%)* |
| 2006 | 28,680 | 79 | 24,849 | 76 | 1,913 | 69 | 765 | 77 | 297 | 82 | 1,160 | 65 |
| 2008 | *29,028 | 79 | *24,580 | 76 | *2,279 | 69 | *1,045 | 79 | **504 | 84 | *1,234 | 63 |

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] Excluding those whose nationality or country of birth was not known.
[3] Non-EU comprises Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU on 1 January 2007 and are included in EU for 2008.
[4] EU A8 comprises Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
[5] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described as follows:
*Guide to Quality:*
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness
* 0 = CV< 5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 = CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 = CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).
*Source:*
Labour Force Survey

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were in work in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) the UK in May of each year since 1997. [238186]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question requesting how many (a) men and (b) women were in work in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) the UK in May of each year since 1997. (238186)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. National estimates are compiled from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Table 1, attached, shows the number of people in employment aged 16 and over by gender, resident in the Hemel Hempstead constituency. As estimates are not available for May of each year for small geographies, estimates are provided for the 12 months ending in February from 1998 to 2004 from the annual LFS, and for the 12 months ending in March from 2005 to 2008, from the APS.

Table 2, attached, shows the number of people in employment aged 16 and over by gender, resident in the UK. Estimates are provided for the April to June period of each year from the LFS.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

*Table 1: Number of persons in employment[1] by gender, resident in Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency*

*Thousand*

| | *Hemel Hempstead* | |
|---|---|---|
| *12 months ending* | *Male* | *Female* |
| February 1998 | 26 | 22 |
| February 1999 | 27 | 24 |
| February 2000 | 25 | 23 |
| February 2001 | 27 | 23 |
| February 2002 | 27 | 24 |
| February 2003 | 29 | 26 |
| February 2004 | 29 | 27 |
| March 2005 | 27 | 26 |
| March 2006 | 24 | 22 |
| March 2007 | 29 | 20 |
| March 2008[2] | ***30 | ***26 |

[1] Levels of employment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.
[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality following.
*Guide to Quality:*
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
*Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness*
* 0 = CV< 5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 = CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 = CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
*Source:*
Annual Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey

*Table 2: Number of persons in employment[1] by gender, resident in UK*

*Thousand*

| | *UK* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | *Female* |
| April to June 1997 | 14,441 | 12,073 |
| April to June 1998 | 14,571 | 12,145 |
| April to June 1999 | 14,735 | 12,362 |
| April to June 2000 | 14,900 | 12,568 |
| April to June 2001 | 15,002 | 12,704 |
| April to June 2002 | 15,073 | 12,838 |
| April to June 2003 | 15,298 | 12,893 |
| April to June 2004 | 15,371 | 13,057 |
| April to June 2005 | 15,515 | 13,218 |
| April to June 2006 | 15,628 | 13,371 |
| April to June 2007 | 15,792 | 13,367 |
| April to June 2008[2] | *15,938 | *13,568 |

[1] Levels of employment are provided for persons aged 16 and over.
[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality following.
*Guide to Quality:*
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
*KEY Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness*
* 0 = CV< 5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 = CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 = CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
*Source:*
Labour Force Survey

## Employment: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were in work in (i) City of York constituency, (ii) the City of York local authority area and (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber in May of each year since 1997. [237047]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question requesting how many (a) men and (b) women were in work in (i) the City of York constituency, (ii) the City of York local authority area and (iii) Yorkshire and The Humber in May of each year since 1997. (237047)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of people in employment aged 16 and over by gender, resident in the City of York constituency, the City of York Unitary Authority and Yorkshire and The Humber. Estimates are provided for the 12 months ending in February from 1998 to 2004 from the annual LFS, and for the 12 months ending in March from 2005 to 2008, from the APS.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

*Table 1: Male and female employment[1] in the City of York parliamentary constituency, York unitary authority and Yorkshire and the Humber*

*Thousand*

| | *City of York* | | *York UA* | | *Yorkshire and the Humber* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *12 months ending:* | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* | *Male* | *Female* |
| February 1998 | 24 | 20 | 43 | 38 | 1,181 | 992 |
| February 1999 | 28 | 20 | 45 | 38 | 1,206 | 1,009 |
| February 2000 | 25 | 20 | 44 | 39 | 1,203 | 1,014 |
| February 2001 | 27 | 25 | 49 | 44 | 1,212 | 1,051 |
| February 2002 | 28 | 23 | 49 | 43 | 1,225 | 1,045 |
| February 2003 | 28 | 25 | 49 | 44 | 1,241 | 1,054 |
| February 2004 | 29 | 28 | 50 | 45 | 1,259 | 1,079 |
| March 2005 | 25 | 20 | 51 | 46 | 1,281 | 1,089 |
| March 2006 | 25 | 23 | 51 | 48 | 1,294 | 1,098 |
| March 2007 | 29 | 28 | 51 | 50 | 1,315 | 1,102 |
| March 2008[2] | **32 | ***26 | **56 | ***48 | *1,338 | *1,118 |

[1] Levels of employment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality following.

*Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

*Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness*

* 0 = CV< 5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

*Source:*

Annual Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey

**Futurebuilders England: Catz Club**

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract between Futurebuilders and Catz Club, redacting commercially sensitive information. [238781]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Futurebuilders Fund is managed by Futurebuilders England Ltd (FBE) under contract to the Cabinet Office. All Futurebuilders investments are made by FBE; neither ministers nor officials play any part in investment decisions. The Cabinet Office does not hold copies of the contracts between FBE and the Futurebuilders investees.

**Futurebuilders England: Grants**

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of a table listing each grant given by Futurebuilders to individual voluntary groups and organisations since its establishment. [238782]

**Mr. Byrne:** I have placed in the Library a table listing each grant given by Futurebuilders to individual voluntary groups and organisations.

**Hotels**

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on hotel bills by the Prime Minister's Office in 2007-08. [236647]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Housing: Owner Occupation**

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many homeowners there were in Enfield North constituency in each year since 1997. [235446]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question, asking how many homeowners there were in Enfield North in each year since 1997. (235446)

The requested information is not available for all years requested. The tables below have been taken from two different sources.

For 2001, the figures in the table below have been extracted from 2001 Census Key Statistics table KS 18—Tenure.

| | *All households including rented* | *Households: Owner occupied: Owns outright* | *Households: Owner occupied: Owns with a mortgage or loan* | *Owner occupied: Part rent, part mortgage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Enfield North | 38,264 | 10,074 | 16,271 | 307 |

Some figures are also available from the Annual Population Survey but as Parliamentary Constituency is a low level geography, the figures are subject to significant sampling error. Nevertheless the latest figures are:

| *Enfield North* | *All Households including rented* | *Households: Owned outright* | *Being bought with mortgage or loan* | *Part rent, part mortgage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 44,942 | 9,594 | 17,440 | [1] |

[1] Figure suppressed to avoid the release of disclosive data

*Note:*

Figures are Crown copyright

### Life Expectancy: East Midlands

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the life expectancy is of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) the East Midlands and (ii) the South East; and what it was in (A) 1997 and (B) 2001. [238628]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the life expectancy is of (a) men and (b) women in (i) the East Midlands and (ii) the South East; and what it was in (A) 1997 and (B) 2001. (238628)

Life expectancy figures are calculated as three year rolling averages. The table below provides the period life expectancy at birth for (a) men and (b) women in (i) the East Midlands and (ii) the South East government office regions for 1996-98, 2000-02 and 2005-07 (the latest figures available).

*Table 1: Period life expectancy at birth[1], East Midlands and South East Government office regions[2], 1996-98, 2000-02 and 2005-07[3]*

Years of life

| | 1996-98 | | 2000-02 | | 2005-07 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females |
| East Midlands | 75 | 80 | 76 | 81 | 78 | 82 |
| South East | 76 | 81 | 77 | 82 | 79 | 83 |

[1] Period life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average number of years a newborn baby would survive if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. The figure reflects mortality among those living in the area in each time period, rather than mortality among those born in each area. It is not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area in each time period could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

[2] Using Government office region boundaries as of 2006 for all the years shown.

[3] Three-year rolling averages, based on deaths registered in each year and mid-year population estimates.

### National Economic Council

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many times the National Economic Council has met; [237632]

(2) which members of the National Economic Council have been absent from each meeting of the Council. [237634]

**Mr. Byrne:** On the 3 October 2008, the Prime Minister announced the formation of the National Economic Council, a full Cabinet Committee which would meet regularly to discuss the co-ordination of economic policy across Government.

Details of the Committee's membership and Terms of Reference can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/secretariats/committees/nec.aspx

and are available in the Library of the House.

Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including who attends, when and how often and for how long they meet, is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

### Performance Appraisal

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235231]

**Mr. Watson:** The Cabinet Office takes staff performance seriously and has tools in place to ensure that staff operate at their full potential.

### Political Office: Furniture

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Shipley of 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 618W, on political office: furniture, whether the *(a)* capital and *(b)* running costs of the Downing Street Political Office (i) desks, (ii) telephones and (iii) computers are met from the 10 Downing Street budget. [233395]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to him on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 662W, by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

### Prostate Cancer

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many cases of prostate cancer have been diagnosed in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* strategic health authority area. [235704]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of prostate cancer have been diagnosed in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (a) primary care trust and (b) strategic health authority area. [235704]

The number of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer for each year from 1997 to 2006 (latest available year), for England by (a) primary care trust and (b) strategic health authority, and for Wales by local health board are given in Table 1.

*Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer[1], males, England and Wales, England, strategic health authorities[2], and primary care organisations grouped within strategic health authorities[2,3], Wales, local health boards[4] – 1997 to 2006*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England and Wales | 21,263 | 21,751 | 23,639 | 25,740 | 29,047 | 29,282 | 29,398 | 31,643 | 30,209 | 31,347 |
| England | 19,940 | 20,428 | 22,297 | 24,417 | 27,724 | 27,879 | 28,075 | 30,320 | 28,886 | 30,024 |
| Wales | 1,323 | 1,298 | 1,570 | 1,662 | 1,780 | 1,803 | 2,016 | 2,279 | 2,250 | 2,157 |

*Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer[1], males: England and Wales; England, strategic health authorities[2], and primary care organisations grouped within strategic health authorities[3,4]; Wales, local health boards[5] — 1997 to 2006*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Strategic Health, Authority* | | | | | | | | | | |
| North East | 894 | 1,064 | 1,231 | 1,248 | 1,410 | 1,393 | 1,488 | 1,347 | 1,403 | 1,352 |
| North West | 2,554 | 2,627 | 2,843 | 3,105 | 3,655 | 3,533 | 3,626 | 4,402 | 4,293 | 4,313 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 1,859 | 1,823 | 1,931 | 2,380 | 2,655 | 2,620 | 2,669 | 2,998 | 2,729 | 2,912 |
| East Midlands | 1,465 | 1,531 | 1,749 | 1,942 | 2,121 | 2,144 | 2,104 | 2,498 | 2,619 | 2,777 |
| West Midlands | 2,085 | 2,247 | 2,415 | 2,727 | 3,083 | 3,241 | 3,274 | 3,502 | 3,350 | 3,428 |
| East of England | 2,256 | 2,272 | 2,627 | 2,957 | 3,222 | 3,304 | 3,247 | 3,293 | 3,453 | 3,441 |
| London | 2,602 | 2,666 | 2,753 | 2,821 | 3,103 | 3,147 | 3,120 | 3,174 | 2,875 | 3,049 |
| South East Coast | 2,090 | 2,001 | 2,238 | 2,305 | 2,472 | 2,340 | 2,324 | 2,439 | 2,317 | 2,448 |
| South Central | 1,487 | 1,642 | 1,826 | 2,069 | 2,389 | 2,390 | 2,350 | 2,588 | 2,169 | 2,400 |
| South West | 2,648 | 2,555 | 2,684 | 2,863 | 3,614 | 3,767 | 3,873 | 4,079 | 3,678 | 3,904 |
| *Primary care organisation within SHA* | | | | | | | | | | |
| North East | | | | | | | | | | |
| County Durham | 180 | 206 | 174 | 204 | 248 | 233 | 264 | 254 | 247 | 248 |
| Darlington | 47 | 46 | 66 | 47 | 39 | 69 | 58 | 55 | 47 | 61 |
| Gateshead | 74 | 98 | 114 | 94 | 116 | 126 | 120 | 101 | 148 | 143 |
| Hartlepool | 34 | 36 | 43 | 40 | 47 | 45 | 60 | 48 | 36 | 30 |
| Middlesbrough | 77 | 70 | 77 | 71 | 83 | 48 | 96 | 88 | 103 | 82 |
| Newcastle | 77 | 102 | 116 | 152 | 127 | 182 | 127 | 123 | 91 | 103 |
| North Tees | 42 | 63 | 83 | 82 | 87 | 88 | 76 | 75 | 79 | 70 |
| North Tyneside | 72 | 74 | 92 | 126 | 134 | 122 | 142 | 125 | 106 | 109 |
| Northumberland | 93 | 146 | 157 | 161 | 247 | 198 | 201 | 180 | 229 | 218 |
| Red car and Cleveland | 64 | 52 | 93 | 101 | 85 | 83 | 111 | 98 | 97 | 77 |
| South Tyneside | 47 | 47 | 57 | 51 | 52 | 73 | 76 | 60 | 64 | 65 |
| Sunderland Teaching | 87 | 124 | 159 | 119 | 145 | 126 | 157 | 140 | 156 | 146 |
| *North West* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan | 54 | 72 | 76 | 112 | 138 | 131 | 134 | 192 | 209 | 224 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 44 | 43 | 62 | 61 | 68 | 57 | 68 | 72 | 59 | 91 |
| Blackpool | 58 | 70 | 69 | 72 | 84 | 114 | 137 | 118 | 90 | 92 |
| Bolton | 88 | 94 | 84 | 86 | 163 | 116 | 104 | 167 | 142 | 155 |
| Bury | 65 | 68 | 77 | 68 | 101 | 126 | 100 | 125 | 136 | 122 |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire | 128 | 162 | 222 | 256 | 280 | 268 | 281 | 312 | 282 | 259 |
| Central Lancashire | 205 | 193 | 192 | 223 | 252 | 226 | 254 | 321 | 379 | 306 |
| Cumbria | 204 | 198 | 189 | 235 | 250 | 284 | 227 | 229 | 299 | 304 |
| East Lancashire | 164 | 161 | 187 | 232 | 238 | 201 | 226 | 219 | 232 | 236 |
| Halton and St Helens | 107 | 118 | 123 | 81 | 123 | 130 | 135 | 173 | 143 | 178 |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale | 52 | 81 | 78 | 102 | 116 | 97 | 113 | 119 | 130 | 121 |
| Knowsley | 46 | 40 | 45 | 57 | 58 | 78 | 68 | 111 | 74 | 81 |
| Liverpool | 136 | 145 | 168 | 149 | 194 | 185 | 191 | 304 | 221 | 238 |
| Manchester | 139 | 124 | 133 | 132 | 175 | 164 | 154 | 176 | 205 | 214 |
| North Lancashire | 170 | 197 | 174 | 155 | 241 | 206 | 244 | 281 | 263 | 246 |
| Oldham | 67 | 84 | 70 | 88 | 107 | 108 | 130 | 182 | 171 | 149 |
| Salford | 97 | 77 | 72 | 88 | 69 | 74 | 107 | 120 | 126 | 152 |
| Sefton | 108 | 101 | 128 | 128 | 151 | 159 | 174 | 263 | 228 | 181 |
| Stockport | 141 | 117 | 134 | 155 | 195 | 191 | 176 | 208 | 228 | 213 |
| Tameside and Glossop | 93 | 108 | 107 | 114 | 114 | 131 | 125 | 160 | 146 | 144 |
| Trafford | 113 | 112 | 121 | 128 | 130 | 150 | 134 | 176 | 138 | 175 |
| Warrington | 69 | 60 | 48 | 78 | 93 | 71 | 66 | 72 | 61 | 65 |
| Western Cheshire | 87 | 76 | 165 | 175 | 175 | 139 | 152 | 156 | 177 | 187 |
| Wirral | 131 | 140 | 124 | 154 | 151 | 144 | 131 | 157 | 166 | 194 |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Barnsley | 75 | 68 | 69 | 79 | 78 | 111 | 105 | 114 | 120 | 138 |

*Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer[1], males: England and Wales; England, strategic health authorities[2], and primary care organisations grouped within strategic health authorities[3,4]; Wales, local health boards[5]—1997 to 2006*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bradford and Airedale | 119 | 132 | 152 | 183 | 213 | 211 | 206 | 231 | 212 | 234 |
| Calderdale | 66 | 76 | 74 | 84 | 102 | 69 | 89 | 114 | 111 | 111 |
| Doncaster | 105 | 100 | 111 | 121 | 140 | 103 | 127 | 132 | 113 | 153 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 144 | 147 | 151 | 168 | 183 | 206 | 223 | 243 | 242 | 266 |
| Hull | 74 | 102 | 88 | 93 | 112 | 107 | 112 | 148 | 116 | 134 |
| Kirklees | 167 | 143 | 130 | 145 | 155 | 172 | 180 | 203 | 171 | 201 |
| Leeds | 277 | 271 | 302 | 319 | 391 | 319 | 384 | 430 | 364 | 422 |
| North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus | 59 | 54 | 62 | 74 | 110 | 119 | 101 | 81 | 89 | 95 |
| North Lincolnshire | 76 | 61 | 82 | 72 | 69 | 90 | 80 | 84 | 73 | 83 |
| North Yorkshire and York | 291 | 359 | 352 | 485 | 534 | 528 | 549 | 632 | 575 | 561 |
| Rotherham | 66 | 58 | 47 | 84 | 76 | 90 | 62 | 84 | 79 | 64 |
| Sheffield | 204 | 105 | 182 | 320 | 338 | 289 | 264 | 294 | 277 | 259 |
| Wakefield District | 136 | 145 | 129 | 152 | 153 | 206 | 186 | 206 | 186 | 191 |
| *East Midlands* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bassetlaw | 47 | 34 | 35 | 42 | 43 | 53 | 61 | 38 | 60 | 70 |
| Derby City | 62 | 65 | 86 | 107 | 116 | 119 | 124 | 138 | 144 | 155 |
| Derbyshire County | 241 | 260 | 305 | 344 | 381 | 418 | 387 | 426 | 430 | 457 |
| Leicester City | 65 | 63 | 84 | 103 | 98 | 111 | 89 | 103 | 95 | 132 |
| Leicestershire County and Rutland | 195 | 183 | 260 | 329 | 332 | 295 | 330 | 420 | 442 | 464 |
| Lincolnshire | 283 | 340 | 350 | 359 | 442 | 453 | 512 | 567 | 612 | 612 |
| Northamptonshire | 224 | 273 | 288 | 331 | 386 | 406 | 347 | 365 | 432 | 398 |
| Nottingham City | 98 | 87 | 88 | 88 | 75 | 61 | 44 | 112 | 98 | 115 |
| Nottinghamshire County | 218 | 214 | 248 | 216 | 238 | 211 | 206 | 320 | 293 | 360 |
| *West Midlands* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Birmingham East and North | 175 | 145 | 169 | 174 | 257 | 277 | 258 | 293 | 233 | 254 |
| Coventry Teaching | 128 | 135 | 129 | 160 | 172 | 179 | 165 | 194 | 194 | 124 |
| Dudley | 93 | 112 | 128 | 121 | 148 | 155 | 202 | 198 | 187 | 246 |
| Heart of Birmingham Teaching | 87 | 102 | 87 | 90 | 113 | 124 | 128 | 149 | 112 | 139 |
| Herefordshire | 82 | 72 | 79 | 103 | 119 | 108 | 103 | 124 | 108 | 115 |
| North Staffordshire | 85 | 78 | 79 | 78 | 122 | 87 | 104 | 91 | 104 | 95 |
| Sandwell | 109 | 116 | 166 | 143 | 151 | 187 | 157 | 131 | 132 | 142 |
| Shropshire County | 158 | 166 | 158 | 187 | 207 | 219 | 214 | 208 | 218 | 204 |
| Solihull | 109 | 123 | 119 | 139 | 154 | 181 | 149 | 189 | 155 | 190 |
| South Birmingham | 138 | 139 | 158 | 167 | 236 | 221 | 222 | 223 | 226 | 206 |
| South Staffordshire | 198 | 206 | 274 | 297 | 297 | 346 | 376 | 438 | 393 | 438 |
| Stoke on Trent | 80 | 73 | 74 | 94 | 102 | 93 | 117 | 95 | 104 | 112 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 54 | 58 | 62 | 57 | 61 | 72 | 81 | 70 | 66 | 86 |
| Walsall Teaching | 90 | 96 | 97 | 111 | 147 | 174 | 147 | 169 | 193 | 143 |
| Warwickshire | 194 | 262 | 265 | 327 | 325 | 333 | 287 | 340 | 308 | 350 |
| Wolverhampton City | 90 | 109 | 104 | 141 | 143 | 157 | 156 | 138 | 174 | 153 |
| Worcestershire | 215 | 255 | 267 | 338 | 329 | 328 | 408 | 452 | 449 | 431 |
| *East of England* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 115 | 135 | 150 | 143 | 194 | 185 | 196 | 209 | 183 | 234 |
| Cambridgeshire | 222 | 183 | 250 | 293 | 330 | 367 | 360 | 374 | 415 | 414 |
| East and North Hertfordshire | 192 | 204 | 241 | 278 | 242 | 219 | 243 | 305 | 361 | 312 |
| Great Yarmouth and Waveney | 89 | 113 | 137 | 127 | 161 | 152 | 155 | 139 | 109 | 159 |
| Luton | 45 | 35 | 44 | 56 | 49 | 52 | 47 | 78 | 76 | 81 |
| Mid Essex | 124 | 151 | 164 | 151 | 193 | 148 | 198 | 141 | 203 | 214 |
| Norfolk | 330 | 351 | 396 | 476 | 506 | 661 | 529 | 610 | 531 | 539 |
| North East Essex | 105 | 120 | 123 | 202 | 222 | 195 | 182 | 172 | 207 | 207 |
| Peterborough | 46 | 60 | 73 | 81 | 81 | 99 | 79 | 85 | 75 | 81 |

*Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer[1], males: England and Wales; England, strategic health authorities[2], and primary care organisations grouped within strategic health authorities[2,4]; Wales, local health boards[3] —1997 to 2006*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South East Essex | 186 | 162 | 162 | 210 | 232 | 203 | 228 | 212 | 177 | 246 |
| South West Essex | 166 | 135 | 130 | 163 | 205 | 191 | 210 | 171 | 183 | 145 |
| Suffolk | 320 | 280 | 331 | 329 | 372 | 386 | 450 | 437 | 394 | 419 |
| West Essex | 113 | 155 | 166 | 199 | 222 | 223 | 205 | 206 | 229 | 219 |
| West Hertfordshire | 203 | 188 | 260 | 249 | 213 | 223 | 165 | 154 | 310 | 171 |
| *London* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 74 | 75 | 85 | 74 | 79 | 74 | 64 | 73 | 63 | 58 |
| Barnet | 92 | 130 | 150 | 129 | 141 | 153 | 131 | 155 | 134 | 155 |
| Bexley | 103 | 110 | 108 | 100 | 102 | 113 | 94 | 111 | 79 | 132 |
| Brent Teaching | 91 | 112 | 116 | 113 | 116 | 124 | 125 | 133 | 127 | 129 |
| Bromley | 80 | 86 | 106 | 101 | 124 | 149 | 131 | 109 | 87 | 157 |
| Camden | 80 | 68 | 71 | 50 | 78 | 98 | 75 | 58 | 83 | 58 |
| City and Hackney Teaching | 82 | 68 | 69 | 69 | 84 | 88 | 83 | 87 | 74 | 100 |
| Croydon | 124 | 105 | 112 | 123 | 151 | 199 | 172 | 182 | 224 | 211 |
| Ealing | 105 | 103 | 114 | 98 | 104 | 102 | 134 | 121 | 121 | 89 |
| Enfield | 102 | 94 | 107 | 112 | 124 | 130 | 126 | 124 | 112 | 145 |
| Greenwich Teaching | 82 | 84 | 89 | 108 | 85 | 75 | 77 | 87 | 81 | 81 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 36 | 41 | 42 | 53 | 70 | 34 | 73 | 63 | 75 | 66 |
| Haringey Teaching | 74 | 63 | 65 | 51 | 92 | 73 | 80 | 92 | 98 | 79 |
| Harrow | 83 | 79 | 91 | 86 | 80 | 71 | 117 | 98 | 128 | 102 |
| Havering | 109 | 112 | 123 | 136 | 155 | 167 | 157 | 190 | 141 | 153 |
| Hillingdon | 99 | 118 | 79 | 87 | 80 | 90 | 109 | 131 | 92 | 90 |
| Hounslow | 54 | 49 | 46 | 64 | 64 | 61 | 70 | 61 | 58 | 83 |
| Islington | 79 | 65 | 61 | 65 | 75 | 56 | 55 | 79 | 67 | 60 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 57 | 59 | 55 | 73 | 68 | 69 | 66 | 75 | 59 | 48 |
| Kingston | 72 | 59 | 73 | 75 | 83 | 86 | 85 | 83 | 68 | 78 |
| Lambeth | 90 | 81 | 85 | 102 | 108 | 118 | 116 | 108 | 109 | 111 |
| Lewisham | 91 | 99 | 88 | 121 | 140 | 135 | 93 | 116 | 75 | 97 |
| Newham | 79 | 70 | 61 | 73 | 59 | 65 | 73 | 75 | 53 | 84 |
| Redbridge | 102 | 109 | 113 | 104 | 123 | 91 | 108 | 94 | 83 | 85 |
| Richmond and Twickenham | 71 | 68 | 70 | 64 | 70 | 105 | 78 | 79 | 66 | 94 |
| Southwark | 59 | 63 | 102 | 101 | 95 | 94 | 91 | 88 | 80 | 104 |
| Sutton and Merton | 140 | 157 | 187 | 189 | 199 | 170 | 182 | 192 | 148 | 127 |
| Tower Hamlets | 57 | 59 | 65 | 41 | 55 | 58 | 67 | 40 | 41 | 58 |
| Waltham Forest | 68 | 82 | 83 | 54 | 64 | 67 | 83 | 52 | 61 | 58 |
| Wandsworth | 106 | 114 | 109 | 110 | 138 | 156 | 125 | 128 | 112 | 98 |
| Westminster | 61 | 84 | 68 | 95 | 97 | 76 | 80 | 90 | 76 | 59 |
| *South East Coast* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brighton and Hove City | 127 | 90 | 130 | 143 | 122 | 109 | 100 | 116 | 98 | 126 |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald | 234 | 208 | 249 | 232 | 237 | 226 | 188 | 223 | 216 | 183 |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent | 305 | 310 | 333 | 296 | 353 | 369 | 398 | 415 | 402 | 458 |
| Hastings and Rother | 93 | 94 | 92 | 95 | 84 | 132 | 113 | 102 | 97 | 109 |
| Medway | 99 | 87 | 81 | 82 | 109 | 124 | 104 | 108 | 126 | 112 |
| Surrey | 523 | 487 | 528 | 574 | 579 | 540 | 533 | 523 | 522 | 596 |
| West Kent | 295 | 310 | 305 | 324 | 416 | 347 | 410 | 382 | 361 | 389 |
| West Sussex | 413 | 412 | 517 | 558 | 569 | 488 | 470 | 563 | 492 | 470 |
| *South Central* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Berkshire East | 142 | 148 | 154 | 173 | 234 | 210 | 239 | 275 | 221 | 204 |
| Berkshire West | 195 | 220 | 259 | 240 | 216 | 216 | 272 | 294 | 221 | 215 |
| Buckinghamshire | 211 | 207 | 267 | 287 | 356 | 346 | 325 | 376 | 292 | 367 |
| Hampshire | 506 | 528 | 574 | 688 | 761 | 852 | 736 | 815 | 733 | 844 |
| Isle of Wight National Health Service | 58 | 47 | 71 | 52 | 101 | 92 | 102 | 103 | 104 | 113 |

*Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer[1], males: England and Wales; England, strategic health authorities[2], and primary care organisations grouped within strategic health authorities[3,4]; Wales, local health boards[5]—1997 to 2006*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Milton Keynes | 62 | 82 | 80 | 98 | 127 | 122 | 109 | 120 | 96 | 111 |
| Oxfordshire | 169 | 237 | 247 | 345 | 357 | 367 | 340 | 391 | 314 | 353 |
| Portsmouth City Teaching | 46 | 52 | 72 | 71 | 86 | 80 | 87 | 95 | | |
| Southampton City | 99 | 123 | 103 | 111 | 153 | 109 | 127 | 125 | 101 | 110 |
| *South West* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 93 | 82 | 88 | 98 | 111 | 144 | 130 | 137 | 124 | 105 |
| Bournemouth and Poole | 234 | 217 | 233 | 263 | 280 | 304 | 269 | 311 | 290 | 289 |
| Bristol | 141 | 152 | 164 | 141 | 171 | 211 | 213 | 208 | 179 | 260 |
| Cornwall and isles of Scilly | 278 | 255 | 314 | 277 | 404 | 383 | 365 | 345 | 356 | 391 |
| Devon | 434 | 379 | 372 | 429 | 592 | 593 | 637 | 641 | 519 | 563 |
| Dorset | 338 | 315 | 315 | 406 | 464 | 510 | 477 | 529 | 423 | 433 |
| Gloucestershire | 236 | 253 | 284 | 312 | 363 | 305 | 331 | 383 | 372 | 410 |
| North Somerset | 106 | 113 | 125 | 108 | 141 | 151 | 199 | 182 | 125 | 135 |
| Plymouth Teaching | 106 | 115 | 94 | 36 | 147 | 109 | 159 | 192 | 143 | 143 |
| Somerset | 254 | 261 | 239 | 264 | 362 | 369 | 357 | 395 | 415 | 425 |
| South Gloucestershire | 100 | 84 | 109 | 109 | 109 | 156 | 168 | 145 | 138 | 201 |
| Swindon | 55 | 60 | 61 | 75 | 70 | 102 | 72 | 96 | 109 | 114 |
| Torbay | 81 | 67 | 71 | 85 | 88 | 78 | 106 | 113 | 121 | 117 |
| Wiltshire | 194 | 203 | 217 | 265 | 313 | 353 | 391 | 403 | 368 | 321 |
| *Local Health Boards in Wales* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Anglesey | 31 | 36 | 39 | 45 | 46 | 50 | 36 | 54 | 62 | 72 |
| Gwynedd | 59 | 60 | 72 | 65 | 81 | 78 | 64 | 100 | 92 | 89 |
| Conwy | 71 | 68 | 124 | 88 | 103 | 101 | 99 | 123 | 96 | 90 |
| Denbighshire | 59 | 60 | 72 | 65 | 81 | 78 | 64 | 100 | 92 | 89 |
| Flintshire | 53 | 45 | 81 | 94 | 126 | 98 | 104 | 88 | 127 | 126 |
| Wrexham | 55 | 41 | 52 | 96 | 99 | 77 | 76 | 82 | 95 | 64 |
| Powys Teaching | 79 | 74 | 76 | 73 | 95 | 129 | 106 | 99 | 108 | 79 |
| Ceredigion | 33 | 41 | 52 | 96 | 99 | 77 | 76 | 82 | 95 | 64 |
| Pembrokeshire | 75 | 54 | 78 | 74 | 80 | 68 | 101 | 82 | 95 | 64 |
| Carmarthenshire | 90 | 83 | 98 | 118 | 113 | 109 | 164 | 181 | 127 | 126 |
| Swansea | 132 | 126 | 148 | 147 | 176 | 157 | 152 | 161 | 162 | 183 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 58 | 64 | 65 | 79 | 62 | 63 | 77 | 88 | 127 | 126 |
| Bridgend | 52 | 63 | 69 | 71 | 76 | 95 | 79 | 73 | 83 | 108 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 46 | 58 | 69 | 71 | 76 | 95 | 79 | 73 | 83 | 108 |
| Cardiff | 90 | 83 | 98 | 118 | 113 | 109 | 164 | 181 | 127 | 126 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taff Teaching | 91 | 86 | 112 | 97 | 118 | 119 | 160 | 163 | 143 | 138 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 19 | 20 | 14 | 26 | 26 | 37 | 26 | 31 | 39 | 38 |
| Caerphilly Teaching | 53 | 52 | 73 | 72 | 68 | 61 | 68 | 119 | 133 | 105 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 39 | 38 | 28 | 43 | 42 | 40 | 39 | 46 | 35 | 33 |
| Torfaen | 40 | 31 | 21 | 33 | 35 | 38 | 45 | 90 | 71 | 56 |
| Monmouthshire | 37 | 40 | 44 | 58 | 46 | 50 | 36 | 54 | 62 | 72 |
| Newport | 61 | 42 | 49 | 57 | 51 | 49 | 63 | 118 | 116 | 84 |

[1] Prostate cancer is coded to C61 In the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Based on NHS boundaries for strategic health areas as of July 2006.
[3] Based on NHS boundaries for primary care organisations as of October 2006.
[4] Each primary care organisation (PCO) in England is listed under the strategic health authority (SHA) to which it reports. The 152 primary care organisations include 148 primary care trusts (PCTs), and four care organisations (CO's). PCOs are not all coterminous with SHAs— see Annex C footnotes at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/health_areas.asp
[5] Figures for the local health boards, which came into force in April 2003, are given for Wales.
*Note:*
The numbers of cases for the strategic health authorities (SHAs) have been grouped together at the top of the table because the total number of cases for each SHA is not always the same as the total number of cases for the primary care organisations (PCOs) reporting to each SHA. This is because PCOs boundaries are not an coterminous with SHAs boundaries as detailed in
*Sources:*
Office for National Statistics and Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit

## Public Bodies: Public Relations

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance has been given by his Department on the use of public affairs agencies by public sector bodies. [238779]

**Mr. Watson** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 949W.

### Suicide: Young People

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people aged 16 years or under committed suicide in each of the last five years. [239325]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people aged 16 years or under committed suicide in each of the last five years. (239325)

The table below provides the number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death for people aged 16 years and under, England and Wales, from 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

*Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death[1], persons aged 16 years and under, England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[2]*

| | Persons Number |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 30 |
| 2004 | 29 |
| 2005 | 32 |
| 2006 | 25 |
| 2007 | 39 |

[1] For persons aged 10 to 14 years, the cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84. For persons aged 15 and 16 years, the definition of suicide also includes deaths caused through undetermined intent, defined using the ICD-10 codes Y10-Y34 excluding Y33.9 (where the coroner's verdict was pending). Verdicts of suicide are not returned for children under the age of 10 years.

[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

### Surgery: Death

**Andrew George:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Office for National Statistics issues guidance to the Department of Health on the interpretation of the statistical significance of mortality rates for surgical procedures. [238757]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking whether the Office for National Statistics issues guidance to the Department of Health on the interpretation of the statistical significance of mortality rates for surgical procedures. (238757)

The Office for National Statistics has not issued guidance to, nor advised, the Department of Health on the interpretation of the statistical significance of mortality rates following surgical procedures.

### Teenage Pregnancy: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what percentage of teenagers became pregnant in each of the *(a)* wards and *(b)* lower layer super output areas in each of the principal seaside towns for the last year for which figures are available. [238660]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many and what percentage of teenagers became pregnant in each of the (a) wards and (b) lower layer super output areas in each of the principal seaside towns for the last year for which figures are available. (238660)

Figures on teenage conceptions are not routinely published by (a) wards and (b) lower layer super output areas due to concerns in maintaining confidentiality of individuals.

ONS however routinely publishes teenage conceptions by local authorities in England and Wales and the latest figures for 2006 are provided in the table.

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination.

A copy of the table has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Thromboembolism: Death

**John Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people died of thromboembolism in each of the last five years. [238672]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died of thromboembolism in each of the last five years. (238672)

The attached table provides the number of deaths for which one or more conditions classified as venous thromboembolic disorders (deep vein thrombosis and /or pulmonary embolism), were mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, in England and Wales, for 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

*Table 1: Number of deaths with any mention of deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism,[1] England and Wales, 2003-07[2]*

| | Persons Deaths |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 13,241 |
| 2004 | 12,387 |
| 2005 | 12,254 |
| 2006 | 12,683 |
| 2007 | 12,347 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes 180.1-180.3,180.9,182.9 (deep vein thrombosis) and 126.0,126.9 (pulmonary embolism) where these codes appeared anywhere on the death certificate.

[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

### Unemployment: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the unemployment rate for *(a)* women and *(b)* men of working age has been in Leeds West constituency in each year since 1997. [238776]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question requesting what the unemployment rate for (a) women and (b) men of working age has been in the Leeds West Constituency in each year since 1997. (238776)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the unemployment rate and number of males and females who were of working age resident in the Leeds West Constituency who were unemployed for the 12 months ending in February from 1998 to 2004 from the annual LFS, and for the 12 months ending in March from 2005 to 2008, from the APS.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

*Table 1: Unemployment level[1] and rate[2] for working age persons resident in Leeds West parliamentary constituency*

| | Male | | Female | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Level (thousand)* | *Rate (percentage)* | *Level (thousand)* | *Rate (percentage)* |
| 12 months ending: | | | | |
| February 1998 | 2 | 12 | 1 | 4 |
| February 1999 | 1 | 7 | n/a | n/a |
| February 2000 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 11 |
| February 2001 | 1 | 3 | n/a | n/a |
| February 2002 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| February 2003 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| February 2004 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| March 2005 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| March 2006 | n/a | n/a | 2 | 13 |
| March 2007 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 7 |
| March 2008[3] | ****1 | 5 | ****2 | 9 |

n/a = Data not available or disclosive

[1] Levels of unemployment are provided for persons of working age (Males 16-64, Females 16-59). The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.

[2] Rates of unemployment are provided for persons of working age (Males 16-64, Females 16-59) as a percentage of economically active.

[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality as follows.

*Guide to Quality:*

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 = CV< 5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

*Source:*

Annual Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey

### Young People

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many 18-year-olds there were in each year since 2005; and what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the number of 18-year-olds there will be in each year to 2015. [238880]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding how many 18-year-olds there were in each year since 2005 and what the Office for National Statistics projects the number of 18-year-olds to be in each year to 2015. (238880)

The table below shows the United Kingdom population aged 18 for each year from 2005 to 2015. The figures up to and including 2007 are population estimates. The most recent national population projections, based on the population at the middle of 2006, have been used to provide the estimated population aged 18 from 2008 to 2015.

*Population aged 18, United Kingdom, 2005 to 2015*

| | *Thousand* |
|---|---|
| | *Population aged 18* |
| *Population estimates* | |
| 2005 | 789 |
| 2006 | 809 |
| 2007 | 800 |
| *Population projections[1]* | |
| 2008 | 809 |
| 2009 | 820 |
| 2010 | 805 |
| 2011 | 780 |
| 2012 | 770 |
| 2013 | 753 |
| 2014 | 749 |
| 2015 | 754 |

[1] 2006-based national population projections, ONS

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the projected total cost of establishing the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is. [226160]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, a crown non departmental public body, was established as a legal entity on 10 June 2008 and took responsibility for CSA functions, staff and estates on 1 November 2008.

The cost of establishing the Commission is approximately £10 million. This represents the costs for recruitment, launching the Commission, necessary IT changes and staffing costs.

### Child Support Agency

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the debt steer policy and guidelines implemented on his behalf by the Child Support Agency. [229567]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In response to your recent parliamentary question I undertook to send you under separate cover an overview of the Commission's policy on negotiating the recovery of child maintenance debt.

I trust the attached overview provides the detail you require.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much debt over six years old is owed to the Child Support Agency; whether the collection of such debt may be made through enforcement; and if he will make a statement. [234275]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The administration of the child maintenance system is a matter for the Commissioner of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. He will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions regarding the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much debt over six years old is owed to the Child Support Agency; whether the collection of such debt may be made through enforcement; and if he will make a statement. [234275]

It is only possible to analyse the age of debt accrued while a case is on the CS2 computer system. As the CS2 system has only existed since March 2003, no debt is recorded as being over 6 years old.

The Child Support (Collection and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 were amended in 2006 to remove the six-year limitation period for applying to the court for a liability order in England and Wales. The effect of the amended legislation which came into force on 12 July 2006 is that debts of child support that have accrued since 12 July 2000 can be pursued through the courts.

Where arrears are outstanding for periods prior to 12 July 2000 the Child Support Agency may instigate debt recovery by alternative measures, which include imposing a Deduction from Earnings Order or employing external debt collection agencies.

The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 provides that in future the Commission may issue its own liability orders, without application to the court. These administrative liability orders may be made in respect of arrears that accrued before 12 July 2000 and will enable the Commission to pursue payment through the courts. The 2008 Act also provides powers for the Commission to make orders to deduct money from non-resident parents' bank accounts. Deduction orders will be made without application to the court and there is no time limitation on the arrears to which they may apply.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

## Child Support Agency: Complaints

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints were made to the Child Support Agency by its customers in each of the last five years. [233861]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many complaints were made to the Child Support Agency by its customers in each of the last five years. [233861]

The information you have requested is set out in the attached table.

Since April 2006, as a result of the improvements to client service made under the Operational Improvement Plan the number of complaints received has fallen. In addition, the Agency revised and simplified the complaints process from April 2007, removing a tier from the resolution process and introducing specialist case workers responsible for resolving all aspects of our clients' complaints.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

*Number of complaints received overall agency*

| | *Complaints received* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 49,200 |
| 2004-05 | 63,800 |
| 2005-06 | 62,100 |
| 2006-07 | 47,900 |
| 2007-08 | 37,600 |

*Notes:*
1. These figures are taken from the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts.
2. From April 2007, the Agency introduced a new complaints resolution process, which among others simplified the process from three stages to two stages.
3. Figures rounded to nearest 100.

## Child Support Agency: Correspondence

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets he has given to the Child Support Agency on providing substantive replies to letters from hon. Members on behalf of constituents; and what percentage of replies have been provided within that target time during *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09 to date. [236201]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what targets he has given to the Child Support Agency on providing substantive replies to letters from hon. Members on behalf of constituents; and what percentage of replies have been provided within that target time during (a) 2006-2007, (b) 2007-2008 and (c) 2008-2009 to date. [236201]

The Secretary of State has not set the Agency any targets relating to the Hon. Members' correspondence. However, current Cabinet Office guidance recommends a substantive reply should be sent to correspondence received by government departments, including from hon. Members, within twenty working days, in ninety per cent of cases.

The Agency aims to reply to letters and either resolve complaints, or agree next steps, within 15 working days of receiving them. This standard applies to all correspondence received from clients or their representatives including hon. Members, and the latest figures show that we have met this standard in 98% of cases.

The attached table sets out the performance outcomes specifically for both hon. Members' letters to the Commissioner (Chief Executive) and to Ministers delegated to the Commissioner (Chief Executive) to reply.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

*MP letters to the Commissioner (Chief Executive)*

| | *Replies issued within 15 working days (percentage)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 89.6 |
| 2007-08 | 92.4 |
| 2008 (April to October) | 99.6 |

*Notes:*
1. The above is measured over a financial year April to March.
2. Correspondence where an MP writes direct to the Commissioner.

*MP letters to Ministers—delegated to the Commissioner (Chief Executive) to reply*

| | *Replies issued within 20 working days (percentage)* |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 87 |
| 2007 | 81 |
| 2008 (January to October) | 98.9 |

*Notes:*
1. The above is measured from January to December.
2. Correspondence where the MP writes to the Minister concerning operational issues and it is delegated to the Commissioner to reply.

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency plans to reply to the letter of 11 April 2008 from the hon. Member for Aylesbury on the case of Mr. W.W. of Aylesbury (reference 0019126759 and 9924517330); and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [236202]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when I would reply to your letter of 11th April 2008 about the case of Mr W. W. of Aylesbury (reference 0019126759 and 9924517330); and what the reasons were for the time taken to reply. [236202]

As details about individual cases are confidential, I have written to you separately about this case.

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when a definitive reply will be sent to the hon. Member for Walsall North in relation to his correspondence with the Child Support Agency on a constituent, ref: PCU 175131, RFA: 1042663122. [236298]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when you will receive a definitive reply in relation to your correspondence with the Child Support Agency about your constituent, Ref: PCU 175131, RFA: 1042663122. [236298]

As details about individual cases are confidential, I have written to you separately about this case.

### Child Support Agency: Standards

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what proportion of cases calculated by the Child Support Agency the level of maintenance payments was initially calculated incorrectly in the latest period for which information is available. [233862]

**Kitty Ussher:** The administration of the child maintenance system is a matter for the Commissioner of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. He will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions regarding the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in what proportion of cases calculated by the Child Support Agency the maintenance payments was initially calculated incorrectly in the latest period for which information is available. [233862]

The Agency does not collate information on the number of cases where maintenance payments were initially calculated incorrectly. However, the Agency does check a sample of around 6,000 cases each year to assess the accuracy of the maintenance calculations assessment to the nearest penny. This information is routinely published in Table 17 of the Child Support Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics. The latest version is available in the House of Commons library or online at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp

In the 12 months to the end of September 2008 the Agency estimates that 85% of current scheme maintenance assessments and 94% of old scheme maintenance calculations were accurate to the nearest penny.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what national targets have been set for the Child Support Agency; and what the performance of offices in the southwest region was against those targets in 2007-08. [237942]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what national targets have been set for the Child Support Agency; and what the performance of offices in the southwest region was against those targets in 2007-08.[237942]

The Secretary of State set four targets for the Agency for the operational year 2007/08. The Agency manages performance across all its lines of business at a national level and does not apportion responsibility for contributing to targets down to regional level.

The national targets for 2007/08 were:

By 31st March 2008, maintenance will be collected or arranged by the Agency on behalf of 720,000 children.

By 31st March 2008, in 66 per cent of cases in which a liability to pay maintenance exists, the non-resident parent has either made a payment via the collection service or a Maintenance Direct arrangement is in place.

By 31st March 2008, the volume of uncleared new scheme applications will be no more than 140,000.

Collect or arrange £970 million in child maintenance (including both regular and arrears) between 1st April 2007 and 31st March 2008; of which at least £120 million maintenance will be arrears.

The Agency exceeded all of these Secretary of State targets, collecting or arranging over £1 billion in maintenance on behalf

of 749,000 children. The contribution that the South West business area made to the achievement of these targets is provided in the attached table.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

*Child Support Agency Secretary of State Targets: 2007/08*

| Target | Agency Achievement March 2008 | South West Business Area Contribution March 2008 |
|---|---|---|
| By 31st March 2008, maintenance will be collected or arranged by the Agency on behalf of 720,000 children | 749,300 | 158,200 |
| By 31st March 2008, in 66 per cent of cases in which a liability to pay maintenance exists, the non-resident parent has either made a payment via the collection service or a Maintenance Direct arrangement is in place | 67% | 69% |
| By 31st March 2008, the volume of uncleared new scheme applications will be no more than 140,000 | 106,100 | 15,600 |
| Collect or arrange £970 million in child maintenance (including both regular and arrears) between 1st April 2007 and 31st March 2008 | £1,010m | £202.5m |
| of which at least £120 million maintenance will be arrears | £126 | £24.5m |

*Notes:*
1. Figures for the South West exclude performance of cases processed clerically.
2. Targets are set at a national level and are not apportioned regionally.

## Children: Maintenance

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new scheme Child Support Agency cases were unresolved within six months in (a) North West Cambridgeshire constituency and (b) the Eastern Region in each of the last five years. [226094]

**Kitty Usher:** The administration of the child maintenance system is a matter for the Commissioner of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many new scheme Child

Support Agency cases were unresolved within six months in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire constituency and *(b)* the Eastern Region in each of the last five years. [226094]

The Child Support Agency is now in the final year of its three year operational improvement plan which has significantly improved client service across the Agency. The Agency committed to reducing the number of current scheme (previously referred to as new scheme) uncleared applications from the 225,300 applications outstanding in March 2005 to 90,000 by March 2009. At the end of September 2008 the Agency had already met this commitment with just 75,700 uncleared current scheme applications. In addition the Agency has improved the time taken to clear applications from just 30% in 12 weeks in March 2005 to 85 per cent. of applications received in June 2008 cleared in 12 weeks.

The numbers of current scheme applications that remain uncleared and are over six months old, in the Eastern Region and in North West Cambridgeshire constituency are provided in the attached table which highlights the year on year reduction in the number of outstanding cases.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

*Uncleared current (new) scheme applications in the North West Cambridgeshire and Eastern Region constituencies*

| | North West Cambridgeshire Number over six months old | Eastern Region Number over six months old | Eastern Region (percentage) cleared in 12 weeks[2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| September 2004 | 130 | 6,300 | 29 |
| September 2005 | 190 | 10,600 | 42 |
| September 2006 | 170 | 9,100 | 94 |
| September 2007 | 110 | 6,000 | 79 |
| September 2008 | 70 | 3,500 | |

[1] Information not available on the time taken to clear cases in North West Cambridgeshire.
[2] Percentage of cases received in that month which were cleared within 12 weeks. Information not yet available for cases received in September 2008.
*Notes:*
1. Uncleared applications have been defined as those applications that have not yet reached a clearance point. A current scheme clearance is defined as: a maintenance calculation has been carried out and a payment arrangement between the parent with care and the non-resident parent is in place; a parent with care has been identified as claiming Good Cause or is subject to a Reduced Benefit Decision; the application is identified as being a change of circumstances on an existing case; or the application has been closed.
2. Age of uncleared applications is calculated as the time from first contact with non-resident parent or parent with care until the last day of the month shown.
3. Cases have been allocated to parliamentary constituency or region through matching the postcode for a residential address for the parent with care against the Office for National Statistics postcode directory.
4. A proportion of applications can not be allocated to a parliamentary constituency or region. Such examples are where the parent with care's residential postcode is not recorded. In some of these cases, the Agency holds a residential address without a postcode, a "contact" address, or a business address. Many applications have not yet reached the stage in the process where the postcode information has been confirmed. Therefore it is not possible to associate them to a parliamentary constituency or region. Around 12 per cent. of applications can not be allocated to a region or parliamentary constituency as at June 2008.
5. Figures for Eastern region have been rounded to the nearest 100 and those for North West Cambridgeshire to the nearest 10.

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what percentage of Child Support Agency cases with a current liability received 100 per cent. of the child maintenance owed in the 12 months to June 2008; [230115]

(2) what percentage of the child maintenance liable for the year to June 2008 the £1,010 million maintenance collected represents. [230141]

**Kitty Usher** *[holding answers 27 October 2008]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what percentage of Child Support Agency cases with a current liability received 100 per cent of the child maintenance owed in the 12 months to June 2008. [230115], and

What percentage of the child maintenance liable for the year to June 2008 the £1,010 million maintenance collected represents. [230141].

Since you tabled your questions the latest Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics has been published and these latest figures show that in the 12 months to September 2008, the Child Support Agency collected or arranged £1,088 million child maintenance.

The estimated total regular child maintenance liability for the period was £1,350 million. Therefore the £1,080 million the Agency collected or arranged represents 81% of the estimated total maintenance liability.

Of the 756,200 cases with an ongoing current liability as at September 2008 not including arrears cases, 74% of cases have received maintenance with 39% of cases receiving all of the regular maintenance requested over the last 12 months.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of annual funding for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and the Child Support Agency required in each year until 2014 to implement the child maintenance reforms of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008. [230144]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's most recent annual funding estimates, which will include the one-off costs of implementing the child maintenance reforms, are found in the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission Business Plan 2008-09. This is available at the following email address:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/pdf/CMEC_BP_web_.pdf

It should be noted that the future costs of the implementing the child maintenance reforms will be driven by the actual choices parents make and their relative use of the different services provided by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. The funding estimates were therefore based on the best estimates, trends and evidence available at the time.

Following the full implementation of the reforms we estimate an additional 430,000 children will benefit from an extra £500 million each year in addition to administrative savings of around £200 million each year.

**Mr. Pope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency will ensure that the hon. Member for Hyndburn's constituent, Mrs Joan Knott, receives the child maintenance which she has been assured she will receive. [231570]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to the Hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when the Chief Executive of the Child Support Agency will ensure that the Hon. Member for Hyndburn's constituent Mrs Joan Knott receives the child maintenance which she has been assured she will receive. [231570]

As details about individual cases are confidential, I have written to you separately about this case.

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many liability orders have been re-issued incorrectly by the Child Support Agency in Birkenhead in the last 12 months; [233943]

(2) what processes are in place at the Child Support Agency in Birkenhead to prevent the incorrect issuing of liability orders. [233944]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many liability orders have been re-issued incorrectly by the Child Support Agency in Birkenhead in the last 12 months. [233943]; and

What processes are in place at the Child Support Agency in Birkenhead to prevent the incorrect issuing of liability orders. [233944]

The information you requested on the number of Liability Orders that have been re-issued incorrectly is not available as this information is not routinely recorded.

The Child Support Agency has processes in place to ensure Liability Orders are administered correctly and consistently in all of its offices including the Birkenhead site. Experienced senior case officers are responsible for preparing all applications to the courts for liability orders in respect of the non-resident parent's child maintenance arrears. The case officer will check the details on the case are correct; checking contact details, maintenance payments paid, preparing a full accounts breakdown to ensure the arrears are correct and ensuring an arrears warning letter has been sent to the non-resident parent.

If the non-resident parent has in the past considered that the maintenance calculation itself is incorrect, they will have had an opportunity to appeal the assessment through the independent Tribunals Service. Once a liability order is being actively considered by the Court, the non-resident parent can make representations for the Court to dismiss the liability order. The Courts currently dismiss less than one per cent of applications. The Agency believes that this is a good indication of the robustness of the checking regime currently in place. Finally, once a liability order has been awarded, the non-resident parent can again bring forward additional information, or indeed settle their arrears and the Agency may again consider whether it is appropriate to proceed with the application.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases being handled by the Child Support Agency are logged under the *(a)* CSCS and *(b)* CS2 computer systems. [234270]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The administration of the child maintenance system is a matter for the Commissioner of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. He will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases being handled by the Child Support Agency are logged under the (a) CSCS and (b) CS2 computer systems. [234270]

At the end of September 2008, the Agency had a total of 1,339,600 cases registered as live across the CSCS and CS2 computer systems. Of these around 939,100 cases were registered

on the CS2 computer system. This includes around 242,900 old child maintenance scheme cases which were maintained on the CS2 computer system. The remaining 400,400 live old scheme cases were registered on the CSCS computer system.

The Agency also had a total of 44,000 live clerical cases of which a significant number will be included in the cases shown as registered on the computer systems. These are cases which are being progressed clerically but remain registered on the computer systems.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Council Tax Benefits

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* pensioners are eligible for but do not claim council tax benefit. [238816]

**Kitty Ussher:** Latest estimates of the numbers entitled to but not receiving income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (Income-based) in Great Britain were published on the "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07" report. A copy of this and past reports are available in the Library.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many external consultants work for his Department. [237578]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following table provides a list of the external consultancy organisations currently working for the Department. Details of the number of all external consultants currently working for the Department could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

A Robinson Associates
Accenture
AT Kearney
Atos Origin
Bill Freeman
Booz Allen Hamilton
Capgemini
Deloitte & Touche
Deloitte MCS Ltd
Dr Richard Light
Ernst & Young
Fujitsu
Gartner
Hays IT
IBM UK Ltd
Lakestyle Ltd
Mill Rose Associates
PA Consulting
Plum Cube
Pricewaterhouse Coopers
Qinetiq Ltd
Thryve Ltd
Vega Group

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies. [230041]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DWP communications and press officers are accredited by the Government Communications Network (GCN). The communications activity carried out by these staff includes press, PR, internal communications, new media and marketing.

(a) DWP employs 285 permanent GCN accredited staff;

(b) Jobcentre Plus and the Pension, Disability and Carers Service employ 72 GCN accredited staff; and

(c) The total number of GCN accredited staff in DWP's NDPBs is not provided as this information is not held centrally and the cost of collating it would incur a disproportionate cost.

These figures were correct as at 20 November 2008.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [238180]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Special advisers are not entitled to an allocated Government car. Special advisers are temporary civil servants, and therefore travel arrangements are made in accordance with the rules and guidance set out in the Civil Service Management Code, and departmental staff handbooks.

### Departmental Postal Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department uses the Royal Mail as the primary company for sending its post, parcels and packages. [238124]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Royal Mail continues to be the primary company for DWP postal services for despatch of its post, parcels and packages. Royal Mail delivers in excess of 100 million items a year to our customers, at an approximate cost of £40 million per annum. DWP remains committed to maintaining and developing our relationship with Royal Mail Group.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disability living allowance awards *(a)* were subject to review, *(b)* had the mobility component reduced on review, *(c)* had the care component reduced on review, *(d)* had entitlement cancelled on review, *(e)* had a revision decision appealed against and upheld and *(f)* had a review decision appealed against and overturned in each year since 1997, broken down by age of claimant. [237108]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information is not available.

### Disability Living Allowance: Autism

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance is given to staff administering disability living allowance on using the supplementary application form for people with autism. [239184]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There is no supplementary application form for people with autism who wish to claim disability living allowance (DLA).

The current DLA adult claim form has been developed as a generic 'structured' claim form and is designed to accommodate the care and mobility needs of all customers. While developing the claim form the Pension, Disability and Carers Service carried out extensive consultation with national voluntary and community organisations representing customers with a broad range of disabilities and their carers.

The 'structured' DLA adult claim form has been in use nationally since April 2007. From October 2008, a further version is available for use which has been revised to allow customers with learning difficulties, autism, other developmental disorders and mental health impairments to better explain their care and mobility needs.

## Disability Living Allowance: East Midlands

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each constituency in the East Midlands receive the care component of disability living allowance at the higher rate. [238080]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The available information is in the table.

*Disability living allowance claimants in the midlands parliamentary constituencies receiving the care component at the highest rate May 2008*

| | Female | Male |
|---|---|---|
| Amber Valley | 610 | 580 |
| Ashfield | 700 | 710 |
| Bassetlaw | 660 | 630 |
| Blaby | 390 | 390 |
| Bolsover | 750 | 740 |
| Boston and Skegness | 650 | 610 |
| Bosworth | 420 | 400 |
| Broxtowe | 500 | 400 |
| Charnwood | 380 | 330 |
| Chesterfield | 720 | 730 |
| Corby | 510 | 530 |
| Daventry | 390 | 390 |
| Derby North | 530 | 540 |
| Derby South | 740 | 690 |
| Erewash | 550 | 530 |
| Gainsborough | 480 | 470 |
| Gedling | 440 | 510 |
| Grantham and Stamford | 450 | 450 |
| Harborough | 420 | 350 |
| High Peak | 500 | 440 |
| Kettering | 440 | 450 |
| Leicester East | 650 | 580 |
| Leicester South | 630 | 620 |
| Leicester West | 600 | 620 |
| Lincoln | 510 | 570 |
| Loughborough | 360 | 370 |
| Louth and Horncastle | 820 | 810 |
| Mansfield | 720 | 720 |
| Newark | 460 | 480 |
| North East Derbyshire | 580 | 540 |
| North West Leicestershire | 480 | 440 |
| Northampton North | 470 | 480 |
| Northampton South | 480 | 490 |
| Nottingham East | 590 | 630 |
| Nottingham North | 840 | 830 |
| Nottingham South | 560 | 540 |
| Rushcliffe | 400 | 380 |
| Rutland and Melton | 270 | 330 |
| Sherwood | 630 | 670 |
| Sleaford and North Hykeham | 560 | 520 |
| South Derbyshire | 600 | 670 |
| South Holland and The Deepings | 510 | 450 |
| Wellingborough | 460 | 490 |
| West Derbyshire | 410 | 380 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

## Disadvantaged: Clwyd

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps he has taken to assist vulnerable people in the Vale of Clwyd constituency; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of those measures. [234506]

**Mr. McNulty:** Following the modernisation of Jobcentre Plus services, greater emphasis has been placed on using technology to enable customers to access the services they require. However, it was recognised that some of the more vulnerable customers may need additional help and support.

With this in mind, Accessing Jobcentre Services (AJCS) rolled out in the North and Mid Wales District from 30 June 2008, and aims to provide help to those customers who need additional face-to-face support.

The Wrexham Benefit Delivery Centre gives priority support to vulnerable customers and, with more customers using the internet and telephone to access information, Jobcentre staff are able to focus on helping more customers into work whilst offering a bespoke service for more vulnerable customers.

Within the Vale of Clwyd, Rhyl Jobcentre Plus operates an electronic diary which is available for three hours daily for the Jobcentre, Benefit Delivery Centre or Social Fund to access and book appointments for vulnerable customers. The diary is monitored constantly and if it is identified that more appointment times are needed further spaces for that same day are made available. No vulnerable customer is told to come back the next day.

Identification of vulnerable customers is a decision made by local staff.

The Welsh Assembly is keen to undertake joint marketing campaigns with the local pension, disability and carers service—on top of the current Wales-wide "Keep well this winter" campaign which is already underway, including the hon. Member's constituency.

Pension, Disability and Carers Service are also planning a joint venture with the Commissioner for Older People for Wales to increase pensioner benefit take-up.

### Employers' Liability: East Midlands

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of companies in the East Midlands with invalid or insufficient liability insurance. [238668]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member's question of 29October 2007, *Official Report*, column 753W.

HSE remains unaware of any complaints in the east midlands concerned with deficiencies in ELCI policies. No successful prosecutions have been brought by HSE in the east midlands under the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 since the previous answer.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for employment and support allowance have been made since its inception, broken down by age group. [238386]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DWP will be publishing National Statistics on Employment and Support Allowance in the coming months.

### Employment Schemes

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received from local partnerships on collection of data for on and off flows of individuals in receipt of benefits and the targeting of partnership employment and skills programmes. [236641]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Department has received a number of representations from local partnerships to access more benefit data to help target employment and skills programmes more effectively. It is currently setting up a project steering group to agree the principles and, critically, security arrangements for data sharing; pilot areas where more data sharing can be tested; the methodology and timescale for sharing data to the pilot areas; and the evaluation criteria. The project outcomes will seek to inform the basis for the future sharing of data with local government and its partners to help more people into work.

### Home Responsibilities Protection

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of potential eligibility for Home Responsibilities Protection (HRP) he has so far identified in his scan of the National Insurance Recording System; how many of those have resulted in the successful award of HRP; what the value has been to date of such awards; when he expects to complete this project; and if he will make a statement. [230357]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* Our preliminary analysis suggests that somewhere in the region of 100,000 to 150,000 women may not be receiving their full entitlement to state pension because HRP has not been applied in the calculation of their state pension.

The Department and HM Revenue and Customs have undertaken a scan of NIRS to identify the potentially affected cases. Work on the exercise to correct affected cases is currently at the detailed planning stage. The Department aims to start the exercise early in 2009.

### Housing Benefit

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 17-18WS, on the Rent Officers Order, whether Cambridge is considered to be one of the localities where local consensus was not achieved with the consequence that its boundaries will now be reviewed. [238746]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Rent Service carried out routine reviews in 2006-07 that have resulted in fewer localities across the country as a whole. The vast majority of new boundaries were agreed by local authorities and our proposed amendments to the Rent Officers Order will enable the Rent Service to review the boundaries in those localities where consensus was not achieved. The Rent Service is committed to review 25 per cent. of all locality boundaries over a 12-month period. Cambridge will be one of the local authorities that will be reviewed following the amendments to the Rent Service Order.

### Housing Benefit: Pay Methods

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment has been made of the effects of paying housing benefit direct to tenants, with particular reference to the effects on the number of tenants defaulting on rental payments to their landlords. [238818]

**Kitty Ussher:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave my right hon. Friend the Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith) on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 260W.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* jobseeker's allowance have cited drug abuse as the primary reason for being unable to work in each of the last five years. [234555]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* Recipients of jobseeker's allowance are available for and actively seeking employment.

Drug dependency does not of itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits. The medical assessment of incapacity for work is the personal capability assessment. This assesses the effects of a person's condition on their ability to carry out a number of everyday activities relevant to work. A majority of people with a recorded diagnosis of drug dependency also have other diagnoses, for example mental illness, which results in their incapacity for work.

We do record the diagnosis of incapacity that is written on a claimant's medical certificate.

The following table shows the number of people receiving incapacity benefits whose recorded diagnosis includes drug dependency in each of the last five years.

| | 60 | Incapacity benefit (short-term lower rate) | Incapacity benefit (short-term higher rate) | Incapacity benefit (long-term) | Incapacity benefit credits | Severe disablement allowance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| February 2004 | 45,530 | 1,290 | 1,030 | 7,110 | 35,660 | 420 |
| February 2005 | 42,660 | 1,170 | 900 | 7,560 | 37,640 | 390 |
| February 2006 | 40,530 | 1,100 | 820 | 7,800 | 38,440 | 380 |
| February 2007 | 40,430 | 1,120 | 740 | 7,880 | 39,330 | 360 |
| February 2008 | 41,980 | 1,150 | 870 | 7,990 | 40,940 | 340 |

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

### Jobcentres

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobcentres he has visited in his official capacity since his appointment. [228393]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Secretary of State has visited six jobcentres since his appointment.

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Mentally Ill

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance who have a mental health condition. [230977]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]*: The information requested is not available.

### Members: Correspondence

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's correspondence of 1 April and subsequent letters of 23 May and 11 September on non-EU nationals attending sports events in the UK. [228833]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I have been asked to reply.

This correspondence has been replied to.

### National Insurance Contributions

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost of extending eligibility to buy back six additional years of national insurance contributions to those with *(a)* 20, *(b)* 15, *(c)* 10 and *(d)* five or more qualifying years; and if he will estimate the cost of such extension to all those born within the relevant time period, regardless of qualifying years. [233266]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 4 November 2008]*: The information available is presented in the following table:

*Estimated cost of allowing people reaching state pension age between April 2008 and April 2025 to pay class 3 contributions for an additional six years*

*Net costs less revenue (£ million, 2008-09 price terms)*

| Qualifying years required | 2040-41 | 2050-51 | 2040-41 | 2040-41 | 2050-51 | Net present value to 2050 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 years | 25 | 225 | 185 | 105 | 25 | 3,055 |
| 10 years | 90 | 90 | 75 | 40 | 10 | 1,180 |
| 15 years | 90 | 60 | 90 | 25 | 5 | 820 |
| 20 years | 90 | 40 | 95 | 20 | 5 | 585 |

Notes:
1. Estimates for net costs have been rounded to the nearest £5 million. Estimates for potential gainers have been rounded to the nearest thousand. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Estimates are based on a sample of national insurance records as at the end of the financial year 2003-04.
3. Estimates assume both state pension is uprated in line with earnings from April 2012.
4. People who fail the "25 per cent. rule" both before and after they have purchased six extra years are assumed not to purchase extra years.
5. Estimates assume that people buy additional class 3 national insurance contributions in whole years, even if less than 52 weeks of additional contributions are required to achieve a qualifying year. It is assumed that people buy these extra years when they reach state pension age.
6. Estimates assume that the option to buy extra years is available to everybody with a national insurance record and can be used to fill any deficient year between 1975 and state pension age as long as there is not a valid married women's reduced rate election in place.
7. Net present value calculated in line with the Green Book takes into account costs occurring before 2050, there may be small ongoing costs after this time.
8. Net costs are gross costs of higher basic state pension, less additional national insurance revenue raised, less income related benefit savings.
9. Estimates assume 20 per cent. take up the option.
10. Estimates take into account existing legislation only and do not take into account proposed measures in the current Pensions Bill.
11. Qualifying years include full years of home responsibilities protection.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to extend eligibility to buy back six additional years of national insurance contributions to those with less than 20 qualifying years; and if he will make a statement. [233267]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 4 November 2008]*: We have no plans to extend the proposal to allow eligible individuals to buy six additional years of voluntary class 3 national insurance contributions to those with fewer than 20 qualifying years (taking into account home responsibilities protection). This measure will help people, particularly women and carers, who are approaching state pension age but have earlier gaps in their national insurance records to improve their basic state pension.

### New Deal for Disabled People: Sight Impaired

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what specialist equipment is provided by Jobcentre Plus to make work placements arranged as part of the New Deal for Disabled People available to jobseeker's allowance claimants with visual impairment. [226151]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Jobseeker's allowance claimants do not have access to new deal for disabled people.

### New Deal Schemes: Complaints

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints his Department and its agencies have received in respect of *(a)* all New Deal providers and *(b)* the Shaw Trust in each of the last three years. [236218]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information requested is not available.

### Paul Barlow

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken by the Child Support Agency to resolve the case of Mr. Paul Barlow; and what steps the Agency plans to take to resolve the difficulties caused by the incorrect issue of a second liability order. [234510]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps are being taken by the Child Support Agency to resolve the case of Mr Paul Barlow; and what steps the Agency plans to take to resolve the difficulties caused by incorrect issuing of a second liability order. [234510]

As details about individual cases are confidential, I have written to you separately about this case.

### Pension Credit Public Expenditure

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the distribution by household income *(a)* quintile and *(b)* decile of his Department's expenditure arising from pension credit in each year for which figures are available. [198781]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Pension credit helps millions of older people. It ensures no pensioner aged 60 or over should have to live on less than £124.05 per week for a single person and £189.35 for a couple in 2008-09. Pension credit also rewards those aged 65 or over who have made modest provision for their retirement, up to £19.71 for a single person and £26.13 for a couple. Since pension credit was introduced in 2003 the number of pensioners in relative poverty has fallen by around 500,000 (after housing costs).

Pension credit expenditure was £5,971 m in 2004-05, £6,426 million in 2005-06 and £6,689 million in 2006-07. Information on the expenditure on pension credit by equivalised household income quintiles and deciles on an after housing cost basis is set out in the following table for available years. Estimates of pension credit expenditure by equivalised income quintile and deciles below are based on a three year average to help take account of small sample sizes in certain quintiles and deciles and statistical variation in expenditure by quintile across the years.

These figures are rounded to the nearest £50 million:

*Table 1: Expenditure on pension credit by equivalised income quintile based on pensioners only, Great Britain, 2004-05 to 2006-07*

| *2004-05 to 2006-07* | *£ million, after housing costs* |
|---|---|
| Bottom quintile | 1,800 |
| Second quintile | 1,500 |
| Third quintile | 1,150 |
| Fourth quintile | 1,500 |
| Top quintile | 450 |
| Total | 6,422 |

*Table 2: Expenditure on pension credit by equivalised income decile based on pensioners only, Great Britain, 2004-05 to 2006-07*

| *2004-05 to 2006-07* | *£ million, after housing costs* |
|---|---|
| Bottom decile | 600 |
| Second decile | 1,200 |
| Third decile | 900 |
| Fourth decile | 600 |
| Fifth decile | 600 |
| Sixth decile | 550 |
| Seventh decile | 800 |
| Eighth decile | 700 |
| Ninth decile | 350 |
| Top decile | 100 |
| Total | 6,422 |

Pension credit recipients within the top two quintiles would generally be expected to either have severe disabilities or be living within a wider household, such as that of a family member, in these circumstances the pensioner's income is assessed independently of the household to establish entitlement to pension credit.

The relatively low level of expenditure in the bottom decile is partly explained by pensioners in these deciles not taking up their benefit entitlement. We continue to strive to ensure people are aware of and claim their entitlement. The Pensions Disability and Carers Service use data matching to identify those likely to be entitled to pension credit and encourage them to make a claim.

The claim process is being made much simpler and more automatic and from October 2008 we are proposing to introduce a measure which will enable pensioners to claim housing benefit and council tax benefit with pension credit entirely over the phone without having to fill in and sign a claim form.

Each week the Pensions Disability and Carers Service is carrying out around 13,000 visits to help the more vulnerable pensioners with benefits. Since the introduction of pension credit the number of pensioners in relative poverty (measured by 60 per cent. of contemporary median income after housing costs) has fallen by around 500,000.

*Notes:*

1. Pension credit was introduced in October 2003. This means data are only available for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

2. All figures are shown in nominal terms (ie not adjusted for inflation). Family Resources Survey (FRS) data have been applied to administrative data to derive a split by decile/quintile. Estimates of Pension Credit expenditure by equivalised income decile are based on a three year average to help take account of small sample sizes in certain deciles/quintiles and statistical variation in expenditure by decile/quintile across the years.

3. Administrative data totals are available to the nearest £ million, while information based on survey data is presented rounded to the nearest £50 million.

4. FRS data are based on private households only, while the pension credit expenditure data cover all recipients.

5. Decile amounts may not sum to quintile amounts, because of rounding.

6. The Family Resources Survey is known to undercount receipt of certain benefits. This methodology assumes that this undercount is spread proportionally across deciles.

7. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series.

8. The quintiles and deciles are derived using OECD equivalisation factors.

## Pension Credit: Hemel Hempstead

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Hemel Hempstead residents have applied for pension credits since the scheme's inception. [234573]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** There have been 4,980 successful claims for Pension Credit in Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency, from its introduction to May 2008.

*Notes:*

1. Number of successful claims are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. On flows count the number of spells on this benefit that commenced within each quarter. It does not include flows where people have moved out of one area and into another while remaining on the benefit.

3. Pension credit was introduced on 6 October 2003.

*Source:*

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. Please note these statistics are experimental, still in development and should be treated with caution.

## Pension Disability and Carers Service: Occupational Pensions

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Pensions Service spent in making contributions to final salary pensions schemes in each of the last 10 years. [226175]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information was requested for the last 10 years, but data are only available from 2002-03, the year that The Pension Service was formed.

The Information is in the following table.

*Employer contribution for pension costs*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 25.343 |
| 2003-04 | 37.367 |
| 2004-05 | 36.331 |
| 2005-06 | 46.135 |
| 2006-07 | 46.519 |
| 2007-08 | 42.195 |

*Notes:*

1. The percentage to be applied to pensionable pay varies depending on the salary bands within The Pension Service. The salary bands were revised in 2007-08.

2. The above employer contributions exclude the pension costs arising from the termination of staff contracts associated with reductions in staffing levels and increases in operational efficiency. These costs were £12.459 million (2005-06), £2.984million (2006-07) and £36.121 million (2007-08).

3. Since 30 July 2007 new entrants have been joining the nuvos section of the PCSPS. This is not a final salary scheme. In pensions terminology this would normally be referred to as a Career Average or CARE scheme. Benefits are linked to salary throughout someone's career rather than their final earnings.

4. The increase in employer contributions between 2002-03 and 2003-04 reflects the increase in staffing needed to handle pension credit take-up.

## Pension, Disability and Carers Service: Standards

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what national targets have been set for the Pension Service; and what the performance of offices in Devon was in relation to those targets in 2007-08. [237936]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** From 1 April 2008 the Pension Service and the Disability and Carers Service merged to become a single agency, the Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS).

The information available is listed as follows:

*PDCS Performance Standards 2008-09*

Achieve an accuracy rate of 94 per cent. on decisions on claims for DLA

Achieve an accuracy rate of 94 per cent. on decisions on claims for AA

Achieve a financial accuracy rate of 98 per cent. on CA

Achieve an accuracy rate of 92 per cent. on Pension Credit new claims and changes of circumstances

Achieve an accuracy rate of 98 per cent. on State Pension new claims and change of circumstances

Clear new claims for DLA within an average of 38 days or less

Clear new claims for AA within an average of 16 days or less

Clear new claims for CA within an average of 13.5 days or less

Clear new claims for Pension Credit within an average of 15 days or less

Clear 95% of new claims for State Pension within 60 days or less

Achieve at least 250,000 successful new Pension Credit applications

Achieve a financial value of new Pension Credit applications of £767 million

Ensure that at least 93 per cent. of calls to our telephone service are answered by an adviser

Ensure that less than 1 per cent. of calls to our telephone service receive the engaged tone

The number of DLA/AA cases referred to Tribunal is to be no more than 4.5 per cent.

Achieve the customer satisfaction target of 82 per cent. of customers satisfied with the service provided by DLA/AA/CA

Reduce the cost of processing DLA/AA/CA benefits to £34.35

Reduce sick absence to no more than 8.2 average working days lost

We will undertake throughout the year, specified checks and other actions designed to prevent and detect fraud and correcting fraud and error in a minimum of 50,600 cases as a result.

*Note:*

The 2008-09 Performance standards are published in the Agency's Business Plan.

I am unable to answer the second part of your question as the PDCS does not have offices in Devon. Our work for Devonian customers is carried out in Swansea Pension Centre, but information available does not distinguish between Devonian and other customers served by Swansea.

## Pensioners: Income

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average income of pensioners in each household income *(a)* quintile and *(b)* decile was in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06. [198782]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2006-07". This annual report, which is a National Statistics publication, includes the numbers and proportions of pensioners with incomes below 50 per cent, 60 per cent and 70 per cent of median income and by quintile of the income distribution.

Information on the median equivalised income of pensioners in each household income quintile and decile over the period 2004-05 to 2006-07 is shown in the tables below. Median equivalised incomes are given rather than mean equivalised incomes as these are less influenced by extreme values. The Households Below Average Income publication also uses median rather than mean equivalised incomes. Distributions by equivalised income decile are based on a three year average to help take account of small sample sizes in certain deciles and statistical variation across the years.

These figures are based on sampling and estimates. Movements in data over short periods may be due to sampling error but over a longer period trends are useful. Incomes in 1996-99 are therefore included for reference. Particular caution is required when looking at the incomes of the lowest deciles as those households stating the lowest incomes to the Family Resources Survey may not actually have the lowest living standards. Many people who report very low incomes appear to have high spending.

Median equivalised income of pensioners in the bottom quintile increased by 36 per cent. between 1996-99 and 2004-07. Measures introduced by the Government since 1997 to help those on the lowest incomes include the introduction of the Minimum Income Guarantee and its successor Pension Credit and Winter Fuel Payments for those aged 60 and over. For 2009, we will raise the standard minimum guarantee to £130.00—an above indexation increase of £5.95. We will be making an additional payment for winter 2008-09 of £50 for households with someone aged 60-79 and £100 for those with someone aged 80 or over. And in addition to this the Government will make a payment in the new year of £60 for each pensioner, equivalent to bringing forward uprating of the basic State Pension from April to January.

*Table 1: Median weekly pensioner incomes by equivalised income quintile across pensioners only, United Kingdom, 1996-99 and 2004-07 (2006-07 prices, after housing costs)*

£

| | Bottom quintile | Second quintile | Middle quintile | Fourth quintile | Top quintile | Median income |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1996-99 | 122 | 155 | 212 | 292 | 466 | 212 |
| 2004-07 | 164 | 223 | 289 | 379 | 583 | 289 |

*Table 2: Median weekly pensioner incomes by equivalised income decile across pensioners only, United Kingdom, 1996-99 and 2004-07 (2006-07 prices, after housing costs)*

£

| | Bottom decile | Second decile | Third decile | Fourth decile | Fifth decile |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1996-99 | 103 | 131 | 146 | 168 | 197 |
| 2004-07 | 130 | 183 | 209 | 237 | 270 |

| | Sixth decile | Seventh decile | Eight decile | Ninth decile | Top decile | Median income |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1996-99 | 230 | 270 | 319 | 396 | 606 | 212 |
| 2004-07 | 308 | 354 | 411 | 503 | 747 | 289 |

*Notes:*
1. The information shown is for the United Kingdom for 2004-07, and Great Britain for 1996-99.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The income distribution is based on pensioners only.
4. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error.
5. This response includes incomes for the lowest deciles of the population. These figures are not national statistics and caution must be applied because those people stating the lowest incomes in the FRS may not actually have the lowest living standards.
6 The quintiles and deciles are derived using OECD equivalisation factors.
7. Weekly income amounts have been rounded to the nearest whole pound and are given in 2006-07 prices.

## Poverty: Children

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in Hemel Hempstead were living in absolute poverty in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008; and what percentage of all children living in absolute poverty this represented in each year. [238101]

**Kitty Ussher:** The information requested is not available.

Our child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the number of children in absolute poverty at Government office region level. Information is therefore not available at parliamentary constituency level.

## Social Fund

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many grants of *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* community care grants were made by Jobcentre Plus in each month of the last 10 years to applicants (i) of working age and in work, (ii) of working age and out of work and (iii) above state pension age. [226222]

**Kitty Ussher:** Information on initial awards to applicants of working age cannot be split into those in work and those out of work. The available information has been placed in the Library.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* community care grants were made to Jobcentre Plus in each month of the last 10 years to applicants (i) of working age and in work, (ii) of working age and out of work and (iii) above state pension age. [226223]

**Kitty Ussher:** Information on applications processed from people of working age cannot be split into those in work and those out of work. The available information has been placed in the Library.

### Social Security Benefits

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* research and *(b)* analysis his Department has conducted on rates of (i) sickness and (ii) disability benefit claims in (A) coastal towns and (B) principal seaside towns in comparison with average rates for the UK; and if he will make a statement. [238297]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We have not conducted any research or analysis about the rates of sickness and disability benefit claims in coastal towns and principal seaside towns in comparison with rates for the rest of the UK.

### Social Security Benefits: Reform

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the White Paper on welfare reform will be published. [237839]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* We are currently considering responses to the formal consultation on the Green Paper 'No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility'. The consultation ended on 22 October and we will respond as soon as possible.

### State Retirement Pensions

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of people who would be affected by an increase in the state pension age to 70 by 2020. [231830]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Anyone born after 5 April 1959 will be affected by the further increase in state pension age from 65 to 68 between 2024 and 2046. This increase is broadly in line with projected increases in average life expectancy and is a sensible response to the demographic challenge we face today. At the same time, it maintains at a roughly constant level the same proportion of adult life spent in retirement.

It would not be feasible to increase state pension age to 70 by 2020 without giving those affected sufficient notice, particularly those within 10 years of the equalised state pension age of 65. The number of people affected would depend on how and when the increase was to be implemented and the cohorts of future pensioners it was to apply to.

### Vocational Training: South Yorkshire

**Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which industries have been allocated employment training funding in *(a)* South Yorkshire, *(b)* Rotherham and *(c)* Barnsley in each of the last five years. [231318]

**Mr. McNulty:** The requested information is not available.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer question 229579 tabled by the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire on 23 October 2008, on restarting of child maintenance payments. [236054]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1302W.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Bankruptcy: Greater London

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1122W, on bankruptcy: Greater London, if he will provide equivalent information for *(a)* 1979, *(b)* 1992, *(c)* 1997 and *(d)* each of the first two quarters of 2008. [237450]

**Mr. McFadden:** The information requested is not available. The number of bankrupt individuals broken down by age and separately by region is only available from 2000 to 2007, and equivalent figures for 2008 will be available in 2009.

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what sanctions are available in cases of departmental staff found to have committed disciplinary offences; and how many times each has been used in each of the last three years. [230199]

**Mr. McFadden:** The current sanctions available in cases of departmental staff found to have committed disciplinary offences are as follows:

1. Formal Warning
2. Final written warning
3. Downgrading or Dismissal

The Department's procedures were revised in June 2007. Prior to June 2007, as part of the disciplinary process, other sanctions were also available depending on circumstances.

The following table how many times each sanction was used in each of the last three years.

| | *2006* | *2007* | *2008 to date* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Formal/Final Warning | 8 | 2 | 2 |
| Dismissal | 7 | 9 | 6 |
| Other | 14 | 24 | — |

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons his Department's annual report was published on the penultimate sitting day of Parliament before the summer recess. [223895]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform publishes a combined annual report and accounts. The deadline for publication of combined departmental annual reports and accounts is summer recess.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1125W, on departmental training, what the *(a)* duration and *(b)* cost was of the training received by the Secretary of State. [238430]

**Mr. McFadden:** The training lasted under an hour and was delivered from within existing internal resources at marginal cost.

### Energy Supply: Competition

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Ofgem and *(b)* the Competition Commission on the operation of the energy market; and if he will make a statement. [224255]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met with the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority on 22 May 2008. Furthermore, on 18 August 2008 he wrote to Ofgem asking for their views on the possibility of requiring the accounting separation of vertically integrated energy companies in order to improve transparency in the energy markets.

My right hon. Friend has had no recent meetings with the Competition Commission on the operation of the energy market.

### Energy: Coatbridge

**Mr. Tom Clarke:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people in Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill constituency are living in fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [225961]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not hold this information. Fuel poverty is a devolved responsibility, and while we compile estimates of fuel poverty at an overall UK level, collection of statistics for each country is undertaken by each devolved office.

### EU External Trade

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions the Secretary of State has had with the EU Commissioner for Trade since his appointment; and what matters were discussed. [235158]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Secretary of State met the EU Commissioner for Trade on 14 October 2008 for a general handover of the Trade Commissioner's portfolio and on 24 November 2008 for a general discussion of trade issues.

### Fireworks: Children

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce the risk of children having access to fireworks. [234758]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 12 November 2008]:* The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) undertakes annual communication activity to promote firework safety.

This year's campaign highlights the fact that it is illegal for under 18s to possess fireworks in a public place, and specifically targets shopkeepers reminding them that it is illegal to sell fireworks to under 18s.

### Fireworks: Safety

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps the Government has taken to publicise the dangers of fireworks. [234757]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 12 November 2008]:* The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) undertakes annual communication activity to promote firework safety. This year's activity comprised:

Regional public relations (PR) activity working closely with Fire and Rescue Services, managed by the Central Office of Information (COI) News and PR.

National and Trade PR activity, managed by BERR Press Office and Media Features Teams.

Printing and distribution of pre-existing marketing materials (information leaflets and posters).

Hosting of a dedicated section on fireworks on BERR's website www.berr.gov.uk/fireworks

Promotion and distribution of existing fireworks TV and radio fillers by COI.

### Fisheries: Compensation

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to complete his review of cases in the Icelandic Fishermen's Compensation Scheme; and when he expects to pay those people ruled by the Ombudsman to be eligible for payment but not yet paid. [225553]

**Mr. McFadden:** I have been looking in recent months at the eligibility criteria and rules of the trawlermen scheme, to see whether changes to the rules might better fulfil the policy intentions of the scheme. I hope to make a statement shortly.

### Fuel Poverty

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of fuel poor households in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [223652]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

Most recent figures show that there were approximately 2.5 million households in fuel poverty in the UK in 2005. This is around 4 million fewer than in 1996, but represents an increase of 0.5 million households since 2004, reflecting the impact of rising energy prices on fuel poverty. The following table shows estimated numbers of households in fuel poverty in each of the recently available years for both England and the UK:

*Level of fuel poverty*

| | *Total in millions of households* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *UK* | *England* |
| 1996 | 6.5 | 5.1 |
| 1998 | 4.75 | 3.4 |
| 2001 | 2.5 | 1.7 |
| 2002 | 2.25 | 1.4 |
| 2003 | 2 | 1.2 |
| 2004 | 2 | 1.2 |
| 2005 | 2.5 | 1.5 |
| 2006 | 3.5 | 2.4 |

## Home Computing Initiative

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which companies participated in the home computing initiative; when each company *(a)* joined and *(b)* left the initiative; what the remit of each company was; and on what commercial terms they became part of the initiative. [235149]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department did not require this level of detail. However,

*(a)* The Office of Fair Trading have a paper record of 2,375 companies that applied to be members of the HCI Group Licence. A copy of the list of companies will be placed in the Library of each House. HCI Alliance records show that 1,265 employers actually implemented HCI schemes (These records are confidential).

*(b)* No companies left the initiative. They simply could not transact "new" schemes with Income Tax and Class 1 NIC benefits after April 2006. Schemes running prior to April 2006 were not affected by the removal of s320 benefits. All schemes in the market providing income tax benefit, will cease in 2009.

The remit of each company was to provide a worthwhile benefit to staff and their families, to promote IT skills and thus to retain staff.

The commercial terms were a matter for companies providing HCI schemes and their clients.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* laptops and *(b)* items of software were leased to families as part of the home computing initiative; and on what terms they were leased. [235150]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department did not require this level of detail on how many *(a)* people or *(b)* families were leased laptops and software as part of the HCI. However, figures supplied by The Digital Inclusion Technology Group (DITG) estimate that 400,000 PCs were loaned through the scheme, with a split of (i) 60 per cent. were laptop/40 per cent. desktop, (ii) software was preloaded and is therefore included in this figure.

The terms they were leased on, where a matter for employers providing they conformed within the necessary guidance provided by HMRC and OFT.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* people and *(b)* families were leased (i) laptops and (ii) software as part of the home computing initiative. [235152]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department did not require this level of detail on how many *(a)* people or *(b)* families were leased laptops and software as part of the HCI. However, figures supplied by The Digital Inclusion Technology Group (DITG) estimate that 400,000 PCs were loaned through the scheme, with a split of (i) 60 per cent. were laptop/40 per cent. desktop, (ii) Software was preloaded and is therefore included in this figure.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment was made of the effectiveness of the home computing initiative in each year between 1999 and 2006. [235153]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Office of e-Envoy had policy responsibility for The Home Computing Initiative (HCI) between 1999 and 2004. Responsibility for HCI Policy was transferred to this Department in January 2004.

From 2004 and up to the removal of the 1999 tax break in 2006, the Department met regularly with HMT, OFT and the HCI Alliance (BT, Intel and Microsoft) to monitor progress. A core part of this Department's contribution to the project was the production of an information pack which made the guidance material easier to understand for employers and employees wishing to take part in the scheme.

Our assessment indicated that the Home Computer Initiative had been successful in reaching those in employment. However, it was not reaching those who were not working and Government wanted to refocus its resources to support groups with the poorest access to technology such as the unemployed, elderly, disabled and low-income groups. Consequently the tax exemption was removed.

Since the demise of 1999 Tax exemption, Government have launched the Home Access Programme—The programme aims to ensure that every learner in England (five to 19 years old and in maintained education) has access to increased educational opportunities via ICT resources at home. The programme is led by the Home Access Taskforce and chaired by the Minister for Schools and Learners, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Dorset (Jim Knight).

The Secretary of State for Wales and Minister with responsibility for digital inclusion, my right hon. Friend the Member for Torfaen (Mr. Murphy) recently launched the cross Government consultation paper "Delivering Digital Inclusion—An Action Plan for Consultation". The action plan seeks to provide a framework for achieving greater digital equality within the UK, through both immediate actions and a number of proposals put forward for wider consultation.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the estimated *(a)* total, *(b)* start up, *(c)* monthly running and *(d)* wind up costs to the public purse were of the home computing initiative. [235157]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Home Computing Initiative was started up with a mixture of Government and Industry contributions. The Office of the e-Envoy led the project in conjunction with industry partners from the HCI Alliance (BT, Intel and Microsoft). The only costs to Government were our initial start up contribution of £370,000 + staff resources.

Memoranda of understanding between the Office of the e-Envoy and each key partner and Department was drawn up and agreed in November 2003, formalising each organisation's commitment.

It was agreed that Government's objective was to produce and distribute information packs, promoting the availability of the 1999 tax break, help industry create a website, and arrange a joint industry—Government launch event on 26 January 2004 supported by PR activity as well as promote the benefits of use of ICT.

*(c)* Monthly running costs were met by the HCI Alliance and this Department does not hold this information.

*(d)* There were no winds up costs for Government as HCI schemes were run by Industry (HCI Alliance), not Government. Home Computing Initiative Schemes (HCD were not Government schemes.

### Intellectual Property: Internet

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with Ofcom on negotiations over the codes of practice relating to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between rights owners and internet service providers. [238353]

**Mr. McFadden:** None. The memorandum work is progressing along the lines laid down in the actual memorandum of understanding. The codes of practice will be addressed in the new year once the current work on the notification trial and the report on possible technical measures have been completed. We recognise that the memorandum of understanding raises challenging questions for all parties, but we expect there to be broad engagement across relevant sectors on the codes of practice to be developed in the course of this process.

### Low Pay: Bolton

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female workers in Bolton North East constituency receive wages at the national minimum rate. [222832]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* Information on earnings is taken from the ONS' Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) dataset for 2007. Information for individual parliamentary constituencies is not readily available in the ASHE dataset, however, information is available on a government office region basis.

The following table shows the number of males and females paid at or below the national minimum wage as set on 1 October 2006 for the north west government region in 2007. Also shown are the number of males and females paid at or below 10 pence over the NMW threshold.

| | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| At or below NMW | 38,000 | 65,000 | 104,000 |
| At or below NMW +10p | 49,000 | 91,000 | 140,000 |

*Note:*
National Minimum Wage levels 1 October 2006:
16 to 17-year-old = £3.30
Development rate (18 to 21-year-olds) = £4.45
Adult rate (aged 22+) = £5.35
*Source:*
ASHE 2007

### Office of Gas and Electricity Markets: Gyms

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the annual running costs have been of the gymnasium used by staff at the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets in each year between 2003 and 2007. [225049]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I have been asked to reply.

The gymnasium at 9 Millbank is funded by licence revenues and membership subscriptions, and not from the public purse.

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many Office of Gas and Electricity Markets staff have membership of the gymnasium at 9 Millbank, London, paid for from the public purse. [225201]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I have been asked to reply.

None. The gymnasium at 9 Millbank is funded through licence fee income and member subscriptions, and not through the public purse.

Total membership, which is principally made up of staff from Ofgem, DEFRA and contractors, is currently 284.

### Parental Leave: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* mothers claimed statutory paid maternity leave and *(b)* men claimed statutory paid paternity leave in Crosby constituency in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [236682]

**Mr. McFadden:** Information on the take-up of paid maternity and paternity leave is not centrally available by constituency.

A new mother must take a minimum of two weeks' leave after the birth of her child. The most recent estimates of take-up of paid maternity leave are based on the Maternity Rights and mothers' employment decisions in Britain: Survey of Mothers, conducted in 2007. The survey found 88 per cent. of new mothers took at least some paid statutory maternity leave.

The most recent estimates of take-up of paternity leave are based on the Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits in Britain: Survey of Parents, conducted in 2005. The survey found 93 per cent. of fathers surveyed took some time off around the time of the birth. Of the fathers who took time off, 79 per cent. took at least some paid statutory paternity leave. The Government estimate that around 400,000 fathers are eligible for the entitlement.

### Regional Planning and Development: Finance

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent in each regional development agency area on *(a)* rural, *(b)* urban and *(c)* coastal communities in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [238657]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department does not record expenditure as requested in the question. Furthermore, to separate out these data would incur disproportionate cost.

### Renewable Energy

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the written statement of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 79WS, on the EU Energy Council, whether the UK is classified as a country with potentially expensive domestic renewables resources; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the UK/Germany/Poland proposal. [224890]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I have been asked to reply.

The UK could be considered as a country with potentially expensive renewable resources—some of our sources of renewable energy (e.g. wind power) are relatively expensive compared with some of those (e.g. biomass, hydro) which are more readily available in many other member states.

I will place a copy of the UK/Germany/Poland proposal in the Library as requested.

### Rescue Services: Telecommunications

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) if he will hold discussions with Ofcom about *(a)* the pricing of radio licences and *(b)* the effect on the operations of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution of changes in licence costs; [236552]

(2) if he will make it his policy to ensure that the Royal National Lifeboat Institution pay a reduced rate for radio licences; and if he will make a statement. [236553]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The pricing of radio licences is a matter for the independent regulator, Ofcom.

Ofcom has recently consulted on the application of Administered Incentive Pricing (AIP) to maritime and aeronautical uses of the radio spectrum. This is in line with agreed policy that users should pay a market rate for the use of spectrum, with the intention of incentivising more efficient use of an increasingly scarce resource.

Charities such as the RNLI already benefit from a discount under existing arrangements and Ofcom have announced that under the new proposals they estimate that RNLI would pay under £20,000 for radio use, that is lower than they currently pay now.

### Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many successful applications to the Small Firms Loan Guarantee were valued at *(a)* £5,000 to £20,000, *(b)* £20,001 to £50,000, *(c)* £50,001 to £100,000, *(d)* £100,001 to £150,000, *(e)* £150,001 to £200,000 and *(f)* £200,001 to £250,000 in each of the last five years. [229010]

**Ian Pearson:** The following table sets out the number of loans by value made under the Government's Small Firms Loan Guarantee in the last five full calendar years.

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| £5,000 - £20,000 | 717 | 816 | 623 | 245 | 193 |
| £20,001 - £50,000 | 1,994 | 2,720 | 2,743 | 1,158 | 969 |
| £50,001 - £100,000 | 1,713 | 2,499 | 2,584 | 1,242 | 948 |
| £100,001 - £150,000 | 373 | 450 | 483 | 467 | 367 |
| £150,001 - £200,000 | 147 | 204 | 216 | 159 | 134 |
| £200,001 - £250,000 | 223 | 210 | 194 | 159 | 136 |
| Total | 5,167 | 6,899 | 6,843 | 3,430 | 2,747 |

Direct year-on-year comparisons would not be appropriate because of changes to the operation and delivery of SFLG during this period, including as a result of the implementation of the Graham Review changes in 2005, which created distinct versions of the scheme.

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many successful applications under the Small Firms Loan Guarantee were submitted in the *(a)* North West, *(b)* North East, *(c)* Midlands, *(d)* South West, *(e)* South East and *(f)* London in each of the last five years. [229011]

**Ian Pearson:** The breakdown of SFLG loans made to businesses within each of the English regions for each of the last five financial years is set out in the following table.

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North West | 628 | 743 | 605 | 300 | 328 |
| North East | 179 | 236 | 229 | 125 | 110 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 447 | 565 | 494 | 217 | 186 |
| West Midlands | 498 | 676 | 535 | 244 | 251 |
| East Midlands and East of England | 942 | 1,162 | 925 | 391 | 399 |
| London and South East | 1,441 | 2,067 | 1,810 | 846 | 691 |
| South West | 642 | 748 | 570 | 212 | 212 |

Direct year-on-year comparisons would not be appropriate because of changes to the operation and delivery of SFLG during this period, including as a result of the implementation of the Graham Review changes in 2005, which created distinct versions of the scheme.

### Tour Operators: EC Action

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the operation of the EU Package Travel Directive; and if he will make a statement. [230409]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department has pressed the European Commission to review the Directive (90/314/EEC). This process is underway and this Department will continue to engage the Commission as this work progresses. At

the UK's suggestion, the Commission is currently undertaking consumer research in respect of leisure travel arrangements not currently within the scope of the directive in order that any future proposals should be properly evidence-based. We expect proposals to be published by the end of 2009.

### Trade: Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government is taking to promote trade between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the United Kingdom. [231758]

**Mr. Thomas:** Hong Kong is one of the UK's most important business partners in the Asia Pacific region. This year there have been ministerial and VIP visits to promote the bilateral trade and investment relationship by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary (February), and my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, my right hon. Friend the Member for Barrow and Furness (Mr. Hutton) (June), and the Lord Mayor of London (July).

Her Majesty's Consul General and the UK Trade and Investment team actively support British business in Hong Kong including practical market entry assistance, market research and support on trade missions and trade fairs. The Consulate General's premises are also regularly used to host events for British companies. The UK Trade and Investment team in Hong Kong are also working with their colleagues in Mainland China and the China Britain Business Council to provide British companies with integrated trade services covering Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta.

Alongside mainland China, Hong Kong is included in UKTI's High Growth Markets Programme.

In addition UKTI is working closely with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council through the Hong Kong/UK Business Partnership to identify and deliver increased bilateral trade opportunities.

### UK Trade and Investment: Public Appointments

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2147W, on UK trade and investment: public appointments, what the salary of the head of the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation is. [227137]

**Mr. Thomas:** The salary paid to HDSO is in the range of £195,000 to £200,000. Full details of his remuneration will be published in the UKTI Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 alongside those of UKTI's senior management.

### UK Trade and Investment: Secondment

**David Taylor:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many secondments from the private sector to the Defence and Security Organisation of UK Trade and Investment there have been since its creation. [238398]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* No secondments from the private sector have been made to the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation since its creation on 1 April 2008.

### Unfair Practices: Sales

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 727W, on unfair practices: sales, what definition of a consumer for the purposes of protection from unfair trading his Department uses. [233959]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008, which implement the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive, define a consumer as "any individual who in relation to a commercial practice is acting for purposes which are outside his trade, business, craft or profession".

### Wind Power

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to announce his decision on the application by Npower Renewables for consent for the development of the Gwynt y Mor wind farm under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. [224508]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

I will do so shortly.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Adult Education

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many learner places classified as adult learner responsive *(a)* were funded by the Learning and Skills Council in each of the last five years and *(b)* will be funded by the Learning and Skills Council in each of the next three years. [230753]

**Mr. Simon:** Our planned and continuing strategy has been to prioritise funding away from a high number of shorter and low quality courses towards longer courses that offer the greatest opportunity to gain employability skills and further progression in learning.

Total adult (aged 19 or over) further education learner places funded through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for the last five academic years for which data are available are shown in the following table:

*LSC-funded FE adult learners 2002/03 to 2006/07*

*Million*

| | *2002/03* | *2003/04* | *2004/05* | *2005/06* | *2006/07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Learner numbers | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 2.9 | 2.1 |

*Source:*
LSC Statistical First Release

The forecast learner places supported through the adult learner responsive route for the next three academic years are shown in the following table.

Planned volumes for 2007/08 are also included here, as final figures for this year are not yet available:

*LSC-funded adult learners through the adult learner responsive route 2007/08 to 2010/11*

*Million*

| | *2007/08* | *2008/09* | *2009/10* | *2010/11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total learners | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.3 |

*Source:*
LSC Grant Letter 2008/09

These figures are for planning purposes only, and do not include learning activity that is fully funded by the learner or other non LSC funding routes. We are currently working on the LSC Grant Letter and Statement of Priorities for 2009-10 which will set confirm the investment strategy for 2009-10 and associated learner numbers.

Learner places have been classified as either adult learner responsive or employer responsive since the publication of the LSC Grant Letter for 2008/09. It is therefore not possible to directly compare pre-2008/09 data with post-2008/09 data.

**Adult Education: North West**

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which institutions form part of the North West's lifelong learning network. [235918]

**Mr. Simon:** The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is responsible for managing the Lifelong Learning Network (LLN) programme. There are five Lifelong Learning Networks in the north-west: Cheshire and Warrington, Cumbria Higher Learning, Lancashire, Greater Merseyside and West Lancashire. These LLNs have received over £15 million of HEFCE funding. The following institutions are involved in the five LLNs in the north-west region:

*Cheshire and Warrington (now ended funding period)*

University of Chester
Edge Hill University
Manchester Metropolitan University
University of Liverpool
Macclesfield College
Mid-Cheshire College of Further Education
Reaseheath College
South Cheshire College
West Cheshire College
Warrington Collegiate Institute
Burton upon Trent Technical College

*Cumbria Higher Learning*

Carlisle College
Furness College
Kendal College
Lakes College
Lancaster University
Open University
University of Cumbria
University of Central Lancashire

*Greater Manchester Strategic Alliance*

Open University
Royal Northern College of Music
University of Bolton
Manchester Metropolitan University
University of Manchester
University of Salford
Bolton College
Bury College
City College, Manchester
Hopwood Hall College
Manchester College of Arts and Technology
North Trafford College of Further Education
Oldham College
Salford College
South Trafford College
Stockport College
Tameside College
Wigan and Leigh College
Holy Cross College
Pendleton College
Ashton-under-Lyne Sixth Form College
Eccles College
Xaverian College
St John Rigby Roman Catholic Sixth Form College
Aquinas College

*Greater Merseyside and West Lancashire*

Birkenhead VI Form College
Blackburn House Group
Carmel College
Edge Hill University
Hugh Baird College
King George V College
Knowsley Community College
Liverpool Community College
The Open University
Riverside College Halton
Skelmersdale and Ormskirk Colleges
Southport College
St. Helens College
St. John Rigby College
University of Liverpool
Wirral Met College

*Lancashire*

The University of Central Lancashire (lead)
The University of Cumbria
Edge Hill University
Lancaster University
The Open University in the North West Colleges:
Accrington and Rossendale College
Blackburn College
Blackpool and the Fylde College
Burnley College
Lancaster and Morecombe College
Myerscough College
Nelson and Colne College
Preston College
Runshaw College
Southport College
St Mary's College Blackburn
Skelmersdale and Ormskirk Colleges

**Departmental Internet**

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills for which Government websites his Department is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [235042]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created in June 2007. The current website was created in October 2007 and no visitor figures prior to October 2007 are available. The cost of maintaining

the Department's corporate site was £104,336 in 2007-08 with 494,596 unique visitors to the site October 2007-March 2008.

The following websites became the responsibility of the Department in June 2007 and their visitor figures and maintenance costs for the full 2007-08 period are available.

| | *Unique visitors to site 2007-08* | *Costs of maintaining the site 2007-08 (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| The Intellectual Property Office (www.ipo.gov.uk) | 2,412,800 | 130,858 |
| RoHS Enforcement (www.rohs.gov.uk) | 485,593 | 9,261 |
| Foresight (www.foresight.gov.uk) | 124,276 | 78,576 |
| The National Weights and Measures Laboratory (www.nwml.gov.uk) | 270,628 | 12,791 |
| www.innovation.gov.uk | 72,280 | 26,000 |
| British National Science Centre (www.bnsc.gov.uk) | [1] | |

[1] Full data not available

**Departmental Land**

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much surplus land *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies own; and what the (i) area and (ii) estimated monetary value of each site is. [236421]

**Mr. Simon:** Neither the Department nor its agencies own any surplus land.

**Departmental Older Workers**

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people recruited by his Department in 2007-08 were aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years; and what percentage this represented of the number of new recruits in each case. [235238]

**Mr. Simon:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 280W.

**Departmental Postal Services**

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department uses Royal Mail as the primary company for sending its post, parcels and packages. [238319]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department's postal services are provided through the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. In both cases, the majority of DIUS's external post, parcels and packages are dispatched via Royal Mail (including Parcelforce).

**Departmental Television**

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether the television licence fee in his official Ministerial residence is paid for from public funds. [235343]

**Mr. Simon:** Ministers in the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills do not have the use of an official ministerial residence.

**Departmental Training**

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [238954]

**Mr. Simon:** None.

**Departmental Written Questions**

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many questions for written answer were tabled to his Department in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235391]

**Mr. Simon:** The numbers of written parliamentary questions received by this Department in each session since it was formed on 28 June 2007 are shown in the following table:

| *Session* | *Total number of written parliamentary questions tabled* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 511 |
| 2007-08 (to date) | 1,942 |

Information on how many questions received a substantive answer or were not answered on disproportionate cost grounds is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Engineering Workforce Development Scheme: Crosby**

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many workers in Crosby constituency have received training under the Engineering Workforce Development Scheme since its inception. [236680]

**Mr. Lammy:** Following extensive inquiries with a wide range of regional partners including the Northwest Regional Development Agency, it has not been possible to identify the engineering workforce development scheme in Crosby. If my hon. Friend wishes to write to me separately with more detail about the scheme, I will endeavour to provide the information requested.

**English Language: General Certificate of Secondary Education**

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of over-16 year-olds who do not have a grade C or above in English at GCSE or an equivalent qualification. [224566]

**Mr. Simon:** The Skills for Life survey in 2003 estimated the literacy and numeracy levels and functional ability of adults in England. The Skills for Life survey reported that 10 per cent. of adults aged 16 to 65 achieved a D-G grade in English Language. Half of the respondents in

the 2003 survey (51 per cent.) had a grade A*- C GCSE (or equivalent) in this subject and the rest (40 per cent .) did not have this qualification.

Since we launched our SfL strategy in 2001, more than 2.25 million people have improved their literacy and numeracy skills meeting our 2010 PSA target more than two years early.

**Further Education: Debts**

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the level of total debt taken out by further education colleges at commercial rates of interest has been in each year since 2001. [235330]

**Mr. Simon:** Information on the level of debt taken out by further education (FE) colleges is not held at departmental level. The financial position of FE colleges is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The LSC's chief executive, Mark Haysom, will write to the hon. Member for Havant with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**Languages: Further Education**

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress he has made towards the implementation of Lord Justice Auld's recommendation that the Government should consider central funding of further education establishments to equip them, where necessary, to provide courses for lesser known languages for the Diploma in Public Service Interpreting; and if he will make a statement. [239011]

**Mr. Simon:** I would like to refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 24 November, *Official Report*, column 1029W.

**Learning and Skills Council for England**

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of the Learning and Skills Council budget is allocated to *(a)* Gwent and *(b)* Wales. [239008]

**Mr. Simon:** The Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) [illegible]t is to provide funding for England only. The Welsh [illegible]bly is responsible for Learning and Skills in Wales. [illegible]er section 12 of the Further Education and Training Act 2007, the LSC may take part in arrangements in relation to Wales and Scotland to assist in the training for employment opportunities, subject to the consent of the Secretary of State and the Welsh Ministers. This has allowed Wales to participate in the Career Development Loan Scheme. Approximately 4 per cent. of the Career Development Loans scheme is allocated to Wales, this equates to £947,000. No figures are available for Gwent.

**National Vocational Qualifications: Horse Riding**

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much funding the Government will allocate for horse riding and horse care national vocational qualifications in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement; [238471]

(2) what public funds were made available for national vocational qualifications in horse riding and horse care in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 . [238472]

**Mr. Simon:** As announced through the Government's Grant Letter to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) on 18 November, funding for adult learning will be £3.3 billion in 2009-10, an increase of 4.2 per cent. compared with 2008-09.

Colleges and providers are given indicative budgets based on the expected delivery of an overall volume of learning; the actual funding paid will depend on the choice of learning area made by employers and learners. As funding is not allocated at an individual course level, details of the amount made available to support these specific qualifications are not held centrally in the Department.

However, the LSC are able to provide a breakdown of funds directed towards specific qualifications in past years. I have asked Mark Haysom, chief executive of the LSC, to write out detailing how much was spent on NVQs in horse riding and horse care in 2006-07 and 2007-08. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library. It is not possible, however, for any estimate to be given of future funding, since investment from the LSC in specific qualifications comes only in response to demand from learners and employers.

All the sector skills councils (Lantra, for equine studies) are working to develop sector qualifications strategies. These identify the training and skills needs of their sector, and the qualifications that best meet these needs. Public funding for vocational qualifications will increasingly be focused on those qualifications that are deemed a priority for and by particular sectors.

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether he has plans further to develop the national vocational qualifications for horse riding and horse care. [238473]

**Mr. Simon:** Sector Skills Councils lead in identifying and driving the development, with awarding bodies, of vocational qualifications which are really needed by their sectors and will best meet the needs of employers and learners.

**Performance Appraisal**

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235220]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department was created on 28 June 2007. The Department's own performance process was introduced this year but will not trigger any reports, including those judged to be unacceptable, until March 2009. Analysis of performance markings using the legacy Department's processes for 2008 is expected to be complete by January 2009.

**Plain English**

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many documents produced by his Department have been submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status since his Department's creation; in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231120]

**Mr. Simon:** DIUS was formed following machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007. DIUS publications are produced by many policy teams who use different suppliers and we do not have a central record of how many have sort approval for Crystal Mark status or how many achieved that status. The information requested can therefore be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

However, DIUS shares editorial services with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and therefore only uses editors on the DCSF framework. While there is no requirement in the shared services protocol for documents to be submitted to the Plain English Campaign, all editors on the DCSF framework are made aware of the importance of writing in plain English as stated in the role definition for editors:

"It is our aim to produce products which are informative, accessible and written in plain English. Each product needs to be tailored to its respective audience, both in terms of design and content."

The Department also uses the Central Office of Information (COI) who project manage key DIUS publications. COI has confirmed that

"all COI publications editors are trained and able to write in clear English (which) is about writing in a style that is clear, relevant, appropriate and easy for the intended audience to use, understand and act upon the first time they read it."

The Department also uses the Further Education Communications Gateway panel (FECG), which defines and promotes standards for producing good quality communications for the FE System. The FECG panel currently reviews proposals for and drafts of new DIUS, DCSF and LSC publications that are intended primarily for providers in the FE system and have through this work developed publishing guidelines.

**Pre-school Education: Qualifications**

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much on average it cost *(a)* his Department to provide and *(b)* a student to complete an NVQ level 3 course in child care in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to employers per employee taking such a course in that period. [233627]

**Mr. Simon:** All qualifications that receive public funding through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), including NVQ level 3 qualifications, are funded at a national rate. This rate is based on the number of hours required to complete the course and a national fee assumption of the amount that either the learner or employer will contribute to the cost of the course, where full fee remission does not apply. For 2008-09, the national fee assumption is 42.5 per cent.

While the national fee assumption is taken into account in the calculation of funding rates, it is for colleges and providers to determine the actual level of fee charged. Where a learner is aged 19-25 and studying for their first full level 3 qualification, they will pay no fee where their qualification is delivered through the adult learner-responsive route or through Train to Gain.

The actual amount of funding that an individual college or provider receives to deliver an NVQ level 3 qualification may vary, due to the application of a provider factor. The provider factor takes account of, for example, costs arising from delivering to learners from disadvantaged areas, and the costs related to delivering specific types of course.

I have asked Mark Haysom, the chief executive of the LSC, to write detailing the cost of NVQ level 3 qualifications in child care for the 2008-09 academic year. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**Research: Finance**

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which international research facilities receive funding from the EU budget. [238878]

**Mr. Simon:** The following research facilities include non EU Members, and receive funding from the EU budget: CERN, the Institut Laue-Langevin and the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility. The European Union does not provide recurrent funding for any of these facilities but has provided funding in response to competitive bids to the EC such as through the Euratom or framework programmes.

In addition, ITER (the International Tokomak Experimental Reactor) is in the process of being built at Cadarache in France. The European Union framework programme provides 36 per cent. of the funding for ITER.

**Students: Income**

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the average gross annual employment income of *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time undergraduate students who undertook paid work in the last academic year for which figures are available. [238877]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Student Income and Expenditure Survey (SIES) is a comprehensive study of students' income, expenditure, borrowing and debt. The 2004-05 study showed that 56 per cent. of full-time and 83 per cent. of part-time undergraduate students undertook paid work at some time during the academic year—either during term time, during the short vacations or both. For those undertaking such work, their net earnings (after tax) were on average £3,250 for full-time and £10,390 part time students. Gross earnings are not available.

The 2007-08 Student Income and Expenditure Survey will be published in early 2009.

**Train to Gain Programme**

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people living in the Vale of York have participated in Train to Gain in each of the last three years. [238069]

**Mr. Simon:** There were 190 people living in the parliamentary constituency of the Vale of York who started a Train to Gain programme in 2006-07.

*Notes:*

1. Train to Gain was created in April 2006. Standard reporting practice is to include the months of April to July 2006 in the 2006-07 academic year. The figure of 190 therefore covers Train to Gain starts over a 16 month period.

2. Fully audited figures are not yet available for 2007-08.

## Unemployment

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 39-42W, on unemployment, if he will break down the information in each table by *(a)* socio-economic group and *(b)* ethnicity. [238792]

**Mr. Simon:** The estimates of numbers Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and NEET rates for 16-24 year olds presented in the following tables are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for Quarter 4 1997 and Quarter 4 2007 as in the previous reply. In order to ensure that the estimates are reasonably robust the tables shown here are for all England given the nature of the breakdowns requested. Despite the condensed nature of the groups shown in the tables some of the estimates are based on small samples and should be treated with caution.

The "socio-economic group" or National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) of a respondent to the Labour Force Survey is based on their own current or past occupation. Consequently such a breakdown is not well suited to young people as it will merely reflect their own most recent occupation rather than their family background. Nevertheless information on two broad groupings of NS-SEC are shown below for Quarter 4 2007. Comparable information by NS-SEC is not available for 1997.

*Table (a 1) Not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Quarter 4 2007 by age, gender and broad National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC)*

| *Numbers* | *16-18*[1] | | | *19-24*[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* |
| Higher NS-SEC groups[2] | 7,000 | 5,000 | 12,000 | 38,000 | 60,000 | 99,000 |
| Lower NS-SEC groups[3] | 104,000 | 76,000 | 180,000 | 188,000 | 304,000 | 492,000 |
| England | 111,000 | 81,000 | 192,000 | 226,000 | 364,000 | 590,000 |
| *Rates (per cent.)* | | | | | | |
| Higher NS-SEC groups[2] | 7 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 6 |
| Lower NS-SEC groups[3] | 11 | 9 | 10 | 16 | 25 | 21 |
| England | 11 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 18 | 15 |

[1] Analysis based on academic age; respondents age at preceding 31 August.
[2] For the purposes of this analysis Higher NS-SEC groups are those from higher managerial down to lower supervisory categories.
[3] For the purposes of this analysis Lower NS-SEC groups are those from the semi routine, routine and never worked, unemployed over a year, not elsewhere classified (NEC) categories. All full time students are defined to be in the NEC category and will therefore be counted in the denominator for the lower NS-SEC groups.
*Source:*
Labour Force Survey

In order to present reasonably robust estimates the only split by ethnicity here is between white and non-white. There was also a change in the definition of ethnicity between 1997 and 2007 which would make it difficult to present consistent data for a more detailed breakdown.

*Table (b1) Not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Quarter 4 1997 by age, gender and ethnicity*

| *Numbers* | *16-18*[1] | | | *19-24*[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* |
| White | 67,000 | 72,000 | 139,000 | 164,000 | 264,000 | 428,000 |
| Non-White | 7,000 | 11,000 | 18,000 | 26,000 | 54,000 | 80,000 |
| England | 74,000 | 83,000 | 157,000 | 190,000 | 318,000 | 507,000 |
| *Rates (per cent.)* | | | | | | |
| White | 8 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 17 | 14 |
| Non-White | 7 | 12 | 9 | 16 | 31 | 24 |
| England | 8 | 10 | 9 | 11 | 19 | 15 |

[1] Analysis based on academic age; respondents age at preceding 31 August
Source:
Labour Force Survey

*In Quarter 4 2007 by age, gender and ethnicity*

| *Numbers* | *16-18*[1] | | | *19-24*[1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* |
| White | 94,000 | 73,000 | 167,000 | 184,000 | 295,000 | 479,000 |
| Non-White | 16,000 | 8,000 | 24,000 | 42,000 | 68,000 | 110,000 |
| England | 111,000 | 81,000 | 192,000 | 226,000 | 364,000 | 590,000 |
| *Rates (per cent)* | | | | | | |
| White | 11 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 17 | 14 |
| Non-White | 12 | 6 | 9 | 14 | 23 | 19 |
| England | 11 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 18 | 15 |

[1] Analysis based on academic age; respondents age at preceding 31 August.
*Source:*
Labour Force Survey

## United Kingdom Accreditation Service: Consultants

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells of 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 686-87W, on the United Kingdom Accreditation Service: Grayling Political Strategy, if he will place in the Library a copy of the reply from the Chief Executive of Ufi. [237857]

**Mr. Simon** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* I have arranged for a copy of the reply from Sarah Jones, the chief executive of Ufi, to be placed in the Library.

## Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many questions for written answer have been tabled to his Department during the current Session; and how many have yet to receive a substantive reply. [238879]

**Mr. Simon:** This Department has received a total of 1,942 written parliamentary questions for answer this Session, of which 111 still require a substantive reply.

## Young People: Unemployment

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many 16 to 24 year olds were not in employment, education or training in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* London and *(c)* England in each year since 1997; [237115]

(2) how many 16 to 24 year olds were in post-16 education in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* London and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [237113]

**Mr. Simon:** The following tables show estimates of the numbers and percentage of people aged 16 to 24 (i) not in education, employment or training (NEET) and (ii) in post-16 education for North Yorkshire LEA, London and England. Post-16 education is defined here as being enrolled on an education course, studying or working towards a qualification or undertaking an apprenticeship.

The estimates are from the Annual Population Survey (APS) for 2004 to 2007 and from its predecessor the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey (ALALFS) for 2000 to 2003. The definitions and methods used are the same for both the ALALFS and the APS. Comparable information is not available for earlier years.

*(i) 16-24[1] year olds not in education, employment or training*

*Number and percentage*

| | *North Yorkshire LEA* | *London* | *England* | *North Yorkshire LEA* | *London* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000[2] | 4,000 | 117,000 | 686,000 | 11 | 14 | 13 |
| 2001[2] | 4,000 | 124,000 | 704,000 | 8 | 14 | 14 |
| 2002[2] | 5,000 | 126,000 | 730,000 | 11 | 15 | 14 |
| 2003[2] | 5,000 | 131,000 | 756,000 | 11 | 15 | 14 |
| 2004[3] | 4,000 | 143,000 | 747,000 | 9 | 17 | 14 |
| 2005[3] | 6,000 | 148,000 | 820,000 | 11 | 17 | 14 |
| 2006[3] | 6,000 | 145,000 | 849,000 | 11 | 17 | 15 |
| 2007[3] | 6,000 | 136,000 | 850,000 | 9 | 16 | 14 |

[1] Age used is the respondent's academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.
[2] These data are from the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey (ALALFS) which covers the period from March of the year shown to the following February.
[3] These data are from the Annual Population Survey (APS) which covers the calendar year from January to December.

*(ii) 16-24[1] year olds in post-16 education[2]*

*Number and percentage*

| | *North Yorkshire LEA* | *London* | *England* | *North Yorkshire LEA* | *London* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000[3] | 19,000 | 416,000 | 2,388,000 | 48 | 49 | 47 |
| 2001[3] | 21,000 | 429,000 | 2,410,000 | 49 | 50 | 46 |
| 2002[3] | 24,000 | 445,000 | 2,509,000 | 48 | 51 | 47 |
| 2003[3] | 24,000 | 441,000 | 2,543,000 | 48 | 51 | 47 |
| 2004[4] | 24,000 | 423,000 | 2,589,000 | 46 | 50 | 47 |
| 2005[4] | 26,000 | 434,000 | 2,657,000 | 46 | 51 | 47 |
| 2006[4] | 26,000 | 423,000 | 2,690,000 | 44 | 49 | 47 |
| 2007[4] | 29,000 | 445,000 | 2,748,000 | 49 | 51 | 47 |

[1] Age used is the respondent's academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.
[2] Post-16 education is defined here as being enrolled on an education course, studying or working towards a qualification or undertaking an apprenticeship.
[3] These data are from the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey (ALALFS) which covers the period from March of the year shown to the following February.
[4] These data are from the Annual Population Survey (APS) which covers the calendar year from January to December.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Academies

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for the academies programme beyond 2012; and if he will make a statement. [238110]

**Jim Knight:** The Government are committed to continuing to develop the academies programme and establishing at least 400 academies.

### Academies: Admissions

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils he estimates will be in an academy in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [238109]

**Jim Knight:** There are around 150,000 students in the academies that have already opened. The target for 2009 is for up to another 80 academies to open. The average size of an academy is around 1,200 pupils so 80 new academies will add up to around 96,000 extra places in academies for 2009.

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has to conduct a review of academies' admissions policies and procedures; and if he will make a statement. [238111]

**Jim Knight:** The Government have no plans to conduct a review of Academies admissions. Academies are required by law to cater for children of all abilities. The School Admissions Code that came into force on 28 February 2007 applies to all maintained schools and Academies when setting their admission arrangements for September 2008 and subsequent years.

### Academies: Higher Education

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many universities *(a)* are sponsors and *(b)* have expressed an interest in becoming a sponsor of an academy; and if he will make a statement. [237652]

**Jim Knight:** There are currently 48 universities involved in the academies programme; some are involved in more than one project and/or in more than one role at different academies. Of these 48:

35 are involved as sponsors (or potential sponsors)

22 are involved as educational partners (or potential educational partners).

### Academies: Local Education Authorities

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies are being co-sponsored by a local education authority; and if he will make a statement. [237655]

**Jim Knight:** There are seven open academies that are currently jointly sponsored by a local authority and another 21 in various stages of planning.

All academies must have a local authority representative on their governing body. Where a local authority is a co-sponsor, they can appoint up to two governors to the governing body. However, the lead sponsor must appoint the majority.

### Academies: Per Capita Costs

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding per

pupil was provided to city academies in *(a)* Norwich North constituency and *(b)* England in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09; how many pupils attended each city academy in (A) Norwich North constituency and (B) England in each of these years; and for how many pupils in each city academy in (1) Norwich North constituency and (2) England funding was provided in each of those years. [238316]

**Jim Knight:** Academies are funded on an academic year rather than a financial year basis. We aim to provide academies with funding for running costs that is equivalent to other state-funded schools in similar circumstances in their local authority. This requires us to make certain adjustments, for example, to reflect a phased intake of pupils, or VAT status. In addition, academies are funded to buy services that local authorities would normally provide to other schools free of charge, such as education welfare services.

As The Open Academy, Norwich, only opened in September 2008, it did not receive any recurrent funding in 2007-08. For academic year 2008-09, The Open Academy received £5,200 per pupil, based on the academy's forecast of 538 pupils and calculated using the figures for other schools in the local authority. This excludes the extra money paid to cover for increased costs to replicate additional local authority central expenditure on services such as education welfare offices, HR and legal fees; and also a one-off start-up grant to cover items such as new uniforms and materials. These additional elements totalled £1,531,269.

The following table shows the latest available data on average per pupil funding of academies and maintained community secondary schools in English local authorities with academies:

| *Financial year* | *Average per pupil funding in academies*[1] | *Average school based expenditure per pupil in maintained community secondary schools in local authorities with academies* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 4,600 | 4,684 |
| 2007-08 | 4,927 | Not available |

[1] Excludes elements paid to academies to compensate for increased costs (start-up grant; VAT grant; earmarked additional grants; and local authority central spend equivalent grant).

The actual number of pupils at The Open Academy has been counted in the autumn term Schools Census but the data are not yet available. As the academy is in its first year, its funding is based on a forecast and will be subject to adjustment if actual pupil numbers vary from the estimate by more than 2.5 per cent.

### Academies: Pupil Exclusions

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for the Independent Appeals Panels for exclusions from academies; and if he will make a statement. [237656]

**Jim Knight:** Pupils at academies have exactly the same rights as pupils in other state-funded schools to an independent appeal panel hearing in cases where they are permanently excluded. Academies are required, by their funding agreements, to follow the same procedures in relation to such appeal panels as apply in maintained schools.

### Academies: Sponsorship

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new sponsors he estimates will become actively involved in the academies programme in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [238112]

**Jim Knight:** We have made no estimate of the number of new sponsors that will become actively involved in the academies programme in the next 12 months. The Government remain fully committed to the programme and aims to open up to 80 more academies in 2009 and up to 100 in 2010.

### Academies: Standards

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of academies had 30 per cent. or more pupils gain five A* to C grades at GCSE in each of the last three years; what assessment he has made of how this compares with other schools in the state sector; and if he will make a statement. [238115]

**Jim Knight:** The following table sets out the percentage of maintained mainstream schools, City Technology Colleges and Academies where at least 30 per cent. of 15 year olds achieved 5+A*-C at GCSE or equivalent for each of the last three years. Figures for Academies cover those for which results are available.

| | *Academies (excludes former City Technology Colleges)* | | | | | *Maintained mainstream schools, City Technology Colleges and Academies* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total number of Academies* | *Number and percentage of Academies above 30 5+ A*-C* | | *Number and percentage of Academies above 30 5+ A*-C (including English and maths)* | | *Total number of schools* | *Number and percentage of schools above 30 5+ A*-C* | | *Number and percentage of schools above 30 5+ A*-C (including English and maths)* | |
| | | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* | | *Number* | *%* | *Number* | *%* |
| 2004-05 | 14 | 7 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 3,095 | 2,865 | 93 | 2,171 | 70 |
| 2005-06 | 21 | 18 | 86 | 3 | 14 | 3,072 | 2,938 | 96 | 2,283 | 74 |
| 2006-07 | 36 | 34 | 94 | 10 | 28 | 3,045 | 2,981 | 98 | 2,407 | 79 |

Many academies have been established to replace low-attaining schools. By 2007, for the 36 academies with low-attaining predecessor schools, the proportion of pupils gaining five or more GCSEs at A*-C had almost doubled, from 22 per cent. n 2001 to 43.7 per cent. in 2007 compared to a national increase of 12.2 per cent.

### Arts: Education

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school inspections Ofsted carried out on creative learning programmes in 2008. [232792]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 6 November 2008:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

In 2008, Ofsted is carrying out a survey of creativity across the school curriculum and this involves a sample of primary and secondary schools. As of 5 November 2008, 33 schools have been inspected. We intend to inspect a further 10 schools before inspection retrieval and analysis are undertaken and report writing begins. The intention is to publish the report in late summer 2009.

The focus of the survey is the impact of creative learning on the achievement and personal development of pupils. It will consider how schools assess the quality and development of creative learning across the curriculum.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

### Building Schools for the Future Programme

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of schools built under the Building Schools for the Future programme have *(a)* 1,000 pupils or fewer, *(b)* 1,001 to 1,500 pupils, *(c)* 1,501 to 2,000 pupils and *(d)* more than 2,000 pupils. [238344]

**Jim Knight:** The number of pupils in the schools that are expected to be rebuilt or refurbished in Waves 1-3 of Building Schools for the Future is set out in the following table. This includes the 42 BSF schools which are now open. These are the current plans, which may change as projects develop. Plans for schools in later waves of the programme have not yet been finalised.

| *Number of pupils* | *Number of schools* | *Percentage of total* |
|---|---|---|
| 0-1000 | 230 | 56 |
| 1,001-1,500 | 155 | 38 |
| 1,501 -2,000 | 22 | 5 |
| 2,000+ | 5 | 1 |

*Notes:*
1. Includes mainstream and special schools.
2. Waves 1-3 only
3. Does not include recently built schools which are only receiving ICT funding under BSF.

### Building Schools for the Future Programme: Merseyside

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new school buildings are scheduled to open under the Building Schools for the Future programme in Merseyside in the next three years. [236721]

**Jim Knight:** 15 new and three refurbished schools are scheduled to open across Merseyside in the next three years. Liverpool city council plans are that six new schools will be built and a further three remodelled over the next three years. Knowsley metropolitan borough council plans to complete the building of seven new learning centres and two special schools by 2011.

St. Helens is in wave 5 of the programme and plans to complete the first new school buildings in 2012. Neighbouring authorities in Sefton and Wirral have yet to start their BSF projects.

### Children in Care: Boarding Schools

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who were looked after were boarders according to the most recent school census from which data are available. [235581]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It is not possible, given the amount of analysis required, to provide a response to this question within the timeframe required by Parliament. The requested information will be provided by the school census team and placed in the Library in due course.

The most recent census data relate to January 2008

The census shows 34,390 pupils aged 5 to 19 attending primary, secondary and special schools who are classed as being in care as at January 2008. Data published by the Department as SFR 23/2008: Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008, show 47,600 children aged between five and 19 as being looked after as at 31 March 2008. The school census does not cover all looked after children; information is not collected for pupils in alternative provision, including pupil referral units, FE colleges, voluntary provision and those not in education or training. These differences in coverage will explain the different counts to an extent, but it is possible that the school census undercounts the number of looked after children in primary, secondary and special schools.

### Children in Care: Crime

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to assist local authorities in preventing offending by looked-after children. [234038]

**Beverley Hughes:** I would refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 11 November, *Official Report*, column 1067-8W.

With the Children and Young Persons Act receiving royal assent and to deliver the commitments set out in the Care Matters White Paper to drive significant improvement in outcomes for looked after children, we will be revising guidance to local authorities. This revised guidance will offer more detail about the responsibilities for preventing offending by looked after children and, about their responsibilities for establishing the necessary relationships with youth justice professionals so that, when looked after children do offend, plans are put in place to support the child to prevent re-offending.

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department and its predecessor has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on links between young people in care and criminality in the last five years. [238114]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department has commissioned the following research studies on the links between young people in care and criminality in the past five years:

'An Analysis of Offending by Young People looked After by Local Authorities' (Darker I, Ward H, and Caulfield L, University of Loughborough) looks at the association between local authority care and offending behaviour. The report can be found in Youth Justice, Vol. 8, No. 2, 134-148 (2008)

http://articleworks.cadmus.com/doc/880744.

'Young people Leaving Care: A study of costs and outcomes' (Dixon J, Wade J et al) looked at offending behaviour among other outcomes. A summary can be found at

http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/pdf/leavinq.pdf

'Managing Children's Homes: Developing effective Leadership' (Hicks and Gibbs et al, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York) examined the outcomes for a sample of 175 children after one year, including behaviour problems and criminality. The report was published by Jessica Kingsley Publishing in 2007

http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/146/

'Targeted Youth Support Pathfinders' (Rodger J, Palmer H and Mahon J) looked at being in care as a potential risk factor to poor outcomes, including offending behaviour. An interim report published November 2007 is available at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR016.pdf

## Children: Day Care

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* adequacy and *(b)* distribution of the budget for delivery of the free childcare entitlement. [235895]

**Beverley Hughes:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 591-92W.

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Houghton and Washington East constituency took up free nursery places in the most recent period for which figures are available. [235902]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department publishes information on the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds. This is derived by counting children taking up 12 and a half hours per week as one place, 10 hours per week as 0.8 places, seven and a half hours per week as 0.6 places, five hours per week as 0.4 places and two and a half hours per week as 0.2 places.

The following table provides this information for Houghton and Washington, East parliamentary constituency area in 2008.

*Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1,2] filled by three and four-year-olds: Parliamentary constituency—Houghton and Washington, East*

*Position in January 2008*

| | *Three-year-olds* | | | *Four-year-olds* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]* | *Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[4]* | *Total three-year-olds* | *Maintained nursery and primary schools[5]* | *Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[6]* | *Total four-year-olds* |
| 2008 | 720 | 170 | 880 | 880 | 30 | 910 |

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,00 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[5] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 12/2008 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2008", available on my Department's website

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000790/index.shtml.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare places there were in Crosby constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008. [236685]

**Beverley Hughes:** The information requested is not available by parliamentary constituency. The following tables show the number of child care places in Sefton local authority for 1997 and 2008.

*Table 1: Number[1,2] of day care places for children under eight years of age by type of provider—Sefton local authority area, Position at 31 March 1997*

| *Type of provider* | *1997* |
|---|---|
| Day nurseries | 1,000 |
| Playgroups and pre-schools | 1,800 |
| Childminders | 1,300 |
| Out of school clubs | 100 |
| Holiday schemes (3) | 700 |

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
[2] Data source: Children's Day Care Facilities Survey.

*Table 2: Number[1,2] of registered childcare places for children under eight years of age by type of care—Sefton local authority area, Position at 31 March 2008*

| *Type of care* | *2008* |
|---|---|
| Full day care | 3,100 |
| Sessional day care | 700 |
| Childminders | 900 |
| Out of school day care | 2,200 |

*Table 2: Number[1,2] of registered childcare places for children under eight years of age by type of care: Sefton local authority area, Position at 31 March 2008*

| Type of care | 2008 |
|---|---|
| Crèche day care | 200 |

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
[2] Data Source: Ofsted

Since 2003 Ofsted has been responsible for the registration and inspection of child care providers. Ofsted have produced figures on the numbers of registered child care providers and places on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Their latest figures were published in their report 'Registered Childcare Providers and Places, August 2008', which is available on their website

www.Ofsted.gov.uk/.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many nursery places for three and four year olds there were in Crosby constituency in *(a)* 1996 and *(b)* 2007; and what proportion of all three and four year olds in the constituency these figures represent in each year. [236686]

**Beverley Hughes:** All four year olds have been entitled to a free early education place since 1998 and from April 2004 this entitlement was extended to all three year olds. Therefore, information prior to these years is not available.

Information on the number of nursery places for three and four year olds is not collected centrally. The table provides information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four year olds in Crosby parliamentary constituency area in 2007.

*Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1,2] filled by three and four-year-olds: parliamentary constituency Crosby: Position in January 2007*

| | 3-year-olds | | | 4-year-olds | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | maintained nursery and primary schools[3] | other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[4] | total 3-year-olds | maintained nursery and primary schools[5] | other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[6] | total 4-year-olds |
| 2007 | 280 | 350 | 630 | 540 | 130 | 670 |

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census. The part-time equivalent is derived by counting children taking up 12 and a half hours per week as one place, 10 hours per week as 0.8 places, seven and a half hours per week as 0.6 places, five hours per week as 0.4 places and two and a half hours per week as 0.2 places.
[5] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census. The part-time equivalent is derived by counting children taking up 12 and a half hours per week as one place, 10 hours per week as 0.8 places, seven and a half hours per week as 0.6 places, five hours per week as 0.4 places and 2 and a half hours per week as 0.2 places.

Information on the proportion of all three and four year olds in the constituency is not available.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four year olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 12/2008 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2008", available on my Department's website

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000790/index.shtml.

### Children: Protection

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent arrangements have been made by his Department to support child protection in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds City area. [238774]

**Beverley Hughes:** All local authorities are required to put in place robust arrangements to protect children, including a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). Where a serious incident regarding safeguarding occurs, the LSCB will consider undertaking a Serious Case Review (SCR) to learn the lessons and improve practice. There are two SCRs under way in Leeds at present. In addition, three SCR reports have been completed this year and have been sent to Ofsted. As part of the SCR process, the LSCB is responsible for drawing up an action plan for discussion with the regional Government office.

Ofsted undertake an Annual Performance Assessment (APA) of every area's children's services against the five Every Child Matters outcomes. The assessment against 'staying safe' in last year's APA for Leeds was that services were adequate. A copy of the full assessment can be found on Ofsted's website at

www.ofsted.gov.uk.

The APA results for 2008 are due to be published on 17 December 2008.

Leeds local authority has also agreed with the Government office a Local Area Agreement which includes the following designated targets relevant to protecting children:

NI 58 Behavioural and emotional health of looked after children

NI 63 Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placements and

NI 66 Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales.

It is not possible to provide separate information for Leeds West and Leeds City since safeguarding arrangements are planned and managed on a local authority wide basis.

### Children's Centres: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children's centres have been established in the London Borough of Enfield since 1997; [235442]

(2) how many Sure Start centres there are in the London Borough of Enfield; and how many children resident in that borough have used Sure Start. [235406]

**Beverley Hughes:** Enfield currently has 16 Sure Start Children's Centres with a further eight due to open by 2010, in order to provide universal coverage for children under five and their families.

Information is not collected centrally on the number of children accessing the services offered by children's centres but on average we expect each centre to serve communities of around 800 children under five and their families.

**Departmental Information Officers**

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work and *(b)* provide assistance for his Department. [231690]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The DCSF has 20 press officers of which one is part-time. There are no additional press officers providing assistance for the Department.

**Departmental Internet**

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for which Government websites his Department is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [235038]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department is responsible for a number of online services to a wide range of audiences including schools, their governors, local authorities, children's services, parents, young people and children, including online publications services. The Department is working towards consolidation of all its websites. Public-facing content is being migrated to Directgov and business content to Businesslink.

The Department's services received just over 9.8 million unique visits from April to August 2008. During this period the Department spent £1,131,403.00 on these services.

**Departmental Marketing**

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [237459]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department has one full-time equivalent member of staff responsible for branding activity. They were employed at a cost of £44,109 in 2007-08.

**Departmental NDPBs**

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236917]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The DCSF has 12 Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs), nine of which are Executive NDPBs and three are Advisory NDPBs. In summary, the remit of each NDPB is as follows:

*Executive NDPBs*

British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA): is the government lead partner in the strategic development and delivery of the e-strategy. It influences the strategic direction and development of national education policy to take best advantage of technology. BECTA informs and influences education decisions by developing and disseminating high quality evidence of the progress and impact of technology in education, technology innovation and effective practice.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS): looks after the interests of children involved in family proceedings. It works with children and their families, and then advises the courts on what it considers to be in the best interests of individual children.

Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC): improves the lives of children, young people, their families and carers by ensuring that all people working with them have the best possible training, qualifications, support and advice. It also helps children and young people's organisations and services to work together better so that the child is at the centre of all services.

National College for School Leadership (NCSL): works to make a difference to children's lives through excellent school leadership - growing and supporting current and future school leaders so that they can have a positive impact within and beyond their schools.

Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC, also referred to as '11 Million'): looks after the interests and acts as the voice of children and young people.

Partnership for Schools (PfS): supports the local delivery of the Department's 'Building Schools for the Future' programme (including Academies) to renew or rebuild every one of England's 3,500 state secondary schools.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA): is committed to building a world-class education and training framework by regulating, developing and modernising the curriculum, assessments, examinations and qualifications.

The School Food Trust (SFT) has a remit to transform school food and food skills, promote the education and health of children and young people and improve the quality of food in schools.

Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA): works with schools to develop the workforce and ensure that schools can recruit good quality, well trained people. Supporting schools to provide extended services for parents, children and young people.

*Advisory NDPBs*

The Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group (TPIAG) advises the Government on the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and monitors its implementation. The Strategy aims to halve the rate of conceptions in under-18s by 2010 and to increase the participation of teenage parents in education, training and employment.

School Teachers' Review Body (STRB): examines and reports on such matters relating to the statutory conditions of employment of school teachers in England and Wales as may from time to time be referred to it by the Secretary of State.

Teachers' TV (TTV): provides a service to help head teachers, teachers, governors, teaching assistants, school support staff and other people who work in schools to deliver education to the highest possible standard. The Teachers' TV Board of Governors oversees the performance management of the channel to ensure it delivers value for money and meets audience needs.

Details of the funding of DCSF's Executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies were given to the hon.

member on 22 October 2008, *Official Report* column 461W. For convenience, the funding details are reproduced in the following table. Some of these budgets are subject to change but are correct as at 17 November 2008.

£ million

| Executive Non-Departmental Public Body | 2008-09 | 2009-10[1] | 2010-11[1] | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| The British, Educational, Telecommunications and Technology Agency (BECTA) | 11 | 11 | 11 | 33 |
| Children & Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) | 113 | 122 | 131 | 366 |
| Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)[2] | 53 | 4 | 4 | 61 |
| National College of School Leadership (NCSL) | 98 | 82 | 82 | 262 |
| Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) | 3 | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Partnerships for Schools (PfS) | 8 | 8 | 8 | 24 |
| Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) | 176 | 110 | 113 | 399 |
| School Food Trust (SFT) | 8 | 7 | 6 | 21 |
| Training and Development Agency for schools (TDA) | 724 | 632 | 611 | 1,967 |

[1] Planned funding, subject to confirmation.
[2] CWDC was not included in the answer given on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 461W.

The Advisory NDPBs incur little or no expenditure and are resourced from within the Department's existing budgets. As a result, information on budgets for 2008-11 are not readily available.

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 326-27W, on departmental publications, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's fortnightly e-mails sent to schools in September and October. [231166]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department will provide the Library with copies of the fortnightly e-mails sent to schools in September and October. These can also be found online at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/_doc/12380/index.htm

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many questions for written answer were tabled to his Department and its predecessors in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235400]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The number of written parliamentary questions received in each session since 2002-03 by this Department and its predecessor are shown in the following table:

| Session | Total number of written parliamentary questions tabled |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 3,668 |
| 2003-04 | 4,231 |
| 2004-05 | 1,571 |
| 2005-06 | 6,980 |
| 2006-07 | 5,020 |
| 2007-08 (to date) | 5,089 |

Information on how many questions received a substantive answer or were not answered on disproportionate cost grounds is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications for the education maintenance allowance have been received for the academic year 2008-09; and how many of them have been fully processed. [237291]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which operates the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and holds information about applications made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for Putney with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when the decision was taken to combine the administration of the education maintenance allowance with other adult learning grants; what the reasons for that decision were; who took the decision; and if he will make a statement; [237367]

(2) what *(a)* grants and *(b)* allowances are administered via the Learner Support Programme contracted to Liberata; and if he will make a statement. [237369]

**Jim Knight:** These are matters for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which operates the Learner Support programmes for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The LSC are responsible for the contract to deliver the helpline, assessment and payment function for the learner support programmes. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Yeovil with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which company has been contracted to run the Learner Support Programme in 2009; and if he will make a statement; [237368]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that education maintenance allowance payments are made on time; and if he will make a statement. [237371]

**Jim Knight:** These are matters for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which operates the Learner Support programmes for the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive,

will write to the hon. Member for Yeovil with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people entitled to education maintenance allowance in 2008-09 have not yet received any payments; and if he will make a statement. [237370]

**Jim Knight:** Eligibility for the education maintenance allowance (EMA) is based on household income. The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold information on household income for every eligible 16 to 18-year-old who participates in a course that meets the EMA valid provision criteria. Therefore it is not possible to calculate the number of students who are entitled to EMA. With regard to EMA payments, this is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which operates the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about payments made under the EMA scheme.

Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Yeovil with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**Education Maintenance Allowance: Telephone Services**

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many calls were made to the learner support helpline for students claiming education maintenance allowance in each month since September 2007; and how many of them were *(a)* answered and *(b)* unanswered in each of those months: [237288]

(2) how many advisers were working on the learner support helpline for students claiming education maintenance allowance in each month since September 2007; [237289]

(3) what the cost for the contractor Liberata to staff the learner support helpline for students claiming education maintenance allowance was in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09. [237290]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which operates the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and contract with Liberata to deliver the helpline, assessment and payment function for EMA. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the Hon. Member for Putney with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**Education: Crosby**

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much his Department's predecessor spent on education in Crosby constituency in 1997; and how much his Department has spent in 2008 to date; [236672]

(2) how much his Department plans to spend per school pupil in each local education authority in Crosby constituency in 2008-09; and how much was spent in each academic year since 1997-98. [236705]

**Jim Knight:** The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Crosby constituency is not available.

Total and per pupil revenue funding figures for pupils aged 3-19 for Sefton local authority for years 1997-98 to 2005-06 are as follows. These figures are in real terms:

*Sefton local authority revenue funding*

| | *Total (£ million)* | *Per pupil (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 140.8 | 3,010 |
| 1998-99 | 147.4 | 3,110 |
| 1999-2000 | 154.1 | 3,240 |
| 2000-01 | 169.0 | 3,540 |
| 2001-02 | 178.7 | 3,710 |
| 2002-03 | 183.8 | 3,860 |
| 2003-04 | 192.7 | 4,040 |
| 2004-05 | 196.3 | 4,180 |
| 2005-06 | 201.2 | 4,380 |

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the dedicated schools grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.

The total and per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2005-06 to 2008-09 for Sefton local authority are provided in the following table. The following figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-19 and are in real terms:

*Sefton local authority revenue funding*

| | *Total (£ million)* | *Per pupil (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 (Baseline) | 192.7 | 4,260 |
| 2006-07 | 191.1 | 4,320 |
| 2007-08 | 192.9 | 4,460 |
| 2008-09 | 188.6 | 4,460 |

**Education: Finance**

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1585W, on education, how much funding has been allocated to each other miscellaneous programme in 2008-09. [234385]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The following table lists the programmes aggregated under the 'Other Miscellaneous' title and their corresponding projected allocations for 2008-09, as shown in the 2008 departmental annual report.

*List of other miscellaneous programmes*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| *Schools* | |
| Music and Dance Capital | 34 |
| Medical Fees and Services | 1 |
| Premature Retirement Compensation | 12 |
| Teacher Development Agency | 600 |
| National College for School Leadership | 83 |
| Partnership for Schools | 1 |
| Inclusion Programmes/Behaviour/Aim higher/Alternative provision | 4 |
| Governors/Admissions/Independent State Schools/Travel Advisers/School Meals | 5 |
| Teachers Pensions Contractual | 1 |
| Partnerships and Federations | 9 |
| Pupil attainment and assessment publications | 1 |
| Gifted and Talented/Study Support/Playing for Success | 32 |
| Curriculum | 32 |
| Sport | 22 |
| Total | 837 |
| *Children and families* | |
| LEA Capacity and Intervention | 14 |
| Comms Unit—CYPFD and SD | 8 |
| CYPFD capital grants | 7 |
| Children's Commissioner's Office | 3 |
| Voluntary Community Sector CYPF Grant | 1 |
| Adoption/Richard Implementation Plan/Contact Point | 2 |
| Parenting Fund | 15 |
| Priority Fund | 2 |
| S48 Inspection Grants | 31 |
| Total | 83 |
| *Young people* | |
| Youth Challenge Fund | 4 |
| NYA Grants | 8 |
| Youth Facilities Capital | 7 |
| Youth Sector Support | 6 |
| Teenage Pregnancy/Substance Misuse | 2 |
| Youth Capital Fund | 71 |
| Youth Services | 15 |
| Total | 113 |
| *Support for All Functions* | |
| Centre for Procurement Performance salary related costs | 1 |
| Total | 1 |

## Foster Care

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1070W, on foster care, to which regulations the answer refers. [236334]

**Beverley Hughes:** The answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1070W, refers to Regulation 13, Regulation 28 and Schedule 5 of the Fostering Services Regulation 2002.

## Further Education

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what surveys his Department has conducted to estimate the proportion of the school student population in *(a)* the Vale of York and *(b)* England which wishes to stay on in full-time education beyond GCSEs; and what the findings were of such surveys. [237117]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department does not hold survey findings that provide robust estimates at constituency level. However, in addition to national estimates, there are estimates at local authority level. Ofsted have run a school-based survey called TellUs in 2008, covering school children in York and elsewhere across England. This study asked year 8 and 10 pupils (aged 12/13 and 14/15) what they hoped to do when they leave school. The results of this are given in the following table:

*Percentage*

| | *Get a Job at 16* | *Study and get a job at 18* | *Study and go to university* | *Something else* | *Do not know* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tellus3 York | 9 | 7 | 63 | 7 | 15 |
| Tellus3 average nationally | 13 | 19 | 54 | 6 | 9 |

*Note:*
As insufficient year 10 responses were received from York the above figures from York relate to the responses of the year 8 pupils only.

There are a number of national surveys which have been conducted by the Department which have asked young people about their intentions after age 16. These surveys cannot give results at a sub-regional level. They are as follows:

*Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE)*

In the first interview or 'wave' of the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England—LSYPE (spring 2004), sample members were asked at age 13/14 what their intentions were after Year 11. 78 per cent. of respondents said they intended to stay on in full-time education either at the school they were currently attending or somewhere else. LSYPE did not ask about intentions to other learning routes.

*Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) Pilots*

Various surveys of 21,500 young people who were in their final year of compulsory education in 1999 or 2000 were carried out for the evaluation of the EMA pilots. 78 per cent. of respondents said they wanted to stay in full-time education after age 16, 18 per cent. wanted to enter work or training and 4 per cent. were undecided or wanted something else.

## Headteachers: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many head teachers were suspended from *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* special schools in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [235962]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not held centrally.

## National Curriculum Tests

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the proportion of their school time spent preparing for key stage 2 tests by children in year 6; and if he will make a statement. [238350]

**Jim Knight:** The National Assessment Agency (NAA), which is responsible for administering National Curriculum tests, advises schools to prepare their pupils for the tests by providing them with opportunities to familiarise themselves with the layout and design of past test papers, encouraging them to work independently and to be aware that there may be questions in the tests that they will not be able to answer. Head teachers have responsibility for deciding how much preparation pupils should have, but neither the Department nor the NAA recommend intensive preparation for the tests.

Information about time spent on test preparation is not collected centrally.

## Primary Education: Greater London

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has changed its estimates of the demand for primary school places in London for the next four years in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [235666]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department's estimates on the demand for school places are based on data supplied by local authorities. The Department collects pupil projection data from local authorities on an annual basis, as part of the surplus places survey. This year's survey data, incorporating pupil projections made by local authorities in spring and summer 2008, were submitted to the Department in August 2008.

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what capital allocations have been made for primary schools in each London borough for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12 and *(d)* 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [235668]

**Jim Knight:** Capital allocations have been made to local authorities for each of the three years in the current spending review period 2008-09 to 2010-11. No allocation has been made for a future period.

Apart from the Primary Capital programme, allocations at local authority level are not ring fenced according to type of school. Allocations can be prioritised by the local authority between primary and secondary schools.

In addition to allocations at local authority level, each school receives an allocation of Devolved Formula Capital which it can spend directly. The annual rate for an unmodernised primary school is (a) a £18,500 lump sum, together with (b) a per pupil amount of £63. A modernised school receives 50 per cent. of these sums.

The following table sets out capital allocations at local authority and school level in each London borough for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. Primary capital allocations are subject to local authorities agreeing their primary capital programmes for change with the Department.

*School capital allocations*

£

| | *2009-10* | | | | *2010-11* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *Total DFC allocation (indicative)* | *Primary capital programme* | *Other allocations* | *Total* | *Total DFC allocation (indicative)* | *Primary Capital programme* | *Other allocations* | *Total* |
| Inner London | 45,414,857 | 55,906,443 | 104,598,100 | 206,919,400 | 45,414,857 | 87,820,443 | 104,610,840 | 237,846,140 |
| Camden | 2,884,603 | 3,503,019 | 6,162,353 | 12,549,975 | 2,884,603 | 5,881,019 | 6,062,530 | 14,828,152 |
| City of London | 34,154 | 0 | 60,777 | 94,931 | 34,154 | 0 | 58,513 | 92,667 |
| Hackney | 3,242,914 | 4,550,714 | 11,875,897 | 19,669,525 | 3,242,914 | 6,928,714 | 11,729,538 | 21,901,166 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 2,303,280 | 3,159,281 | 3,941,347 | 9,403,908 | 2,303,280 | 5,537,281 | 3,848,994 | 11,689,555 |
| Haringey | 4,071,257 | 4,890,331 | 9,337,729 | 18,199,317 | 4,071,257 | 7,168,331 | 9,168,576 | 20,408,164 |
| Islington | 2,915,407 | 4,051,004 | 6,127,440 | 13,093,851 | 2,915,407 | 6,429,004 | 6,047,153 | 15,391,564 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 1,497,064 | 3,000,000 | 2,508,627 | 7,005,691 | 1,497,064 | 5,378,000 | 2,435,842 | 9,310,906 |
| Lambeth | 3,719,589 | 4,899,803 | 9,667,216 | 18,286,608 | 3,719,589 | 7,277,803 | 9,299,628 | 20,297,020 |
| Lewisham | 4,356,535 | 4,360,768 | 12,988,083 | 21,705,386 | 4,356,535 | 6,738,768 | 13,001,291 | 24,096,594 |
| Newham | 4,965,784 | 6,010,350 | 12,684,079 | 23,660,213 | 4,965,784 | 8,388,350 | 13,643,353 | 26,997,487 |
| Southwark | 4,572,054 | 5,051,045 | 8,207,220 | 17,830,319 | 4,572,054 | 7,429,045 | 8,084,045 | 20,085,144 |
| Tower Hamlets | 4,582,448 | 6,555,681 | 10,483,903 | 21,622,032 | 4,582,448 | 8,933,681 | 11,336,489 | 24,852,618 |
| Wandsworth | 3,722,768 | 3,808,826 | 7,180,437 | 14,712,031 | 3,722,768 | 6,186,826 | 6,041,436 | 15,951,030 |
| Westminster | 2,547,000 | 3,165,621 | 3,372,992 | 9,085,613 | 2,547,000 | 5,543,621 | 3,853,452 | 11,944,073 |
| Outer London | 80,993,338 | 72,707,382 | 187,579,995 | 341,280,715 | 80,993,338 | 117,889,382 | 241,893,443 | 440,776,163 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 3,369,591 | 3,740,824 | 12,360,071 | 19,470,486 | 3,369,591 | 6,118,824 | 11,905,515 | 21,393,930 |
| Barnet | 5,706,792 | 4,303,116 | 15,047,247 | 25,057,155 | 5,706,792 | 6,681,116 | 18,815,722 | 31,203,630 |
| Bexley | 4,445,932 | 3,031,746 | 7,368,424 | 14,846,102 | 4,445,932 | 5,409,746 | 11,214,145 | 21,069,823 |
| Brent | 4,614,579 | 4,654,940 | 11,973,176 | 21,242,695 | 4,614,579 | 7,032,940 | 15,779,569 | 27,427,088 |
| Bromley | 5,524,613 | 3,458,782 | 9,165,720 | 18,149,115 | 5,524,613 | 5,836,782 | 12,970,311 | 24,331,706 |

School capital allocations

£

| Local authority | 2009-10 Total DFC allocation (indicative) | 2009-10 Primary capital programme | 2009-10 Other allocations | 2009-10 Total | 2010-11 Total DFC allocation (indicative) | 2010-11 Primary Capital programme | 2010-11 Other allocations | 2010-11 Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Croydon | 6,269,328 | 4,936,796 | 10,821,356 | 22,027,480 | 6,269,328 | 7,314,796 | 14,702,772 | 28,286,896 |
| Ealing | 4,525,202 | 4,704,496 | 10,039,149 | 19,268,847 | 4,525,202 | 7,082,496 | 9,824,420 | 21,432,118 |
| Enfield | 5,427,842 | 5,057,226 | 12,911,424 | 23,396,492 | 5,427,842 | 7,435,226 | 16,688,043 | 29,551,111 |
| Greenwich | 4,230,814 | 4,652,049 | 12,691,605 | 21,574,468 | 4,230,814 | 7,030,049 | 13,413,192 | 24,674,055 |
| Harrow | 3,156,920 | 3,395,479 | 9,137,916 | 15,690,315 | 3,156,920 | 5,773,479 | 12,966,237 | 21,896,636 |
| Havering | 4,378,694 | 3,000,000 | 7,525,853 | 14,904,547 | 4,378,694 | 5,378,000 | 11,375,120 | 21,131,814 |
| Hillingdon | 4,833,897 | 3,892,865 | 8,010,118 | 16,736,880 | 4,833,897 | 6,270,865 | 7,821,247 | 18,926,009 |
| Hounslow | 4,330,717 | 3,632,895 | 10,432,833 | 18,396,445 | 4,330,717 | 6,010,895 | 14,288,231 | 24,629,843 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 2,596,989 | 3,000,000 | 6,782,104 | 12,379,093 | 2,596,989 | 5,378,000 | 10,736,950 | 18,711,939 |
| Merton | 2,778,838 | 3,000,000 | 9,674,512 | 15,453,350 | 2,778,838 | 5,378,000 | 13,869,064 | 22,025,902 |
| Redbridge | 4,799,801 | 4,004,563 | 12,563,869 | 21,368,233 | 4,799,801 | 6,382,563 | 16,371,798 | 27,554,162 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 2,379,699 | 3,000,000 | 5,695,236 | 11,074,935 | 2,379,699 | 5,378,000 | 9,589,743 | 17,347,442 |
| Sutton | 3,630,936 | 3,000,000 | 6,804,622 | 13,435,558 | 3,630,936 | 5,378,000 | 10,691,576 | 19,700,512 |
| Waltham Forest | 3,992,154 | 4,241,605 | 8,574,760 | 16,808,519 | 3,992,154 | 6,619,605 | 8,869,788 | 19,481,547 |
| London total | 126,408,195 | 129,613,825 | 292,178,095 | 548,200,115 | 126,408,195 | 205,709,825 | 346,504,283 | 678,622,303 |

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms there are by which London boroughs will receive additional capital allocations for primary schools in the next three years if new figures show an increase in demand for primary school places; and if he will make a statement. [235669]

**Jim Knight:** The Department relies on the accuracy of local authority forecasts when allocating basic-need capital funding for additional pupil places. Accordingly, and to ensure that local authorities can plan strategically, the £1.2 billion budget for basic-need funding was allocated to London and other authorities at the beginning of the spending review period covering the years 2008-09 to 2010-11. This can be used, at local authorities' discretion, to expand primary or secondary schools. In addition, the Department is allocating some £1.9 billion to London and other authorities through its primary capital programme during this period, subject to local authorities agreeing their primary capital programmes for change with the Department.

The Department does not hold back funds for later distribution on the basis that primary school pupil forecasts may be inaccurate. Accordingly, where new figures show that original forecasts were too low, local authorities have the flexibility to use their modernisation allocations to fund primary school expansion. They may also have access to other local resources.

### Primary Education: Standards

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what element of Ofsted's regular inspection of primary schools covers *(a)* history lessons and *(b)* geography lessons. [234294]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 14 November 2008:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Since the introduction of the current school inspection framework (section 5) in September 2005, routine school inspections have not included specific inspection of subjects. However, under this framework, a sample of lessons will be visited during each inspection and these may include history and geography.

As well as routine inspections of schools, Ofsted conducts annual surveys of each subject in the curriculum, inspecting a sample of schools to provide evidence for the survey report. This annual sample includes thirty primary schools where geography is inspected and thirty where history is inspected. Every three years Ofsted will then produce survey reports on history and geography. Most recently, "Geography in schools – changing practice" was published on 17 January 2008 and "History in the balance" was published on 20 July 2007. Both are available on the Ofsted website www.ofsted.gov.uk

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

### Pupils: Languages

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools in *(a)* Tower Hamlets, *(b)* Newham, *(c)* Westminster, *(d)* Brent and *(e)* Hounslow were attended by more than 50 per cent. of pupils with a first language other than English in the latest period for which figures are available; [236575]

(2) how many schools had more than 50 per cent. of pupils with a language other than English according to the last school census from which data are available. [236576]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information is shown in the table:

*Number of schools which have more than 50 per cent. of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English[1,2] - Position as at January 2008*

| | England | Tower Hamlets | Newham | Westminster | Brent | Hounslow |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| More than 50 per cent. | 1,476 | 70 | 73 | 41 | 56 | 36 |

[1] Includes maintained nursery, maintained primary and maintained secondary, pupil referral units, city technology colleges, academies and all special schools.
[2] Pupils of compulsory school age and above. Excludes dually registered pupils.
*Source:*
School Census

**Pupils: Special Educational Needs**

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to assist schools in identifying children with learning difficulties. [225200]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Statutory guidance is given to schools, local authorities and others on identifying and making provision for children with special educational needs (SEN) in the SEN code of practice. Recent initiatives which will help teachers and schools to identify children with SEN now and in the future include:

Dissemination of the first phase of the Inclusion Development Programme improving the skills of the early years and schools work force in identifying and meeting children's SEN, focusing on speech, language and communication needs and dyslexia—future phases will focus on autism and behavioural, emotional and social difficulties;

£3.5 million of funding to the Training and Development Agency for Schools for the roll-out of SEN units in primary undergraduate and postgraduate certificate in education courses through eight clusters of training providers—around £8 million more will be spent over the next three years to embed SEN programmes in all teaching qualifications; and

Helping to fund the British Dyslexia Association's dyslexia helpline for teachers and parents.

**Racial Harassment**

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236889]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** No complaints of racial abuse were investigated in the Department in the last 12 months. Formal complaints of racial abuse would be investigated quickly and thoroughly and, where complaints were upheld, appropriate disciplinary action would be taken. All cases are treated seriously.

The Department believes that each and every individual has the right to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect. As such, we do not tolerate unacceptable behaviour towards others. The overall aim of our harassment and bullying policy is to prevent such unacceptable behaviour occurring but, where it does occur, to ensure that appropriate and effective action is taken to deal with it and prevent it happening again. This applies to everyone in the Department. Every individual is personally responsible for their own behaviour, and every manager is responsible for enforcing the policy in accordance with the guidance and procedures set out in the Department's Staff Handbook.

**Reading: Teaching Methods**

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 434-5W, on reading: teaching methods, what kinds of follow-up interventions children receive after the conclusion of intensive reading recovery programmes; what assessment his Department has made of the merits of using reading volunteers to continue intervention following the conclusion of intensive reading recovery programmes; and if he will make a statement. [237452]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Our Every Child a Reader programme provides a 'layered' approach to early literacy intervention based on providing Reading Recovery teaching to the very lowest attaining children; supporting other adults to provide less intensive interventions for children whose difficulties are not so severe; and working with colleagues to support improved everyday class teaching of literacy. The less intensive interventions include Better Reading Partnership which trains, among others, volunteers to read 1-to-1 with children using techniques from Reading Recovery. These layers will apply equally to children who do not require Reading Recovery or those who have previously been through Reading Recovery and require some follow up support.

In 2007, Greg Brooks, of Sheffield university, produced an updated version "What Works for Children with Literacy Difficulties? The Effectiveness of Intervention Schemes". The review synthesised evidence on partnership approaches to improving reading: partners included older pupils, teachers, and adult volunteers. Brooks concluded that

"where resources are limited, and partners are available and can be given appropriate training and ongoing support, reading partnership approaches deserve close consideration" (p29).

The interventions reviewed by Brooks which specifically used adult volunteers were Better Reading Partnerships, ENABLE One-To- One and Time for Reading. There was some evidence that these interventions had a positive effect on pupil outcomes, although in some cases the findings were more mixed, and it is important to remember that the interventions often involved components other than the adult volunteers, which makes it hard to identify the specific effect of the volunteers.

Separate to this Torgerson, King and Sowden (2002) conducted a systematic review of randomised controlled trials of adult volunteer reading schemes. Overall, volunteering appeared to have a small positive effect on pupil outcomes, but the evidence base was not sufficient to draw firm conclusions.

The Government are committed to ensuring every child learns to read. For most this will mean good systematic phonics through the early years and beginning of primary school. For others, extra provision will be necessary—primarily through school based interventions and our Every Child a Reader programme. We continue to fund local authorities and schools to strike the appropriate balance between specific intervention programmes with trained teachers for those children that need it; and other less expensive approaches using other members of the workforce and volunteers in other circumstances when they are known to work.

## School Meals: Per Capita Costs

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on average for each school meal for *(a)* primary school pupils, *(b)* secondary school pupils and *(c)* juvenile offenders in each year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [236542]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department does not collect this information.

However, the School Food Trust has undertaken three annual surveys, which report average costs as follows:

£

| | *Primary* | *Secondary* |
|---|---|---|
| *2005-06* | | |
| Price per meal | 1.54 | 1.62 |
| Ingredient cost | 0.52 | 0.67 |
| Labour cost | 0.81 | 0.72 |
| *2006-07* | | |
| Price per meal | 1.63 | 1.72 |
| Ingredient cost | 0.57 | Not available |
| Labour cost | 1.09 | Not available |
| *2007-08* | | |
| Price per meal | 1.67 | 1.77 |
| Ingredient cost | 0.62 | Not available |
| Labour cost | 1.06 | Not available |

This Department does not collect this information for juvenile offenders.

The Department is providing £240 million subsidy to local authorities between 2008 and 2011 towards the cost of producing school lunches.

## Schools: Colchester

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in Colchester constituency use temporary classrooms; and how many such classrooms are at each school. [237550]

**Jim Knight:** Data on school temporary buildings were supplied to the Department by local education authorities in 2001, 2003 and 2005. However, checks indicated that the completeness and quality of the data was not good enough to accurately assess which schools use temporary classrooms.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.7 billion in 2008-9 and will rise further to £8.0 billion by 2010-11. Progress is being made year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock. The bulk of schools capital is now allocated by formula to authorities and schools so that they can address their local priorities, including the replacement of decayed temporary accommodation, on which we have set a high priority. Given the high levels of funding, authorities have the opportunity to replace temporary buildings where they are considered to be unsuitable.

## Schools: Collective Worship

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the most recent guidance his Department has issued to state *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* further education establishments is on acts of collective worship; whether he plans to review such guidance; and if he will make a statement. [237127]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Current guidance on collective worship is contained in circular 1/94 which sets out the legal requirements for religious education and collective worship in primary and secondary maintained schools. There are no requirements for further education establishments to hold a daily act of collective worship. The Department has not issued schools with any recent guidance on collective worship. However, we have updated guidance to schools and Governors following the change in the law in 2007 to allow sixth formers to withdraw themselves from collective worship as set out in section 55 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what obligations there are to provide for a daily act of collective worship upon state *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* further education establishments. [237128]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Current policy on collective worship is set out in Circular 1/94. All maintained schools must provide a daily act of collective worship, for all registered pupils. In schools without a religious character, this must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature; while in schools with a religious character, collective worship may be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the religious designation of the school. This requirement was established in the Education Act 1944 and has been re-enacted in subsequent educational legislation. It is the duty of the head teacher to secure a daily act of collective worship. Duties are also placed on local authorities and governing bodies to exercise their functions with a view to securing the provision of collective worship.

There are no requirements for further education establishments to hold a daily act of collective worship.

## Schools: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been *(a)* built and *(b)* refurbished in the London Borough of Enfield since 1997. [235415]

**Jim Knight:** In 2007, the Department gathered information from all authorities on the improvements to their school buildings over the previous 10 years. These data are summarised in the report 'School Building Investment Data', available in the parliamentary Libraries. The information supplied by Enfield indicated that it had built six new schools, four of which were additional schools, and had rebuilt over 50 per cent. of the floor area of a further three schools.

## Schools: Equal Pay

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the amount *(a)* central government, *(b)* local government and *(c)* schools have spent to enable schools in England to comply with (i) equal pay legislation and (ii) the local government single status agreement; [236160]

(2) how many schools in England have completed a job evaluation process for the purpose of compliance with *(a)* equal pay legislation and *(b)* the local government single status agreement; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such compliance to date. [236161]

**Jim Knight:** The process of implementing single status agreements and in some cases the payment of back pay in support to the agreements has been taking place over the past five years with authorities implementing single status agreements at different points over that period. Some authorities have still not completed the process or are still dealing with the legal processes associated with employment tribunals.

The Department has not made any estimates of the amounts spent by themselves, local government or schools to enable them to implement the local government single status agreement, however the level of the minimum funding guarantee for schools for the three year settlement 2008-11 took into account cost pressures on schools including costs pressures arising from single status agreements. More details of this can be found on the Teachernet website:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=12226

We have not collected information on the number of schools that have undertaken job evaluation processes.

## Schools: Finance

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the individual programmes and corresponding allocations are aggregated as Other Miscellaneous Programmes for the year 2008-09 in the Schools section of Table 8.3 of his Department's 2008 annual report. [234425]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Table 1 as follows lists the schools programmes aggregated under the "other miscellaneous" title and their corresponding projected allocations for 2008-09, as shown in the 2008 departmental annual report.

*Table 1: List of other miscellaneous programmes*

| *Schools* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Music and Dance Capital | 34 |
| Medical Fees and Services | 1 |
| Premature Retirement Compensation | 12 |
| Teacher Development Agency | 600 |
| National College for School Leadership | 83 |
| Partnership for Schools | 1 |
| Inclusion Programmes/Behaviour/Aim higher/Alternative provision | 4 |
| Governors/Admissions/Independent State Schools/Travel Advisers/School Meals | 5 |
| Teachers Pensions Contractual | 1 |
| Partnerships and Federations | 9 |
| Pupil attainment and assessment publications | 1 |
| Gifted and Talented/Study Support/ Playing for Success | 32 |
| Curriculum | 32 |
| Sport | 22 |
| Total | 837 |

## Schools: Inspections

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the maximum word limit is for an Ofsted inspection report on *(a)* a primary school and *(b)* a secondary school. [234419]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 13 November 2008:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

There is no maximum word limit for Ofsted school inspection reports. Guidance to inspectors suggests that 2,000 words is an appropriate length for a standard inspection report, and 1,500 words for a light touch inspections. Inspectors may go beyond this guideline should the circumstances of the school require it.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reason Ofsted require learning objectives to be set and displayed at the start of lessons; and if he will make a statement. [234421]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 13 November 2008:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted does not have any requirement for learning objectives to be displayed at the start of lessons. Ofsted inspections will evaluate whether teaching and learning is effective, but guidance to inspectors does not prescribe how teaching should be organised. It is for teachers and schools to decide how the objectives of the lesson should be shared with the learners, but inspectors would regard learners' secure understanding of a lesson's purpose as good practice.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his definition is of creative learning in the context of the inquiry into the subject being conducted by Ofsted. [234422]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 11 November 2008:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

As part of the 2008-2009 survey programme, Ofsted is undertaking a survey on creativity across the school curriculum. This survey encompasses a recommendation in the former Department for Education and Skills/Department for Culture, Media and Sport report "Nurturing Creativity" and the recommendations of the Education and Skills Select Committee's inquiry "into Creative Partnerships and the Curriculum", published in October 2007.

The survey relates to both primary and secondary schools. It uses the National Advisory Committee on Creative and Cultural Education (NACCCE) May 1999 definition: 'Imaginative activity fashioned so as to produce outcomes that are both original and of value and are purposeful.' The usefulness of that definition is being tested through observations of teaching and learning in a range of schools.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

### Schools: Noise

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps are being taken to ensure that acoustics in new school buildings are in compliance with building regulations to enable all children to listen and learn effectively, with particular reference to hearing-impaired children. [239183]

**Jim Knight:** All new school buildings must comply with the acoustic standards in Building Bulletin 93, "Acoustic Design of Schools", 2003, which are quoted in Approved Document Part E in support of the Building Regulations. Building Control Bodies ensure that these standards are met. Section 6 of BB93 "Acoustic design and equipment for pupils with special hearing requirements" gives further guidance for children with hearing impairments. The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 requires local authorities and governing bodies to make reasonable adjustments to schools to cater for the special needs of particular children. Therefore, for any new school, the local authority or governing body must assess the expected level of special needs of the children who will be attending the school and determine if any adjustments to the BB93 standards are required. This may require consultation with educational audiologists and acousticians. In particular, a lower reverberation time may be needed in rooms where the hearing-impaired are taught. There is a special needs appeal process and if the designs are not adequate for any particular children who will be attending the school then acoustic treatment may be required post construction.

### Schools: Playing Fields

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to ensure all school playing fields are accessible to young people outside school hours. [238569]

**Jim Knight:** We expect all schools to offer access to extended services by 2010. Currently over 14,400 schools (65 per cent.) are providing access to extended services.

Extended schools provide a range of services and activities, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of children, their families and the wider community. What extended service provision looks like in practice will vary according to the needs of each community, based on consultation by schools.

Extended schools are working with their local authorities to open up their facilities including playing fields and sports facilities in response to an assessment of local demand.

Local authorities are a major partner in helping and supporting extended schools to provide services and facilities, and will be able to help take a strategic view of local needs and gaps in provision. Working with their partners in Children's Trusts they have a critical role in coordinating, commissioning and brokering services, and championing the needs of children, young people and parents. They must ensure that local extended service provision is joined up and meets the needs of the local community

### Schools: Safety

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what consideration he has given to proposing road safety education as a compulsory aspect of the school curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [239503]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Schools are well placed to contribute to road safety training and education by encouraging the development of risk assessment skills and of positive attitudes to road safety. Road safety is currently included in the non-statutory framework for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) at key stages 1 and 2, and at key stage 3 pupils should be taught "to use knowledge and understanding to make informed choices about safety, health and well-being".

The Department has asked head teacher Sir Alasdair Macdonald to conduct an independent review into how our intention to make PSHE education statutory can be taken forward in a practicable way.

The Department's 2001 publication, "Safety Education - Guidance for Schools", provides guidance on the provision of safety education, including road safety education. Free lesson plans for all key stages are available from the Department for Transport.

### Schools: Transport

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what survey evidence his Department holds regarding the proportion of pupils who walk to school; and if he will make a statement. [236321]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department does not hold complete data relating to walking as a mode of travel to school. Provision of this information is only compulsory for those schools with an approved school travel plan. The scope of collection includes: maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, city technology colleges, academies and special schools.

In the spring 2007 school census, mode of travel data was supplied for almost 70 per cent. of pupils. In the spring 2008 school census, mode of travel data was supplied for just over 85 per cent. of pupils. The available walking information relating to maintained primary, state funded secondary and all special schools is provided in the following table.

*LA maintained primary schools, state-funded secondary schools and all special schools: pupils by mode of travel[1,2]—Position in January each year, 2007 and 2008, England*

| | *Maintained schools[3]* | | | | *State funded[4,5]* | | | | *All special schools* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2007* | | *2008* | | *2007* | | *2008* | | *2007* | | *2008* | |
| | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* | *No.* | *%* |
| Walk | 1,663,780 | 40.5 | 2,008,570 | 49.1 | 901,280 | 27.1 | 1,137,550 | 34.6 | 1,820 | 2.0 | 2,270 | 2.5 |
| Cycle | 32,030 | 0.8 | 36,930 | 0.9 | 64,240 | 1.9 | 85,900 | 2.6 | 140 | 0.2 | 190 | 0.2 |
| Car/Van | 1,089,770 | 26.5 | 1,258,550 | 30.8 | 358,080 | 10.8 | 452,190 | 13.7 | 3,560 | 4.0 | 4,920 | 5.5 |
| Car Share | 88,640 | 2.2 | 113,280 | 2.8 | 41,750 | 1.3 | 60,060 | 1.8 | 190 | 0.2 | 260 | 0.3 |
| Public service bus | 38,410 | 0.9 | 45,260 | 1.1 | 286,720 | 8.6 | 355,790 | 10.8 | 1,460 | 1.6 | 1,810 | 2.0 |
| Dedicated school bus | 41,060 | 1.0 | 47,110 | 1.2 | 339,680 | 10.2 | 426,110 | 13.0 | 32,060 | 35.9 | 39,760 | 44.4 |
| Bus (type not known) | 13,020 | 0.3 | 16,470 | 0.4 | 48,320 | 1.5 | 76,180 | 2.3 | 1,030 | 1.1 | 1,430 | 1.6 |
| Taxi | 16,920 | 0.4 | 19,020 | 0.5 | 13,490 | 0.4 | 17,110 | 0.5 | 20,180 | 22.6 | 23,280 | 26.0 |
| Train | 1,050 | 0.0 | 1,280 | 0.0 | 20,750 | 0.6 | 28,250 | 0.9 | 50 | 0.1 | 50 | 0.1 |
| London Underground | 530 | 0.0 | 730 | 0.0 | 3,520 | 0.1 | 5,480 | 0.2 | 30 | 0.0 | 30 | 0.0 |
| Metro/Tram/ Light Rail | 570 | 0.0 | 670 | 0.0 | 2,800 | 0.1 | 3,220 | 0.1 | 10 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Boarding pupil—not applicable | [6] | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 2,690 | 0.1 | 3,040 | 0.1 | 1,950 | 2.2 | 2,010 | 2.2 |
| Other | 12,400 | 0.3 | 8,610 | 0.2 | 31,490 | 0.9 | 33,070 | 1.0 | 1,030 | 1.2 | 760 | 0.9 |
| Mode of travel—not collected | 1,109,510 | 27.0 | 531,320 | 13.0 | 1,206,740 | 36.3 | 605,060 | 18.4 | 25,900 | 29.0 | 12,730 | 14.2 |
| Total # | 4,107,680 | 100.0 | 4,087,790 | 100.0 | 3,321,530 | 100.0 | 3,289,000 | 100.0 | 89,410 | 100.0 | 89,480 | 100.0 |

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Where a pupil uses more than one mode of travel for each journey to school, the longest element of the journey by distance should be recorded.
[3] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[4] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[5] Less than 2.
*Note:*
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
School Census

## Secondary Education: Admissions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils attended secondary schools in which there were *(a)* over 1,000, *(b)* over 1,500, *(c)* over 2,000 and *(d)* over 3,000 pupils in each year since 1997. [238352]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information is given in the following table.

*State-funded secondary schools[1]: number of pupils by size of school—position as at January 2008*

*England*

| | *Number of:* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Total number of schools* | *Schools with 1,000 to 1,499 pupils* | *Pupils in schools with 1,000 to 1,499* | *Schools with 1,500 to 1,999* | *Pupils in schools with 1,500 to 1,999 pupils* | *Schools with 2,000 to 2,999 pupils* | *Pupils in schools with 2,000 to 2,999 pupils* | *Schools with 3,000 or more pupils* | *Pupils in schools with 3,000 or more pupils* |
| 1997 | 3,584 | 1,019 | 1,215,690 | 132 | 218,010 | 6 | 12,650 | 0 | 0 |
| 1998 | 3,582 | 1,028 | 1,230,220 | 146 | 241,110 | 6 | 12,670 | 0 | 0 |
| 1999 | 3,575 | 1,084 | 1,295,450 | 169 | 278,210 | 6 | 12,790 | 0 | 0 |
| 2000 | 3,565 | 1,149 | 1,379,020 | 188 | 311,740 | 7 | 14,900 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001 | 3,496 | 1,202 | 1,448,720 | 215 | 358,840 | 8 | 17,120 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002 | 3,471 | 1,236 | 1,491,860 | 227 | 377,980 | 13 | 27,990 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003 | 3,454 | 1,259 | 1,522,740 | 257 | 427,470 | 14 | 30,260 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 3,435 | 1,291 | 1,569,260 | 251 | 418,520 | 21 | 44,610 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 3,416 | 1,300 | 1,575,830 | 262 | 436,920 | 20 | 43,240 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006 | 3,405 | 1,297 | 1,574,770 | 260 | 435,140 | 21 | 45,090 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007 | 3,399 | 1,272 | 1,540,980 | 267 | 445,980 | 22 | 47,540 | 0 | 0 |
| 2008 | 3,383 | 1,229 | 1,488,770 | 263 | 439,520 | 25 | 53,600 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
*Note:*
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
School Census

## Secondary Education: Greater London

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many unfilled secondary school places there were in *(a)* Bexley and *(b)* Greater London on the latest date for which figures are available. [238137]

**Jim Knight:** The Department collects data annually from each local authority on the number of surplus places which exist within maintained schools, as part of the Surplus Places Survey. The most recent data available relate to the position as at January 2008.

At January 2008 the number of unfilled places in maintained secondary schools within Bexley was 1,462 (8 per cent.), and the number of unfilled places within Greater London was 32,132 (7 per cent.).

## Secondary Schools: Health Education

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish the letter he sent in September together with the Secretary of State for Health to all secondary schools promoting the Give and Let Live donor education programme; and if he will specify *(a)* the number of letters which were sent and *(b)* the date on which the letters were sent. [239229]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** On 30 September 2008 a letter from the right hon. Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and the right hon. Secretary of State for Health about raising awareness of the Give and Let Live programme was made available on the Teachernet website and highlighted in an email sent to every secondary school.

The letter can be accessed at the following web address:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/doc/12949/Joint%20letter%20on%20organ%20donation%20in%20schools.pdf.

## Special Educational Needs

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of special educational needs pupils had behavioural, emotional and social difficulties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [226437]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The number and proportion of special educational needs pupils, whose primary need is behavioural, emotional or social, are shown in table 9 of the following publications.

| * | *Statistical First Release: special educational needs in England* |
|---|---|
| 2008 | http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000794/SEN_NationalTablesFinal.xls |
| 2007 | http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000732/sfr20_2007_tables_oh.xls |
| 2006 | http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000661/SFR23-2006v2.pdf |
| 2005 | http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000584/SFR24-2005.pdf |
| 2004 | http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000537/SFR44-2004v4.pdf |

The requested information was first collected in 2003, figures prior to 2004 are not readily available.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in year *(a)* six, *(b)* seven, *(c)* eight and *(d)* nine had statemented or non-statemented special educational needs of behavioural, emotional or social difficulties according to the most recent school census. [235585]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Information about pupils at School Action Plus and those pupils with a statement of SEN is provided in the following tables.

We do not collect information on the number of pupils by type of need at School Action.

*Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and all special schools: number and percentage of pupils with special educational needs of behavioural, emotional or social difficulties by national curriculum year group, position as at January 2008, England*

| | *SEN pupils with special educational needs of behavioural, emotional or social difficulties*[1, 2] | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Primary schools*[3] | | | | | | *Secondary schools*[3, 4] | | | | | |
| | *School Action Plus* | | *Statement of SEN* | | *Total* | | *School Action Plus* | | *Statement of SEN* | | *Total* | |
| *National curriculum year group* | *No.* | *%*[5] | *No.* | *%*[5] | *No.* | *%*[5] | *No.* | *%*[5] | *No.* | *%*[5] | *No.* | *%*[5] |
| Nursery Year 1 | 40 | 0.1 | [7]— | 0.0 | 40 | 0.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Nursery Year 2 | 670 | 1.3 | 20 | 0.3 | 690 | 1.2 | [7]— | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | [7]— | 0.0 |
| Reception | 3,200 | 6.3 | 200 | 2.7 | 3,400 | 5.8 | [7]— | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | [7]— | 0.0 |
| 1 | 5,570 | 10.9 | 450 | 6.2 | 6,010 | 10.3 | 10 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 10 | 0.0 |
| 2 | 7,070 | 13.9 | 780 | 10.8 | 7,850 | 13.5 | 10 | 0.0 | [7]— | 0.0 | 10 | 0.0 |
| 3 | 7,960 | 15.6 | 1,060 | 14.6 | 9,010 | 15.5 | 10 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 10 | 0.0 |
| 4 | 8,470 | 16.6 | 1,370 | 18.9 | 9,840 | 16.9 | 20 | 0.0 | [7]— | 0.0 | 20 | 0.0 |
| 5 | 8,630 | 16.9 | 1,490 | 20.6 | 10,120 | 17.4 | 310 | 0.5 | 50 | 0.5 | 360 | 0.5 |
| 6 | 9,200 | 18.1 | 1,850 | 25.6 | 11,050 | 19.0 | 420 | 0.6 | 80 | 0.8 | 500 | 0.6 |
| 7 | 120 | 0.2 | 30 | 0.3 | 140 | 0.2 | 9,570 | 14.2 | 1,930 | 18.5 | 11,500 | 14.8 |
| 8 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 11,310 | 16.8 | 1,950 | 18.8 | 13,250 | 17.1 |
| 9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 13,500 | 20.1 | 2,110 | 20.3 | 15,610 | 20.1 |
| 10 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 15,130 | 225 | 2,130 | 20.5 | 17,260 | 22.2 |
| 11 | 0 | 0.0 | [7]— | 0.0 | [7]— | 0.0 | 15,850 | 23.6 | 1,920 | 18.5 | 17,770 | 22.9 |
| 12 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 860 | 1.3 | 160 | 1.6 | 1,020 | 1.3 |
| 13 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 270 | 0.4 | 50 | 0.5 | 320 | 0.4 |
| 14 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 10 | 0.0 | 10 | 0.1 | 10 | 0.0 |

*Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and all special schools: number and percentage of pupils with special educational needs of behavioural, emotional or social difficulties by national curriculum year group, position as at January 2008, England*

| | SEN pupils with special educational needs of behavioural, emotional or social difficulties[1,2] | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Primary schools[3] | | | | | | Secondary schools[3,4] | | | | | |
| | School Action Plus | | Statement of SEN | | Total | | School Action Plus | | Statement of SEN | | Total | |
| National curriculum year group | No. | %[6] | No. | %[6] | No. | %[6] | No. | %[6] | No. | %[6] | No. | %[6] |
| | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Unclassified[8] | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Total | 50,930 | 100.0 | 7,230 | 100.0 | 58,150 | 100.0 | 67,260 | 100.0 | 10,380 | 100.0 | 77,650 | 100.0 |

| | SEN pupils with special educational needs of behavioural, emotional or social difficulties[1,2] | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | All special schools[5] | | | | | | | |
| | School Action Plus | | Statement of SEN | | Total | | School Action Plus | |
| National curriculum year group | No. | %[6] | No. | %[6] | No. | %[6] | No. | %[6] |
| Nursery Year 1 | [7] | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 | [7] | 0.0 | 50 | 0.0 |
| Nursery Year 2 | 10 | 2.7 | [7] | 0.0 | 10 | 0.1 | 680 | 0.6 |
| Reception | 10 | 3.5 | 20 | 0.2 | 30 | 0.2 | 3,210 | 2.7 |
| 1 | 10 | 3.5 | 70 | 0.6 | 80 | 0.6 | 5,580 | 4.7 |
| 2 | 10 | 2.7 | 150 | 1.2 | 160 | 1.2 | 7,090 | 6.0 |
| 3 | 10 | 3.9 | 320 | 2.4 | 330 | 2.5 | 7,980 | 6.7 |
| 4 | 20 | 6.2 | 550 | 4.3 | 570 | 4.3 | 8,500 | 7.2 |
| 5 | 20 | 7.4 | 710 | 5.5 | 730 | 5.5 | 8,960 | 7.6 |
| 6 | 20 | 8.1 | 960 | 7.4 | 980 | 7.4 | 9,640 | 8.1 |
| 7 | 10 | 3.9 | 1,440 | 11.1 | 1,450 | 10.9 | 9,700 | 8.2 |
| 8 | 10 | 3.5 | 1,750 | 13.5 | 1,760 | 13.3 | 11,310 | 9.6 |
| 9 | 10 | 5.4 | 2,170 | 16.7 | 2,190 | 16.5 | 13,510 | 11.4 |
| 10 | 40 | 13.6 | 2,310 | 17.8 | 2,340 | 17.7 | 15,170 | 12.8 |
| 11 | 60 | 21.7 | 2,280 | 17.6 | 2,340 | 17.6 | 15,900 | 13.4 |
| 12 | 20 | 8.5 | 90 | 0.7 | 120 | 0.9 | 880 | 0.7 |
| 13 | 10 | 4.7 | 70 | 0.5 | 80 | 0.6 | 280 | 0.2 |
| 14 | 0 | 0.0 | 30 | 0.2 | 30 | 0.2 | 10 | 0.0 |
| Unclassified[8] | 0 | 0.0 | 60 | 0.5 | 60 | 0.5 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Total | 260 | 100.0 | 12,990 | 100.0 | 13,240 | 100.0 | 118,440 | 100.0 |

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Pupils at school action plus and those pupils with a statement of SEN provided information on their primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need. Information on primary need only is given here.
[3] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[4] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[5] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[6] Number of pupils by their main need expressed as a percentage of all pupils at school action plus or with a statement of SEN.
[7] Fewer than five, or a rate based on fewer than five.
[8] Pupils for whom information on type of need is missing.

*Note:*
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

## Special Educational Needs (Information) Act 2008

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to implement the Special Educational Needs (Information) Act 2008. [236821]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department has commissioned a project, using independent advisers, on the most effective way to implement the Act. The project will: analyse users' data requirements, including the requirements of parents and voluntary organisations; determine data and information currently available at national and local level; and evaluate options for the data publication. The Department will consider the findings of the project, which will be completed before the end of this year. The Act's provisions commence on 1 January 2009 and the first publication will be later that year.

## Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what timetable he has set for implementation of changes to the procedures for the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal; [236763]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued on the application of the rules governing the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal; and to whom it has been issued. [236764]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) was transferred from the then Department for Education and Skills to the then Department for Constitutional Affairs on 3 April 2006. It became part of the Tribunals Service, an Executive Agency of the current Ministry of Justice.

On 3 November SENDIST transferred into the Health, Education and Social Care Chamber (HESC) of the new First-tier Tribunal. Cases registered before 3 November

will continue to be handled under the old Regulations. The 'Rules' for the HESC will apply to cases registered after 3 November. The Tribunal estimates that the earliest substantive appeal hearings for these cases will take place in mid-March.

The guidance SENDIST published on how to make an appeal in special educational needs cases or to make a claim in disability discrimination cases is being revised and the 'frequently asked questions' is being updated on their website. An appeal/review flow chart will also be produced. The Department for Children, Schools and Families has not produced separate guidance.

### Specialised Diplomas

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what targets have been set for the effectiveness of the new diplomas; and if he will make a statement. [238345]

**Jim Knight:** No targets have been set for the Diploma. We are committed to fully evaluating each phase of the Diploma to assess how effectively it has been implemented and the impact it is having on the participation and achievement of young people. Delivery of the Diploma will also be subject to independent inspection by Ofsted.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on developing a general diploma in each year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [238347]

**Jim Knight:** There has been no specific development work done on a general diploma. The 14-19 Education and Skills White Paper in 2005, envisaged introducing a general (GCSE) diploma to recognise the achievement of 5 A*-C GCSEs including English and mathematics. It was anticipated that this would be introduced for those starting GCSE programmes in September 2009.

However, we anticipate that the expansion of the Diploma programme which was announced last October will offer a more comprehensive alternative to recognise the broad achievement of young people at that level. A decision was therefore taken at that time not to pursue the general diploma further.

### Specialised Diplomas: Rural Areas

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the issues arising from the offering of diploma courses in rural areas. [230056]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** We have set out our assessments in "Delivering 14-19 Reforms in Rural Areas" which we published on 30 June 2008. This report shows that rural and semi-rural areas face a particular set of challenges. We are committed to supporting these areas to overcome the challenges they face and know that many rural areas are already deploying a range of innovative solutions to ensure that young people get access to 14-19 provision.

### Supply Teachers: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much each local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber spent on supply teachers in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [237654]

**Jim Knight:** The available information on the gross expenditure by local authority maintained schools on supply teachers from 2003-04 to 2007-08 is contained within the table:

*Total gross expenditure by local authority maintained schools on supply teachers*

£

| *Local Authority* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *England* | 833,390,000 | 820,780,000 | 886,783,000 | 872,039,000 | 908,903,000 |
| *Yorkshire and Humberside* | 89,194,000 | 89,440,000 | 94,015,000 | 90,855,000 | 94,825,000 |
| Barnsley | 3,994,000 | 4,514,000 | 5,078,000 | 4,464,000 | 4,868,000 |
| Bradford | 11,409,000 | 11,313,000 | 11,236,000 | 10,818,000 | 11,755,000 |
| Calderdale | 4,055,000 | 3,861,000 | 4,022,000 | 4,071,000 | 4,183,000 |
| City of Kingston-upon-Hull | 4,918,000 | 4,390,000 | 4,914,000 | 4,687,000 | 4,455,000 |
| Doncaster | 5,016,000 | 5,246,000 | 5,378,000 | 5,123,000 | 5,184,000 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 4,636,000 | 4,672,000 | 5,007,000 | 4,603,000 | 5,014,000 |
| Kirklees | 5,586,000 | 5,683,000 | 6,473,000 | 6,901,000 | 7,285,000 |
| Leeds | 12,276,000 | 12,101,000 | 12,954,000 | 12,026,000 | 12,031,000 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 2,923,000 | 2,862,000 | 2,688,000 | 2,992,000 | 2,868,000 |
| North Lincolnshire | 2,709,000 | 2,549,000 | 2,865,000 | 2,471,000 | 2,572,000 |
| North Yorkshire | 9,888,000 | 9,851,000 | 10,914,000 | 11,456,000 | 12,031,000 |
| Rotherham | 6,298,000 | 5,938,000 | 5,110,000 | 5,003,000 | 5,206,000 |
| Sheffield | 9,447,000 | 9,673,000 | 10,059,000 | 8,964,000 | 9,856,000 |
| Wakefield | 3,622,000 | 4,223,000 | 4,369,000 | 4,737,000 | 4,963,000 |
| York | 2,418,000 | 2,566,000 | 2,949,000 | 2,539,000 | 2,554,000 |

### Sure Start Programme

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have used Sure Start services in the last 12 months. [238197]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department does not hold information centrally on how many people have used Sure Start services in the last 12 months.

There are currently over 2,900 children's centres offering access to services for over 2.3 million children under five and their families. Further centres are planned so that by 2010 all families with young children will have easy access to the wide range of early childhood services on offer.

### Sure Start Programme: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* children and *(b)* families in (i) City of York constituency and (ii) the City of York local authority area have participated in the Sure Start York local programme. [237268]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Department does not hold information centrally on how many children and families in the City of York constituency or the City of York local authority have participated in Sure Start Children's Centres services.

Sure Start Children's Centres offer a wide range of services to children aged under five years and their families including health and family support services, advice and information for parents on employment and training, and integrated early learning and child care services. York currently has eight children's centres up and running offering services to over 6,000 children under five and their families. One further centre is planned by 2010 to ensure all families with young children in York will have easy access to the wide range of early childhood services on offer.

### Teachers

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent *(a)* teachers, *(b)* teaching assistants and *(c)* support staff there were in local education authority schools in (i) Hemel Hempstead, (ii) Hertfordshire and (iii) England in (A) 1997 and (B) the latest period for which figures are available. [238187]

**Jim Knight:** The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers, teaching assistants and support staff employed in local authority maintained schools in Hemel Hempstead constituency, Hertfordshire local authority and England, January 1997 and 2008.

*Full-time equivalent teachers,[1] teaching assistants[2] and support staff[3] in local authority maintained schools: years 1997 and 2008 - coverage: Hemel Hempstead constituency, Hertfordshire local authority and England*

| | Hemel Hempstead | | | Hertfordshire | | | England | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | Teachers[4] | Teaching assistants[4] | Support staff[5] | Teachers[5] | Teaching assistants[4] | Support staff[5] | Teachers[5] | Teaching assistants[4] | Support staff[5] |
| 1997 | 800 | 100 | 300 | 9,000 | 1,100 | 3,100 | 399,200 | 60,600 | 133,500 |
| 2008 | 900 | 400 | 700 | 10,400 | 3,400 | 6,700 | 434,900 | 175,700 | 322,400 |

[1] Includes qualified and unqualified teachers.
[2] 'Teaching assistants' include teaching assistants, special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff.
[3] Includes teaching assistants.
[4] Source: School Census.
[5] Source: Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618g.

Notes:
1. Excludes academies and city technology colleges.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

### Teachers: East Midlands

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* teaching assistants were employed in the East Midlands in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) each of the preceding five years. [237903]

**Jim Knight:** The number of teachers and teaching assistants employed in the local authority maintained sector in the east midlands in 2007, and each of the preceding five years are shown in the following Statistical First Release: School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2007 (Revised)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/index.shtml

Table 18 Full-time equivalent regular teachers (excluding occasionals) in the local authority maintained sector by local authority and Government office region.

Table 24 Full-time equivalent teaching assistants in local authority maintained schools by local authorities and Government office regions.

Also more recent information has been published and can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/index.shtml.

### Teachers: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* teaching assistants were working in Enfield North constituency in each year since 1997; and how many of each have worked there in total since 1997. [235417]

**Jim Knight:** The following table provides the number of full-time equivalent teachers and teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained schools in Enfield, North constituency and England in each January since 1997 to 2008.

*Full-time equivalent teachers[1] and teaching assistants[2] in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary, special and pupil referral units. Years: 1997 to 2008. Coverage: Enfield, North constituency and England*

| | Enfield, North constituency | | England | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January of each year | Teachers[3] | Teaching assistants[3] | Teachers[4,5] | assistants[3] |
| 1997 | 900 | 110 | 399,180 | 60,580 |
| 1998 | 990 | 140 | 397,660 | 65,540 |
| 1999 | 1,000 | 140 | 401,160 | 69,600 |
| 2000 | 1,010 | 210 | 404,630 | 79,020 |
| 2001 | 1,040 | 250 | 410,180 | 94,990 |
| 2002 | 1,090 | 330 | 419,630 | 105,360 |
| 2003 | 1,090 | 360 | 423,600 | 121,190 |
| 2004 | 1,110 | 400 | 427,670 | 132,060 |
| 2005 | 1,150 | 430 | 431,880 | 147,000 |
| 2006 | 1,180 | 470 | 435,550 | 153,100 |
| 2007 | 1,190 | 510 | 435,230 | 162,990 |
| 2008 | 1,200 | 550 | 434,870 | 175,660 |

[1] Includes qualified and unqualified teachers.
[2] 'Teaching assistants' include teaching assistants, special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff.
[3] Source: School Census.
[4] Source: Annual Survey of Teacher in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618g.
[5] England teacher figures in this answer are derived from the Department's preferred data source, the Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618g. Figures in a previous answer (PQ233896) were derived from the Census and therefore differ.

*Notes:*
1. Includes academies and city technology colleges.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

## Teachers: Pay

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether national challenge schools may pay higher salaries to teaching staff than other maintained schools; and if he will make a statement. [238342]

**Jim Knight:** The School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document provides National Challenge as well as all maintained schools with a range of pay flexibilities and incentives to support the recruitment and retention of high quality teachers. An extra £400 million has been made available to support National Challenge schools over the next three years, in tailored packages of support, which in some cases include funding to help schools with recruitment incentives.

## Teachers: Qualifications

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many overseas trained teachers lost their jobs from state schools because they had not attained qualified teacher status within four years by September 2008, broken down by subject taught. [238129]

**Jim Knight:** The requested data are not available centrally.

## Teachers: Sick Leave

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of full-time teachers in Yorkshire and the Humber took sick leave in each of the last five years; what the average annual rate was; and if he will make a statement. [237653]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not available. However, the available information on full-time teacher sickness absence has been published in the following Statistical First Releases:

School Workforce in England (including Local Authority level figures), January 2008 (Revised)—(2007 figures can be found in table 24)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/index.shtml

School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2007 (Revised)—(2006 figures can be found in table 14)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/index.shtml

School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2006 (Revised)—(2005 figures can be found in table 16)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000681/index.shtml

School Workforce in England: Provisional Teacher Sickness Absence in 2004 and Teacher Ethnicity 2005—(2004 figures can be found in table 3)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000578/index.shtml

School Workforce in England: Provisional Teacher Sickness Absence in 2003 and Teacher Ethnicity 2004—(2003 figures can be found in table 3)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000466/index.shtml

## Teachers: Training

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of those who enrolled as teacher trainees in each year since 1997 were teachers three years after enrolment. [238341]

**Jim Knight:** Information tracking those who enrol as teacher trainees through to them starting teaching is not held centrally.

The following table shows the number of final year initial teacher training (ITT) trainees for each academic year between 1998/99 and 2006/07 who gained qualified teacher status (QTS) in their final year of training and of these the number who were known to be in a teaching post six months after gaining QTS for mainstream initial teacher training (ITT) trainees. Information is not available for 1997/98 in a consistent format.

*Mainstream final year ITT trainees*

| Academic year | Total number of mainstream trainees in their final year | Number of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS[1] | Number of final year trainees who gained QTS and are known to be in a teaching post 6 months after gaining QTS[1,2] | Proportion of mainstream final year trainees who gain QTS (percentage) | Proportion of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS who are known to be in a teaching post 6 months after gaining QTS (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1998/99 | 27,200 | 24,070 | 19,240 | 88 | 80 |
| 1999/2000 | 24,650 | 21,690 | 17,890 | 88 | 82 |

*Mainstream final year ITT trainees*

| Academic year | Total number of mainstream trainees in their final year | Number of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS[1] | Number of final year trainees who gained QTS and are known to be in a teaching post 6 months after gaining QTS[1, 2] | Proportion of mainstream final year trainees who gain QTS (percentage) | Proportion of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS who are known to be in a teaching post 6 months after gaining QTS (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 25,720 | 22,640 | 18,900 | 88 | 84 |
| 2002/03 | 26,350 | 23,200 | 19,660 | 88 | 84 |
| 2003/04 | 28,570 | 25,430 | 20,150 | 89 | 79 |
| 2004/05 | 30,970 | 27,340 | 21,820 | 88 | 80 |
| 2005/06 | 31,360 | 27,150 | 21,960 | 87 | 81 |
| 2006/07 | 31,220 | 27,010 | 21,960 | 87 | 81 |
| 2006/07 | 31,350 | 26,980 | 22,100 | 86 | 82 |

[1] Those who failed to gain QTS include those who are yet to complete their course, those who left before the end of their course, those who had their QTS withheld, those who have not taken the skills test and those with an unknown outcome

[2] Those in a teaching post six months after gaining QTS include those in maintained schools, non-maintained schools and where the sector is unknown

[3] Those who are not in a teaching post six months after gaining QTS include those who are seeking a teaching post, those who are not seeking a teaching post and those with an unknown destination

Notes:
1. Includes trainees from universities and other higher education (HE) institutions, school-centred initial teacher training (SCITT) and open universities (OU), but exclude employment based routes (EBR).
2. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
TDA performance profiles

The following table shows the number of final year initial teacher training (ITT) trainees for each academic year between 2001/02 and 2006/07 who gained qualified teacher status (QTS) in their final year of training for employment based routes (EBR) trainees. Information relating to the number of trainees gaining QTS through employment based routes was only collected from 2001/02 onwards and the employment status of trainees through EBR is not collected.

*Employment based routes (EBR) final year ITT trainees*

| Academic year | Total number of EBR trainees in their final year | Number of EBR final year trainees gaining QTS[1] | Proportion of EBR final year trainees who gain QTS (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 2,480 | 2,250 | 91 |
| 2002/03 | 4,030 | 3,670 | 91 |
| 2003/04 | 4,970 | 4,470 | 90 |
| 2004/05 | 7,220 | 6,600 | 91 |
| 2005/06 | 6,970 | 6,090 | 87 |
| 2006/07 | 7,840 | 7,170 | 91 |

[1] Those who failed to gain QTS include those who are yet to complete their course, those who left before the end of their course, those who had their QTS withheld, those who have not taken the skills test and those with an unknown outcome

Notes:
1. Includes trainees through employment based routes (EBR) only.
2. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
TDA performance profiles

The following table shows the proportion of full and part-time teachers in maintained schools who were still teaching in the maintained sector three years after gaining QTS, by the year which they gained QTS.

*Percentage of full and part-time[1] teachers that qualified in a particular year and were still in service in the maintained sector in England three years later*

| Year qualified | First year in service[2] | Percentage in full or part-time service three years later |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1997-98 | 79 |
| 1998 | 1998-99 | 79 |
| 1999 | 1999-2000 | 79 |
| 2000 | 2000-01 | 80 |
| 2001 | 2001-02 | 81 |
| 2002 | 2002-03 | 82 |

*Percentage of full and part-time[1] teachers that qualified in a particular year and were still in service in the maintained sector in England three years later*

| Year qualified | First year in service[2] | Percentage in full or part-time service three years later |
|---|---|---|
| 2003[3] | 2003-04 | 81 |

[1] Teachers in part-time service are under-recorded on the DfES by between 10 and 20 per cent. and therefore these figures may be slightly underestimated.
[2] Calendar year in which the teachers qualified.
[3] Financial year during which the teachers entered service.
[4] Provisional.

Source:
Database of Teacher Records (DTR)

## Young People: Disability

**Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken to implement part 3.11 of the Ten Year Youth Strategy to increase participation in activities among disabled young people. [259864]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Empowering all young people to have genuine influence over local activities is crucial to increasing their participation. The commitments in Aiming High for Young People are designed to support all young people but with extra focus for those who need it most, such as those with disabilities, so that all can participate in a meaningful way.

Commitments include the continuation of the Youth Opportunity and Capital Funds, through which young people make decisions about new provision, until at least 2011. A recently published evaluation of the Funds over their first two years, 2006-08, concluded that local authorities had generally been successful in engaging young people with disabilities, both as decision makers and applicants.

This drive to increase participation is being complemented by the transformation of short break provision signalled in Aiming High for Disabled Children. £269 million is being provided by DCSF to local authorities in England over the 2008-11 period to improve radically

access for children and young people to breaks—including those which promote personal and social development through positive activities.

### Young People: Suicide

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of suicides of people aged 16 years or under in which bullying was a factor in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [239335]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department does not collect this information centrally. We take bullying very seriously and it is compulsory for schools to have a policy in place to prevent and tackle bullying. We are aware that many external studies link being bullied to outcomes such as anxiety, depression, low self esteem and, in some extreme cases, suicide. The findings of these studies have informed the content of our 'Safe to Learn' anti-bullying guidance and our wider work to prevent and tackle bullying in schools.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### African Springboard Initiative

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps have been taken by the African Springboard Initiative; what assessment he has made of its progress; and if he will make a statement. [236409]

**Joan Ruddock:** The African Springboard has been renamed 'Africarbon'—this name was suggested and chosen by the existing partners and to satisfy legal obligations. Africarbon has been registered as a UK limited liability company and a website has been developed. We hope that a CEO will be recruited by spring 2009 and Africarbon will be formally launched.

A Business Plan has been developed and firm financial and in-kind commitments have been offered by partners.

The Secretary of State will launch Africarbon in spring next year with the new CEO and would be happy to make a statement at that time.

### Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the level of carbon dioxide emissions from the UK in each year since 1990, *(a)* broken down by sector and *(b)* in respect of (i) aviation and (ii) shipping. [229984]

**Joan Ruddock:** Estimated UK carbon dioxide emissions by year over this period are published as National Statistics. The latest year for which data are available is 2006. The headline results from 1990 to 2006 and sectoral breakdowns for each year can be found on the website of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website.

*(a)* Two breakdowns are published for each year: by source and by end-user. The former breakdown is based on the sector where the emissions actually occurred; the latter breakdown reallocates these same emissions in accordance with where the end-use actually occurred. This effectively re-allocates emissions from energy supply to, for example, household and business energy usage.

The tables provide both breakdowns over the period in question, based on National Communications sectors, which are the basis for UK Government reporting.

*(b)* Emissions from domestic aviation and shipping over the period are also shown in the tables; both the source and end-source breakdowns are shown, also based on National Communications sectors.

Emissions from international aviation and shipping can only be estimated from refuelling from bunkers at UK airports and ports, whether by UK or non-UK operators. These are recorded as memo items in the UK's Greenhouse Gas Inventory, as reported by DEFRA to the UNFCCC, but do not count towards national totals. This is because there is no agreement on how, or whether, to allocate emissions from these sources to individual countries.

The following tables provide figures for both international aviation and shipping over the period in question. Since these items are only included in our UNFCCC reporting, they are based on sectors as defined for this purpose by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

*Carbon dioxide emissions by source sector 1990-2006*

*million tonnes of $CO_2$*

| NC category | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Energy Supply | 242.3 | 240.9 | 230.7 | 213.3 | 209.0 | 207.5 | 209.3 | 195.0 | 199.0 | 189.3 |
| Business | 108.9 | 110.8 | 106.6 | 106.5 | 106.8 | 103.7 | 105.9 | 104.1 | 103.1 | 104.1 |
| Transport | 122.9 | 120.9 | 121.9 | 123.2 | 123.2 | 122.1 | 126.8 | 128.1 | 126.9 | 127.6 |
| Public | 13.5 | 14.4 | 13.0 | 13.7 | 13.4 | 13.2 | 14.2 | 13.8 | 12.6 | 12.4 |
| Residential | 79.8 | 86.4 | 86.9 | 89.8 | 85.5 | 81.1 | 92.3 | 85.2 | 87.2 | 86.3 |
| Agriculture | 5.1 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| Industrial Process | 10.3 | 14.9 | 13.3 | 13.2 | 14.4 | 14.9 | 15.4 | 15.6 | 15.6 | 15.4 |
| Land Use Change | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.0 | -0.3 |
| Waste Management | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Grand total | 582.6 | 598.1 | 582.0 | 567.1 | 559.3 | 549.8 | 571.0 | 548.1 | 549.9 | 540.3 |

*million tonnes of $CO_2$*

| NC category | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Energy Supply | 199.8 | 209.8 | 207.9 | 215.9 | 214.7 | 217.6 | 220.8 |
| Business | 106.2 | 104.1 | 93.7 | 95.3 | 93.3 | 93.4 | 91.9 |

million tonnes of $CO_2$

| NC category | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Transport | 126.6 | 126.2 | 128.4 | 129.2 | 130.7 | 131.9 | 133.5 |
| Public | 11.7 | 12.1 | 10.3 | 10.1 | 11.1 | 10.9 | 10.5 |
| Residential | 87.0 | 89.2 | 85.9 | 86.8 | 88.4 | 84.6 | 81.3 |
| Agriculture | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.3 |
| Industrial Process | 14.7 | 13.4 | 12.4 | 13.4 | 13.8 | 13.9 | 13.9 |
| Land Use Change | -0.4 | -0.6 | -1.1 | -1.2 | -1.9 | -2.1 | -2.0 |
| Waste Management | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Grand total | 548.6 | 559.4 | 542.7 | 554.7 | 555.1 | 555.2 | 554.5 |

*Carbon dioxide emissions by end-user sector: 1990-2006*

million tonnes of $CO_2$

| NC category | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Business | 227.5 | 224.8 | 211.2 | 204.0 | 201.0 | 197.6 | 199.0 | 192.0 | 191.9 | 189.1 |
| Transport | 140.6 | 138.6 | 140.5 | 142.5 | 142.8 | 142.7 | 148.0 | 148.7 | 147.3 | 147.8 |
| Public | 29.2 | 32.2 | 33.8 | 27.8 | 27.5 | 26.6 | 27.5 | 25.1 | 23.9 | 23.1 |
| Residential | 155.7 | 165.4 | 159.1 | 155.3 | 150.0 | 143.5 | 155.6 | 141.0 | 146.7 | 142.2 |
| Agriculture | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 8.2 | 7.9 | 7.8 | 7.6 |
| Industrial Process | 17.3 | 15.1 | 14.4 | 14.3 | 15.4 | 15.8 | 16.5 | 16.7 | 16.6 | 16.4 |
| Land Use Change | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.0 | -0.3 |
| Waste Management | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Exports | 9.3 | 10.2 | 11.1 | 12.6 | 12.5 | 13.3 | 14.5 | 15.7 | 15.2 | 13.9 |
| Other | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Grand total | 592.4 | 599.1 | 582.0 | 567.1 | 559.3 | 549.8 | 571.0 | 548.1 | 549.9 | 540.3 |

million tonnes of $CO_2$

| NC category | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Business | 196.4 | 201.6 | 188.5 | 195.0 | 192.7 | 194.6 | 197.4 |
| Transport | 146.7 | 146.5 | 150.2 | 150.6 | 150.5 | 152.2 | 151.3 |
| Public | 22.3 | 23.1 | 20.7 | 20.8 | 21.6 | 21.6 | 21.5 |
| Residential | 146.8 | 153.6 | 148.2 | 151.7 | 152.9 | 149.5 | 149.0 |
| Agriculture | 7.3 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 7.1 |
| Industrial Process | 15.6 | 14.1 | 13.1 | 13.9 | 14.2 | 14.2 | 14.4 |
| Land Use Change | -0.4 | -0.6 | -1.1 | -1.2 | -1.9 | -2.1 | -2.0 |
| Waste Management | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Exports | 13.4 | 12.9 | 15.1 | 15.9 | 17.2 | 17.5 | 15.2 |
| Other | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Grand total | 548.6 | 559.4 | 542.7 | 554.7 | 555.1 | 555.2 | 554.5 |

*Carbon dioxide emissions from domestic aviation and shipping: by source sector, 1990-2006*

million tonnes of $CO_2$

| NC category | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aviation | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.7 |
| Shipping | 4.1 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.2 |

million tonnes of $CO_2$

| NC category | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aviation | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.3 |
| Shipping | 3.1 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 4.2 | 5.5 |

*Carbon dioxide emissions from domestic aviation and shipping: by end-user sector, 1990-2006*

million tonnes of $CO_2$

| NC category | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aviation | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 2.0 |
| Shipping | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 3.7 |

million tonnes of $CO_2$

| NC category | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aviation | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.6 |
| Shipping | 3.6 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.7 | 6.1 |

*Carbon dioxide emissions from international aviation and shipping: 1990-2006*

*million tonnes of $CO_2$*

| *IPCC category* | *1990* | *1991* | *1992* | *1993* | *1994* | *1995* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| International bunkers—Aviation (Landing and take off) | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 2.0 |
| International bunkers—Aviation (Cruise) | 14.5 | 14.3 | 15.8 | 16.8 | 17.6 | 18.7 | 19.9 | 21.2 | 23.5 | 25.6 |
| International bunkers—Aircraft Engines | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| International bunkers—Aviation total | 15.7 | 15.5 | 17.1 | 18.3 | 19.0 | 20.2 | 21.4 | 22.8 | 25.3 | 27.5 |
| International bunkers—Navigation | 6.7 | 6.5 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.2 | 6.7 | 7.3 | 8.2 | 9.0 | 6.5 |

*million tonnes of $CO_2$*

| *IPCC category* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| International bunkers—Aviation (Landing and take off) | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.4 |
| International bunkers—Aviation (Cruise) | 28.2 | 27.5 | 27.0 | 27.6 | 30.3 | 32.7 | 33.2 |
| International bunkers—Aircraft Engines | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| International bunkers—Aviation total | 30.3 | 29.6 | 29.0 | 29.7 | 32.5 | 35.1 | 35.6 |
| International bunkers—Navigation | 5.7 | 6.4 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 6.8 |

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment his Department has made of progress towards achieving the goal for the UK to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent. on 1990 levels by 2010. [236402]

**Joan Ruddock:** Our domestic goal of a 20 per cent. reduction in $CO_2$ emissions by 2010, which was always designed to be stretching, looks increasingly difficult to achieve. But we are making definite progress towards it and the projected reduction in $CO_2$ emissions of about 15 per cent. by 2010, including the impact of the EU emissions trading scheme, is testimony to that progress.

The Climate Change Bill requires the independent Committee on Climate Change to advise the Government on whether their advice on the level of the 2008-12 budget, which we will receive on 1 December, is consistent with a 20 per cent. cut in $CO_2$ emissions by 2010.

### Carbon Emissions: Housing

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received on the effectiveness of the Home Carbon Saver scheme, operated by Energy Services; and if he will make a statement. [238038]

**Joan Ruddock:** Home Carbon Saver is a private company that offers paid-for energy services. DECC has not made any assessment of the company.

### Carbon Emissions: Manpower

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* Civil Service support and *(b)* office space will be given to the special representative on carbon trading; and what expenses the representative will be able to claim. [229194]

**Joan Ruddock:** The special representative on carbon markets, my hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, North and Leith (Mark Lazarowicz), reports to the Prime Minister through the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and the Financial Services Secretary. The representative receives support from Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) officials and officials in HM Treasury. He is entitled to claim travel and subsistence expenses for any overseas trips made in his capacity as special representative.

### Coal

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many tonnes of coal were produced in the UK in each of the last five years. [227166]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The following table shows published figures on UK coal production for the last five years.

*Thousand tonnes*

| | *Deep-mined production* | *Opencast production* | *Total production*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 15,633 | 12,126 | 27,759 |
| 2004 | 12,542 | 11,993 | 24,535 |
| 2005 | 9,563 | 10,445 | 20,008 |
| 2006 | 9,444 | 8,635 | 18,079 |
| 2007 | 7,674 | 8,866 | 16,540 |

[1] These figures exclude estimates of slurry recovered from ponds, dumps, rivers etc. Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2008, Table 2.7

### Departmental Buildings

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what offices *(a)* in London and *(b)* outside London are used by his Department and its agencies; and what the size is of the floor area of each. [228263]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** DECC intends to locate all its London staff at 3 Whitehall place. Its floor area is 5,899 square metres. Atholl house in Aberdeen has a floor space used by DECC of 1,594.14 square metres. Until discussions on the detail of machinery of government changes following the creation of DECC have been concluded, it is not possible to provide a fuller answer on DECC's agencies.

### Departmental Consultants

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many consultants are employed by his Department. [228265]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** DECC employs no consultants and has no consultancy contracts of its own. Once the Machinery of Government settlement with BERR and DEFRA is complete, we will be in a position to provide a fuller answer.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with which consultancy firms his Department has contracts; and what the value of each such contract is. [228266]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** DECC has employed no consultants and has no consultancy contracts of its own. Once the Machinery of Government settlement with BERR and DEFRA is complete, we will be in a position to provide a fuller answer.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what IT projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [229152]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The IT projects which are being undertaken within DECC are:

North Sea Licensing – establishing an offshore register equivalent to the onshore Land Registry. Cost is £250,000 to £300,000 and will be finished in summer 2009.

Electricity Portal for electricity consents. Cost approximately £350,000 and will be live in early 2009.

Environmental emissions monitoring database, as joint project with oil industry, to capture data and report for Kyoto. The cost is expected to be £250,000 and will be complete by spring 2010.

The full list of agencies that will be the responsibility of the Department will be published in due course.

### Departmental Official Visits

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants since its establishment. [228768]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** According to the most recent records, £66,073 has been spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants in the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) since the Department's formation on 3 October 2008.

### Agencies and Public Bodies

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies sponsored by his Department have. [236406]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Cabinet Office paper deposited in the Library of the House titled "Machinery of Government: economy, business, climate change, energy and environment" sets out much of this information. There are ongoing negotiations to determine the overall functions of the Department and which additional regulators, inspectorate, Executive agencies and NDPB will be the responsibility of the Department. The information will be published in due course.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget is for the first operational year of his Department. [230619]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The annual budget for the Department of Energy and Climate Change is currently being determined with HM Treasury. The agreed budget figures will be published in the Spring Supplementary Estimates in February 2009.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many civil servants in his Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229137]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which was formed on 3 October 2008, will consist of posts transferred from the existing Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA). The detail is still being worked on, but staff will come to DECC from Energy Group in BERR and Climate Change Group in DEFRA. Given that, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 18 November 20008, *Official Report*, column 302W and my right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Employment Relations and Postal Affairs, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 760W.

### Departmental Reorganisation

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the estimated *(a)* set-up costs and *(b)* full year running costs of his Department are expected to be. [233412]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** We have no estimations for one-off set up costs for the Department. The final budget for DECC will be agreed once negotiations on the Machinery of Government changes with BERR and DEFRA are complete.

### Electricity: Per Capita Costs

**Mr. Ingram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the annual average cost per domestic electricity consumer in Scotland arising from the operation of the Renewables Obligation Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [230116]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* The Renewables Obligation Scotland is devolved to the Scottish Executive.

However, Ofgem, which administers the Renewables Obligation for DECC, the Scottish Executive, and DETI Northern Ireland, have calculated the annual cost of the RO for 2008-09 to be around £10 per customer. This information is published on the Ofgem website at

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Media/FactSheets/Documents1/energy%20prices%20jan08.pdf.

### Energy Demand Research Project: Finance

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget is for the Energy Demand Research Project in *(a)* this financial year and *(b)* each of the next five financial years. [234610]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Government's overall budget for the Energy Demand Research Project is £9.75 million. The amount spent each year is not fixed but is dependent on the rate of progress of the project and claims for contributions from the participating energy suppliers. It is expected that expenditure on the project will end during the financial year 2010-11. The Government's contributions to participating suppliers are being matched by the suppliers, taking the overall budget for the project to over £19.5 million.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding the Government has provided to the Energy Demand Research Project in each financial year since its creation. [234612]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Energy Demand Research Project was launched in July 2007. During the 2007-08 financial year, Government expenditure on the project totalled £1.8 million. Expenditure to date this financial year is over £1.6 million.

### Energy: Housing

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much of the recently-announced domestic energy funding package has been spent on domestic energy efficiency measures; and how many households have received such funding. [227381]

**Joan Ruddock:** From 1 October to 17 November the Warm Front Scheme has spent approximately £16.5 million of the extra £50 million added to this financial year's budget. This has assisted more than 10,000 households by delivering energy efficiency advice together with a range of heating and insulation measures.

Government will be consulting shortly on proposed legislation regarding the increased CERT (Carbon Emission Reduction Target) and the new CESP (Community Energy Saving Programme) obligations. In anticipation of this the energy suppliers have significantly increased their insulation programmes for this winter. In fact, as part of their obligation to improve household energy efficiency, energy companies estimate that they will insulate twice as many cavity walls and 50 per cent. more lofts than last winter.

Thousands of extra people have benefited from energy saving advice from the Act on C02 helpline since the 11 September announcement. The Energy Saving Trust took 89,000 calls in September (against 27,000 in September 2007) and 92,000 in October (against 33,000 in 2007).

### Energy: Meters

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will put in place a deadline for the compulsory roll-out of smart energy meters to homes and businesses. [235196]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 12 November 2008]:* The Government announced on 28 October their plans to roll out smart meters to all domestic customers—as can be seen in the *Official Report*, House of Lords, 28 October 2008, column 1515—with an indicative timetable of around two years to design and establish the full details of a roll-out followed by a 10-year roll-out period.

In the 2008 Budget the Government announced the roll-out of advanced metering for larger business customers over a five-year period beginning in early 2009. A consultation on the provision of smart and advanced metering for remaining business customers closed on17 October. The Government will respond soon.

### Energy: Prices

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on *(a)* changes in energy prices in (i) other EU member states and (ii) the EU in each of the last three years and *(b)* the support other EU member states provide to vulnerable energy consumers. [238497]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Domestic and Industrial retail prices for gas and electricity for EU member states are published in section 5 of 'Quarterly Energy Prices', the latest edition of which was published in September 2008 and is available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/statistics/publications/prices/index.html.

Table 5.6.2 on page 64 shows average electricity prices, including taxes, for domestic consumers. Table 5.10.2 on page 70 shows average gas prices, including taxes, for domestic consumers.

With regard to vulnerable energy consumers, since 2000, over two million households have been assisted in the UK through fuel poverty schemes and £20 billion has been spent on fuel poverty benefits and programmes.

Winter fuel payments, worth around £2 billion a year, help around 12 million people each winter. In addition to £200 normally awarded to over 60s and £300 to over 80s, a one-off payment of £50 and £100 respectively has been made available this winter.

Around five million households have been insulated since 2002 under CERT (Carbon Emissions Reduction Target) an obligation on energy suppliers to achieve targets through encouraging households to take-up energy efficiency measures. It builds on the existing obligation—the Energy Efficiency Commitment, which has been in place since 2002.

In April, the Government secured increased support for households from the energy suppliers. Collective annual spend on the social assistance programmes they offer will triple to £150 million by 2011.

The Home Energy Saving Programme was announced on 11 September.

DECC does not hold any data on support provided to vulnerable energy consumers by other EU member states.

## Fuel Poverty

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the Government's target is for reducing fuel poverty; what changes have been made to this target since January; what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this issue; what recent representations he has received on fuel poverty; what reply he gave in each case; and if he will make a statement. [227584]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Government targets are unchanged and seek to end fuel poverty if reasonably practicable in vulnerable households in England by 2010; and to ensure that as far as reasonably practicable by 22 November 2016, no persons in England live in fuel poverty.

Ministers in DEFRA and BERR hold regular discussions with ministerial colleagues including those in HM Treasury, Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department of Health.

The Department regularly receives representations on fuel poverty and recently these have included those from the Local Government Association. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received representations in the form of a judicial review challenge from Friends of the Earth and Help the Aged which touches upon the operation and effectiveness of the Act. The High Court granted permission to Friends of the Earth to pursue the challenge, which was heard in the High Court on 6 and 7 October. The verdict is currently awaited and it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the numbers of those *(a)* in fuel poverty and *(b)* in fuel poverty and in a vulnerable group in England for each year since 2003; and how many of those were resident in each government office region in each such year. [234194]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Fuel poverty estimates are published annually. The latest figures are for 2006 and can be found in the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy Report, 2008 and associated statistical annex. These can be accessed online at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/fuel-poverty/strategy/index.html

Estimated figures for England are as follows:

*Estimated number of households in fuel poverty (millions)*

| | *England* | *Vulnerable* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 1.2 | 1.0 |
| 2004 | 1.2 | 1.0 |
| 2005 | 1.5 | 1.2 |
| 2006 | 2.4 | 1.9 |

Regional estimates for total fuel poverty are also available and are contained within the Detailed Tables statistical annex. These show the following:

*Number of fuel poor household (thousands)*

| *Government office region* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 95 | 103 | 126 | 179 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 180 | 163 | 169 | 273 |
| North West | 178 | 190 | 268 | 415 |
| East Midlands | 112 | 101 | 145 | 236 |
| West Midlands | 146 | 153 | 197 | 304 |
| South West | 139 | 134 | 181 | 256 |
| East England | 115 | 141 | 155 | 224 |
| South East | 149 | 133 | 169 | 291 |
| London | 108 | 119 | 120 | 254 |
| Total | 1,222 | 1,236 | 1,529 | 2,432 |

The equivalent figures are not available for the vulnerable group.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households with at least one person *(a)* over 60 years old, *(b)* under 16 years old and *(c)* with a long-term sickness or disability were estimated to be in fuel poverty at the latest date for which information is available. [234503]

**Joan Ruddock:** Fuel Poverty estimates are published annually, the latest figures relate to 2006. The requested information is available in the Fuel poverty statistics: detailed tables, available online at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file48038.pdf.

These show the following:

| | *Number of households in fuel poverty* |
|---|---|
| At least one person aged over 60 | 1,285,000 |
| At least one person aged under 16 | 392,000 |
| Someone in the household has a long term illness or disability | 915,000 |

## Fuel Poverty: Chelmsford

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households in West Chelmsford constituency that are in fuel poverty. [230515]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* The most recent year for which sub-national estimates of fuel poverty are available is 2003. The data for fuel poverty levels for 2003 come from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset available online at:

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk

In 2003, there were around 2,300 households in the constituency of West Chelmsford living in fuel poverty.

### Fuels: Prices

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information he holds on the average pump price for *(a)* unleaded petrol and *(b)* diesel in each EU country on 1 October 2008. [228102]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department's latest information on the prices of retail premium unleaded petrol and diesel for all EU countries is published on the BERR website. It is given in table 5.1.1 (reproduced as follows) through the following link:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/statistics/publications/prices/tables/page18125.html

The information is sourced from the European Commission, which publishes weekly updates on average petrol and diesel prices for all EU member states. These are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/oil/bulletin/index_en.htm

### Gas: Prices

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps the Government are taking to encourage suppliers of non-mains gas to reduce their retail prices. [234398]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The majority of domestic users of non-mains gas use Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG).

The downstream oil industry, including the production and supply of LPG, operates within a global market comprising refiners, traders and suppliers.

The supply of LPG is subject to UK competition law under the Competition Act 1998, and the appropriate bodies act to regulate the sector. As a result of concerns about competition in the market for domestic bulk LPG, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) made a market investigation reference to the Competition Commission (CC) in July 2004. In June 2006 the CC published a report which stated that difficulties in switching supplier have inhibited competition. The CC has arrived at a package of remedies which is intended to make it easier to switch supplier, and will provide greater transparency of pricing, providing information on which consumers will be able to take this decision. It is expected that the increased ability of consumers to switch supplier will increase competition in the market and put downward pressure on prices.

### Geological Disposal Implementation Body

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he established the Geological Disposal Implementation Body; who has been appointed to this body; what criteria were used in making the appointments; what budget is available to support the Implementation Body's work; how often it is planned it should meet; and whether it is a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [236367]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Geological Disposal Implementation Board (GDBB) is a civil servant programme board set up to manage the Government and Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) arrangements for planning and delivery of a geological disposal facility as set out in the White Paper "Managing Radioactive Waste Safety: a Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal". Its role will include the provision of advice to Ministers and the preparation and publication of Government decision documents.

Organisations represented on the Implementation Board will be the Department of Energy and Climate Change, HM Treasury, the Welsh Assembly Government and the NDA as the Government's delivery body.

Other Government Departments, regulatory bodies and other organisations can be invited to contribute to supporting work.

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Power Stations

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the extent to which the power sector will need to be decarbonised by 2030 to attain an 80 per cent. greenhouse gas reduction target for the UK by 2050; and if he will make a statement. [234114]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Research into the UK's transition to a low carbon economy consistently emphasises the importance of increasing the energy efficiency of the UK economy and reducing the carbon intensity of the UK power sector. The research highlights uncertainties over the extent to which the UK power sector will need to be de-carbonised owing to imperfect knowledge about both the future rates of innovation and costs in particular technologies, and the power sector's inclusion in a future international cap and trade scheme.

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households have received a boiler replacement grant through the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* England. [235969]

**Joan Ruddock:** Between June 2000 and March 2008 the Warm Front scheme has replaced some 217,267 central heating boilers. 3,353 of these were replaced in Bolton local authority.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many homes in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* England have received home insulation through the Warm Front Scheme since the establishment of the scheme. [237124]

**Joan Ruddock:** In the current contracted period, June 2005 to July 2008, the Warm Front Scheme has installed insulation in 263,307 households across England. 248 of these households were in the constituency of Hemel Hempstead.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households have received a boiler replacement grant through the Warm Front Scheme in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England since the scheme was established. [237125]

**Joan Ruddock:** In the current contracted period, June 2005 to March 2008, the Warm Front scheme has replaced 155,798 boilers in England. 1,183 of these were replaced in Hertfordshire and 92 in the constituency of Hemel Hempstead.

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many homes have been provided with heating under the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* England and *(b)* Bolsover constituency in the last two years. [238077]

**Joan Ruddock:** The following table illustrates the number of households receiving heating works in *(a)* England and *(b)* Bolsover through the Warm Front scheme in last two scheme years 2006-08.

| *Scheme year* | *England* | *Bolsover* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 87,619 | 124 |
| 2007-08 | 111,596 | 271 |

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Hampshire

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley Borough and *(c)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire received Warm Front grants in each of the last five years. [231306]

**Joan Ruddock:** The table below illustrates the number of households in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley Borough and *(c)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire who have been assisted by the Warm Front Scheme in each of the last five years.

*Warm Front Scheme*

*Number*

| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *(a)* Southampton | 540 | 1,055 | 732 | 445 | 944 | 323 |
| *(b)* Test Valley Borough | 189 | 134 | 166 | 411 | 171 | 96 |
| *(c)* Ceremonial county of Hampshire (including Southampton and Portsmouth) | 6,890 | 8,989 | 7,207 | 7,254 | 8,224 | 3,612 |

[1] To 28 October

### Insulation: Housing

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many additional homes will receive increased insulation and pipe lagging as a result of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target package with the power utilities announced on 11 September. [226256]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC), which was succeeded by the Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) in April 2008, has already helped five million households install insulation and make significant energy savings since 2002. CERT doubles the previous level of obligation on energy suppliers which, together with the 20 per cent. increase in target announced by the Prime Minister on 11 September, means a similar number of households will benefit from energy saving measures such as cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and tank insulation in the next three years.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what resources are available to help people aged over 70 years insulate their homes. [238037]

**Joan Ruddock:** Under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, energy suppliers are currently offering free loft and cavity wall insulation to pensioners over 70, subject to a survey of the property.

Low income private sector households with a person over 70 may also qualify for a grant to insulate their homes under the Warm Front scheme. Warm Front insulation measures include cavity wall, loft and draught proofing. Householders must be in receipt of a means tested or disability benefit to qualify.

For more information on assistance available, householders are encouraged to call the Government-funded Act on $CO_2$ helpline (0800 512 012).

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) when a Minister in his Department plans to reply to the letter to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 16 September 2008 on solar water heaters; [232219]

(2) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 29 September 2008 to the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on renewable energy projects. [232216]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answers 3 November 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 3 November. I apologise for the delay in responding.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he will respond to the letter to him of 3rd October from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms M Bolton. [236974]

**Joan Ruddock:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State replied to the hon. Member's letter on behalf of Ms M. Bolton on 20 November.

### National Nuclear Laboratory

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made towards establishing a National Nuclear Laboratory. [234721]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform confirmed the establishment of the National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) when he visited Sellafield on 23 July.

DECC is currently running a competition to appoint a management contractor who can put the business onto a sound commercial footing and realise the NNL's fuller potential by broadening the range of work and customers. The competition is making good progress and the new management contractor is expected to be in place by spring 2009.

### Nuclear Power Stations

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the working lifetime of any new nuclear power station built in the UK. [237747]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The assumption for the working lifetime of any new nuclear power station built in the UK was contained in analysis published with the 2006 Energy Review. This is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file32014.pdf

Plant lifetime was assumed to be 40 years.

The document "Consultation on Funded Decommissioning Programme Guidance for New Nuclear Power Stations" set out a Base Case which includes the assumption that the reactor design will be based on a single station operating for an assumed life of 40 years. The Government response to the consultation confirmed that this should remain the assumption for the Base Case. However it will be open to operators to suggest alternative station lifetimes. Both documents are available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/sources/nuclear/consultations/closed-response/page47749.html

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what arrangements he has made for the liabilities of existing British Energy reactor sites to be covered by EDF; whether EDF will continue to pay into the Nuclear Liabilities Fund to cover wastes and spent fuel created from ongoing operations at existing British Energy reactors; and whether EDF will be required to pay the same amount per tonne to Sellafields sites and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority for spent fuel reprocessing or management and disposal as British Energy has paid under its agreement with the Government. [238716]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* The current arrangements for meeting the costs associated with waste and decommissioning of British Energy's existing nuclear power stations would not be affected by the proposed takeover of British Energy by EDF. British Energy, once owned by EDF, would continue to be responsible for any payments due to the Nuclear Liabilities Fund (NLF) as at present. All payments are made to the NLF, not to Sellafield or the NDA.

### Oil: Prices

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 256W, on oil: prices, what his Department's current oil price assumptions are for *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2015 and *(c)* 2020. [226668]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* DECC's latest future fossil price assumptions were published by BERR in May 2008, following a consultation published in January. In order to capture uncertainty around the outturn of future fossil fuel prices, the assumptions are presented in the form of four illustrative scenarios. Our price assumptions, and further details on the corresponding scenarios, are available through the following links:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/environment/projections/recent/page26391.html

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46071.pdf

The oil price assumptions for the years given are as follows:

| | *Price ($/bbl)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Scenario* | *2010* | *2015* | *2020* |
| Low | 45 | 45 | 45 |
| Central | 65 | 68 | 70 |
| High | 85 | 90 | 95 |
| High-High | 107 | 150 | 150 |

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with oil companies on passing on recent falls in the price of oil via reductions in the pump price of fuel; what response was received; and if he will make a statement. [233887]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I will shortly be meeting with some oil industry representatives on 27 November and I have made clear publicly that I want to see petrol and diesel prices fall. The evidence is that this is happening with some petrol prices as low as 89.9p a litre.

### Plutonium

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings officials of *(a)* his Department and of *(b)* the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, when it was responsible for nuclear policy, have had with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to discuss the development of the plutonium management strategy since January 2006. [228644]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Officials have been meeting with the NDA regularly since January 2006 to discuss the development of options for managing the UK's civil plutonium stocks. Meetings were held prior to and following the publication of NDA's paper, Uranium and Plutonium: A Macro-Economic study. Further discussions have been ongoing since then, increasing in frequency in the lead up to and following the options paper published on NDA's website in August this year.

### Renewable Energy: Finance

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding the Government has provided for the Hydrogen, Fuel Cell and Carbon Abatement Technologies Demonstration Programme in each financial year since its creation. [234614]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Government support the demonstration of Hydrogen Fuel Cells and Carbon Abatement Technologies through the Environmental Transformation fund (ETF). The programmes were launched in October 2006. This is a £50 million programme

of which over £4 million has been committed to four Hydrogen and Fuel Cell projects and some £2.2 million to one Carbon Abatement Technology project. The following table outlines the spend to date:

*Hydrogen Fuel Cells and Carbon Abatement Technologies—ETF*

£ million

| | Spend | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Actual* | *Predicted* |
| 2006-07 | 0.1 | — |
| 2007-08 | 0.1 | — |
| 2008-09 | — | 1.6 |

**Renewable Energy: Finance**

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget is for the Hydrogen, Fuel Cell and Carbon Abatement Technologies Demonstration Programme in *(a)* this financial year and *(b)* each of the next five financial years. [234609]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Machinery of Government changes of 3 October 2008 announced the creation of DECC, formed from the Energy Group located in BERR and the Climate Change Group located in DEFRA.

The annual budgets for DECC are currently being decided. BERR and DEFRA will transfer their budgets for Energy and Climate Change respectively, based on the settlements agreed in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR07), for the financial years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. The annual budgets for DECC and hence the ETF and its component programmes, including the Hydrogen Fuel Cell and Carbon Abatement Technologies Programme, will be agreed in due course.

**Renewable Energy: North East**

**Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether planning consents already given in renewable energy projects in the North East meet or exceed the renewable energy targets in the North East Regional Spatial Strategy for *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2015 and *(c)* 2020. [226968]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Government's Climate Change supplement to Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1—Delivering Sustainable Development expects planning authorities to set regional targets for renewable energy generation in line with PPS22—Renewable Energy, and to

"ensure their ambition fully reflects opportunities in the region, are consistent with the Government's national targets and, where appropriate in the light of delivery, are periodically revised upwards".

The North East Regional Spatial Strategy, published in July 2008, does not set targets for renewable energy. It includes a target of at least 10 per cent of the region's electricity consumption from renewable sources (454 megawatts (MW) minimum installed capacity) by 2010. It has an aspiration to double this by 2020 but does not include any target for 2015.

The following table sets out total installed capacity of planning development consents approved for renewable electricity projects in the North East region as at 30 September 2008.

| *Technology* | *Installed capacity (MW)* |
|---|---|
| Biomass—Dedicated | 40.00 |
| Landfill Gas | 28.46 |
| Hydro | 0.75 |
| Municipal and Industrial Waste | 29.96 |
| Wind—Offshore | 103.80 |
| Wind—Onshore | 348.82 |
| Total | 551.79 |

**Renewables Obligation**

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* initial and *(b)* final value has been of a renewables obligation certificate, including late payments, in each year of operation of the Renewables Obligation; and if he will make a statement. [237672]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]*: A nominal value for a Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROC) can be calculated by adding the buy-out price to the recycle payment from both the buy-out and late payment funds for that obligation period. The following table gives these values for each year of operation of the Renewables Obligation (RO):

£

| *Obligation Period* | *Buy-out price per MWh* | *Recycle payment per ROC for England and Wales (where 1 ROC = 1MWh)* | *Nominal ROC value* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 30 | 15.94 | 45.94 |
| 2003-04 | 30.51 | 22.92 | 53.43 |
| 2004-05 | 31.39 | 13.66 | 45.05 |
| 2005-06 | 32.33 | 10.21 | 42.54 |
| 2006-07 | 33.24 | 16.04 | 49.28 |
| 2007-08 | 34.30 | 18.65 | 52.95 |

It should be noted that the late payment fund was not introduced until the 2005-06 obligation period.

**Severn Barrage**

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish the findings of the interim review of the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study at the earliest opportunity. [235556]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I expect to publish the interim findings of the feasibility study in the new year, together with a recommended shortlist of options, and the proposed scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment for Public Consultation should the decision be to continue with the study.

**Tidal Power: River Severn**

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what topics are under consideration by the Severn tidal power strategic environmental assessment steering group; and if he will place in the Library the topic papers under consideration by the group. [232715]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The SEA Steering Group has been asked to consider a number of outputs from the Strategic Environmental Assessment, being carried out

by a consortium led by Parsons Brinckerhoff. These include drafts of the 16 Topic Papers listed here, and a draft SEA Scoping Report. The topic papers will be published early in the new year, subject to internal review.

*Topic Papers*

Ornithology
Hydraulics and Geomorphology
Marine Ecology
Migratory and Estuarine Fish
Flood Risk and Land Drainage
Community and Socio economic
Other Sea-bed Uses
Marine Water Quality
Terrestrial and Freshwater Ecology
Landscape and Seascape
Navigation
Historic Environment
Freshwater Interfaces
Noise and Vibration
Carbon Footprint
Resources and Waste

### Warm Front Scheme

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has considered the merits of allowing regional variations in grant limit levels under the Warm Front scheme to account for regional variations in the cost of work under the scheme. [238886]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department is currently reviewing the existing grant maximums. As part of this process we will be considering options for grant distribution, and will look at the possibility of regional variations in grant maximum.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of grant limit levels under the Warm Front scheme. [238887]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department is currently reviewing the existing grant maximums. In doing so, we shall be considering the findings and recommendations of the National Audit Office's Value for Money study of the scheme which is due to be published early next year.

### Warm Front Scheme: ICT

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the new Warm Front scheme computer system to be fully operational. [238839]

**Joan Ruddock:** Eaga continually seek to improve its delivery of the Warm Front Scheme, and most recently, it has further automated its material supply processes. This enhancement aims to maximise effective ordering of hardware and the implementation of this change is now complete.

### Waste: Renewable Energy

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 211-2W, (226760), how much energy has been produced by waste plants constructed since 2006; how much is expected to be produced by those not yet completed; and which plants are operating or will operate as combined heat and power plants. [234335]

**Joan Ruddock:** Energy from Waste ("EfW") plants constructed since 2006 are Allington, Kent and Lakeside, Heathrow. Neither of these plants is fully commissioned.

Detailed data concerning expected energy outputs from plants not yet completed are not available. Energy values will vary according to several parameters including the technology type and its associated energetic efficiency, waste quantity and waste calorific content. Not all of these can be forecast with precision.

Energy from waste plants, with and without CHP capability, along with other non-combustion technologies are included on a list of known approved or pipeline waste projects applying for PFI credits. These projects are due for completion in the period 2011-15, subject to planning consent and the outcome of competitive procurement processes.

Based on conservative average energy yields and expected waste tonnages it has been estimated that energy outputs from these could be in the region of 17-18 million GJ per year.

There are currently four operating CHP plants in England. These are located at Sheffield, Coventry, Tyseley, and Isles of Scilly. All round four waste PFI projects where combustion is likely to be involved have been asked by DEFRA to include CHP proposals. The outline business cases for these projects are currently being assessed.

### Wind Power

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State, for Energy and Climate Change, what information his Department holds on the number of fossil fuel power stations which have closed as a direct result of being replaced by wind turbines. [225108]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** We do not hold information on this because decisions on whether plant remains operational are made by individual generators—factors such as operational costs, fuel costs, availability, electricity prices and overall supply and demand are likely to influence those decisions.

There is no direct relationship between the opening of a new power station and the closure of existing power stations, but each megawatt of electricity generated from renewable sources reduces an equal amount of generation from conventional sources.

It is Government policy to increase the deployment of renewable energy—including wind power—as part of our energy mix, in order to meet the twin challenges of climate change and security of supply. We will still need to maintain sufficient backup generation from conventional sources in order to maintain network reliability.

## Wind Power: Finance

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget is for the offshore wind capital grants scheme in *(a)* this financial year and *(b)* each of the next five financial years. [234607]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change has one offshore wind capital grant schemes supported under the Environmental Transformation Fund.

The first offshore wind capital grants scheme was launched in 2003 to provide support to Round 1 demonstration scale offshore wind projects, and was designed to support early-stage learning in this emerging technology and provide lessons learned to help reduce costs for future commercial-scale projects. This scheme is fully committed and disbursements under the scheme are expected to complete in FY2012-13. Detailed budgets for *(a)* and *(b)* are:

*Spend Profile*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 7.62 |
| 2009-10 | 11.12 |
| 2010-11 | 0.57 |
| 2011-12 | 0.57 |
| 2012-13 | 037 |
| 2013-14 | 0 |

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding the Government have provided for the offshore wind capital grants scheme in each financial year since its creation. [234608]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Government's Offshore Wind Capital Grant Scheme was launched in 2003 to provide support to Round 1 demonstration scale offshore wind projects, and was designed to support early-stage learning in this emerging technology and provide lessons learned to help reduce costs for future commercial-scale projects.

The total capital grants programme was £107 million and was fully committed through three calls. The BIG Lottery Fund provided a grant of £10 million to one of the project supported under this scheme, which is not included in the figures. Funding under the scheme is disbursed in stages: on project commencement, completion and full commissioning and once each of three annual reports are completed once operational.

Full disbursement is anticipated by FY2012-13.

*Funding disbursed in each financial year to date*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 15 |
| 2005-06 | 23.11 |
| 2006-07 | 25.89 |
| 2007-08 | 12.75 |

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 26 November 2008*

## CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

### Churches: Change of Use

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the honourable Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many representations the Commissioners have received from parishes on alternative uses for churches during the last 12 months. [238022]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** Most proposals for alternative use do not attract representations. The Commissioners' Church Buildings (Uses and Disposals) Committee has received a total of eight representations in the last 12 months. Three representations against proposals for alternative use were from individual parishioners. The remaining five representations - two from Parochial Church Councils and one from the local patronage board - were in favour of the proposals.

### Investment

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the honourable Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what the value of the Commissioners' investment portfolio was in each of the last five years. [238021]

**Sir Stuart Bell:** The Commissioners' fund was worth £3.9 billion at the end of 2003, £4.2 billion at the end of 2004, £4.8 billion at the end of 2005, £5.3 billion at the end of 2006 and £5.6 billion at the end of 2007.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors the No. 10 website received in the 2007-08 financial year; [236650]

(2) what the cost of maintaining the No. 10 website was in 2007-08; and what it is expected to be in 2008-09. [236651]

**The Prime Minister:** As a result of accounting changes it is not possible to provide a single comparable figure for the running costs of the No. 10 website. However, the total cost of the digital communications unit, which includes the website, but also includes equipment, e-petitions, audio and visual production, and all other forms of digital communication and all costs associated with staffing was £527,800 for the financial year 2007-08.

During the financial year 2007-08 the No. 10 website received approximately 55 million page impressions from approximately 15 million unique users. Digital communications have been upgraded to provide multiple new opportunities for enhanced communication with the public.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Prime Minister how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [237468]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) today.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Prime Minister how many press releases have been issued by his Office in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238987]

**The Prime Minister:** The information requested is a matter of public record. Copies of Press Notices issued since 2000 by the Prime Minister's Office have been made available on the No. 10 Website.

## WALES

### Bidston to Wrexham Railway

6. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales What recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on proposals to electrify the Bidston to Wrexham railway line. [238002]

**Mr. David:** My right hon. Friend has regular meetings with the First Minister to discuss a range of topics including transport links.

I myself visited the Bidston to Wrexham railway line last Friday and saw the potential benefits of electrification of the line.

### Cross-border Patients

7. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues and Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on health provision for English patients in Wales. [238003]

**Mr. David:** Wales Office Ministers have regular discussions with UK and Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on a range of issues, including health.

Both UK and Assembly Governments are working in partnership to ensure the highest standard of services is delivered to people on both sides of the border.

11. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues and Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on cross-border patients treated by Welsh GPs. [238007]

**Mr. David:** Wales Office Ministers have regular discussions with UK and Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on a range of issues, including health.

People accessing primary health care on both sides of the border can expect to receive the same high level of treatment from their GPs. The UK and Assembly Governments work collaboratively to ensure the highest standard of health service is delivered to people on both sides of the border.

### Economic Situation

8. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent assessment he has made of the state of the Welsh economy. [238804]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** Through my work on the National Economic Council and the All Wales Economic Summit, I am in touch with economic developments at the heart of Government and directly from the people of Wales.

10. **Mr. Caton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on policy to mitigate the effects of the economic downturn on Wales; and if he will make a statement. [238806]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** I am in regular contact with the First Minister. In addition to this, I attend the All-Wales Economic Summit, which assists the development of Wales' strategy for riding out the downturn and developing further ways of supporting businesses and individuals in every part of Wales.

### Digital Inclusion

12. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps he is taking to extend digital inclusion to elderly people. [238809]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** Last month I launched 'Delivering Digital Inclusion: An Action Plan for Consultation', with proposals for achieving greater digital inclusion. It is essential we maximise the potential of digital technologies to enrich the lives of elderly people. For instance, in the last year 40 per cent. of people using services in the UK Online centres were over the age of 55.

### Rural Broadcasting Provision

13. **Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had on rural broadcasting provision in Wales. [238889]

**Mr. David:** My right hon. Friend and I regularly meet ministerial colleagues and Welsh Assembly Government colleagues to discuss issues affecting Wales, including broadcasting and digital inclusion.

### Defence Expenditure

14. **Albert Owen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on defence expenditure in Wales. [238910]

**Mr. David:** The Secretary of State has regular discussions with UK Government Ministers on a range of issues affecting Wales, including on Defence matters, such as the Defence Training Academy.

The £11 billion investment in the Defence Training Academy at St. Athan together with the £635 million contract awarded to RAF Valley earlier this year to provide all UK's fast jet training shows the UK Government's continuing confidence in Wales' Defence capability.

### Defence Technical Academy

15. **John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he last met the First Minister to discuss the Defence Technical Academy, St. Athan. [238911]

**Mr. David:** The Secretary of State has regular discussions with the First Minister on a range of issues, including on the Defence Training Academy.

This £11 billion investment will provide thousands of direct and indirect jobs from 2013 and reinforces Wales' importance to UK defence.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in the last 12 months. [237478]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** In the last 12 months my Department has spent:

£710.83 on Christmas cards;

£136 on trees (taken from sustainable forests) and energy saving Christmas tree lights.

My Department did not contribute to Christmas parties, but did host receptions in London and Cardiff for a total cost of £5,058.71.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in his Department in each year since 1997; what the target rates set for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [238937]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Wales Office was established in 1999. Records of sick absence are available only since 2004.

*(a)* Records of staff absence are not collated centrally, and information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

*(b)* Rates of sick absence with target rates in each year from April 2004 to March 2008 are:

| | *Rate of sick absence* | *Target rate year* |
|---|---|---|
| April 2004-March 2005 | 4.6 | 7.5 |
| April 2005-March 2006 | 3.2 | 7.5 |
| April 2005-March 2007 | 4.7 | 7.5 |
| April 2007-March 2008 | 9.4 | 7.5 |

*Note:*
The figure in 2007-08 is attributable to long term absences of two people.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on external consultancy in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [239064]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** Since its inception in July 1999, the Wales Office has spent the following on external consultants:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 16,294 |
| 2001-02 | 31,084 |
| 2002-03 | 10,758 |
| 2006-07 | 37,699 |

### Departmental Early Retirement

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many employees in his Department took early retirement in each of the last five financial years; and at what total cost. [238973]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Wales Office was only established in 1999. Records concerning early retirement are not available prior to April 2004.

| | *Number of staff taking early retirement* | *Total cost of early retirement on that year (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| April 2004-March 2005 | 0 | 0 |
| April 2005-March 2006 | 2 | 38,730.47 |
| April 2006-March 2007 | 0 | 0 |
| April 2007-March 2008 | 0 | 0 |

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and at what cost in each year. [239091]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Prime Minister publishes, on an annual basis, a list of the numbers and cost of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-101WS.

The salary costs for the press officers before 2005 could not be identified without disproportionate cost. Salary costs for each year since are:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 81,333 |
| 2006-07 | 152,044 |
| 2007-08 | 147,178 |

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on *(a)* publicity and *(b)* advertising in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238941]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** In 2006-07 my Department spent £17,240 on recruitment advertising. The Wales Office has incurred no other expenditure on advertising since it was formed in July 1999.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [238178]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** Nil.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [239655]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** During 2007-08 my Department has awarded a total of six non-pensionable bonuses to staff at a cost of £5,250.00.

The Wales Office does not provide information where individual staff could be identified. This is in line with Cabinet Office guidance.

Four of the bonuses were paid as part of the Ministry of Justice performance related pay award. The other two were awarded under the Wales Office special bonus scheme for specific tasks performed.

### Departmental Postal Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department uses Royal Mail as the primary company for sending its post, parcels and packaging. [238323]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** Wales Office's external post is despatched via the Royal Mail.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many press releases have been issued by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238994]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** The Wales Office was established in July 1999, since then the number of press releases has been:

| | *Number of press releases* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 52 |
| 2000-01 | 101 |
| 2001-02 | 94 |
| 2002-03 | 135 |
| 2003-04 | 99 |
| 2004-05 | 97 |
| 2005-06 | 76 |
| 2006-07 | 70 |
| 2007-08 | 89 |
| 2008-present | 75 |

In addition to these press notices ad-hoc statements are also issued to the media.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [239652]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** No tendering process has been cancelled by the Wales Office.

### Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239053]

**Mr. Paul Murphy:** My Department has not conducted any focus groups or opinion polls since its creation in 1999, and does not plan to do so in the current year.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Electoral Register

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 284W, on the electoral register, what assessment the Commission made of the level of over-registration in Great Britain. [239567]

**Sir Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that it has made no estimate of the level of over-registration in Great Britain.

The Commission carried out a pilot study in London in 2007 to test various methodologies for measuring over-registration and under-registration. This work has informed the Commission's planned review of local electoral registers, which will include an assessment of over-registration in a small sample of local authority registers. This review is due to begin in early 2009.

### Political Parties and Elections Bill 2007-08

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the evidence of the Electoral Commission to the Public Bill Committee on the Political Parties and Elections Bill, 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 56, whether the Commission plans to publish an estimate of the administrative costs of implementing *(a)* the existing legislation and *(b)* the proposed new procedures. [239568]

**Sir Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission informs me that, as outlined in its memorandum to the public bill committee (PPE 04), which is available on the committee's webpage, the existing legislation on the regulated period for candidate expenses is relatively simple to administer, and as this work forms only a small part of the Commission's advice, guidance and compliance work, the cost of implementing it is not significant.

The Commission further informs me that, in its consideration of the overall costs of the Political Parties and Elections (PPE) Bill, it took into account the likely costs of administering the proposed amendments to the regulated period for candidates and considers that it should be able to re-prioritise work from within its existing resources to develop, consult on and publish any guidance relevant to this provision, at no additional cost.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Christmas

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit to be served by her Department at Christmas functions which will be sourced from British producers. [239547]

**Mr. Khan** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]:* The information requested is not collected.

The Government will shortly be publishing a report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and National Offender Management Service (previously HM Prison Service) between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008.

This report will be available on the PSFPI website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm.

### Council Tax: East Midlands

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the annual change in the level of council tax in each district council in the East Midlands was in each year since 1997-98; and if she will make a statement. [238076]

**John Healey:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 648W.

### Credit Unions

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support her Department gives to community groups to set up and run credit unions. [239490]

**Mr. Khan:** The Government are currently consulting on proposals for a Legislative Reform Order to amend credit union legislation. One of the proposals, on allowing credit unions to admit corporate bodies or unincorporated bodies into their membership if adopted will enable community groups to become part of credit unions.

Communities and Local Government does not provide direct support specifically for credit unions. Some New Deal for Communities partnerships, which are directly funded by the Department, do support and work with credit unions in their areas.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) her Department and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since her Department's inception; what the target rates set for her Department are in each case; and if she will make a statement. [238932]

**Mr. Khan:** Information on absence for 2004, 2005, 2006-07 for the Department for Communities and Local Government, its agencies and non departmental public bodies can be found on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp.

The sickness absence data for 2007-08, which incorporates the Department, its agencies and non departmental public bodies shows that an average of 6.7 working days was lost.

The Department does not keep any central records which record the rates of other absences, which are not sickness related and to establish the rates would represent a disproportionate cost.

The Department does not have a specific target rate of absence to achieve. However, through its health and wellbeing programme the Department is aiming to reduce its current rate of sickness absence to an average of 5.4 working days lost per annum.

### Departmental Civil Servants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants have been employed by each of her Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies in each year since 1997-98; and if she will make a statement. [239101]

**Mr. Khan:** For information on the number of civil servants employed by the Department and its predecessor bodies, I refer the hon. Member to the annual reports. These are published as Command Papers and held by the House of Commons Library. Each of the reports will have a Command Paper number as detailed in the following table.

*Annual reports*

| *Command Paper* | *Department* | *Report* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-Cm3607 | Department of the Environment | The Government's Expenditure Plans 1997 - 98 to 1999-2000 |
| 1998-Cm3906 | DETR: Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, Ordnance Survey, Office of Passenger Rail Franchising, Office of the Rail Regulator, Office of Water Services | The Government's Expenditure Plans 1998-99 |
| 1999-Cm4204 | DETR: Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, Ordinance Survey, Office of Passenger Rail Franchising, Office of the Rail Regulator, Office of Water Service | The Government's Expenditure Plans 1999-2000 to 2001 -02 |
| 2000-Cm 4604 | DETR: Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, Office of the Rail Regulator, Office of Water Service, Ordinance Survey | The Government's Expenditure Plans 2001-01 to 2001-02 |
| 2001-Cm 5105 | DETR: Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, Office of the Rail Regulator, Office of Water Service, Ordinance Survey | The Government's Expenditure Plans 2001-02 to 2003-04 |
| 2002-Cm 5405 | DTLR: Department for transport, Local Government and the Regions, Office of the Rail Regulator, Office of the Rail Regulator, Ordnance Survey | The Government's Expenditure Plans 2002-03 to 2003-04 |
| 2003-Cm 5906 | ODPM: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister | |
| 2004-Cm6206 | ODPM: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister | |
| 2005-Cm 6526 | ODPM: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister | Creating sustainable communities |
| 2006-Cm6816 | DCLG: Department for Communities and Local Government | |
| 2007-Cm 7094 | DCLG: Department for Communities and Local Government | Community, Opportunity, Prosperity |
| 2008-Cm 7394 | DCLG: Department for Communities and Local Government | Community, Opportunity, Prosperity |

The most recent CLG annual reports are available on the departmental website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/howwework/corporatereports/reportsaccounts/annualreports/

A figure for non-departmental bodies (NDPBs) could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's executive NDPBs are not civil servants—although civil servants can be seconded or loaned to NDPBs. Information on the number of employees in executive NDPBs is published in the annual Cabinet Office 'Public Bodies' publication. Copies are available from the Libraries of the House.

Advisory NDPBs do not usually employ staff. They are typically supported by civil servants from the sponsoring Department.

### Departmental Early Retirement

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employees in her Department took early retirement in each of the last five financial years; and at what total cost. [238963]

**Mr. Khan:** The following table shows the number of staff who took early retirement from Communities and Local Government, and its predecessors, in the last five financial years along with the associated costs.

| Central Department | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Early retirements (number) | 15 | 32 | 63 | 112 | 54 |
| Total costs (£000) | 2,627 | 4,098 | 6,764 | 13,937 | 7,367 |

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on employing press and communications officers in *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies in each of the last three years. [239681]

**Mr. Khan:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 580W.

Information on agencies and non-departmental bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by her Department in each year since its inception; and at what cost in each year. [239681]

**Mr. Khan:** The Government publish on an annual basis the number and the pay bands of special advisers in each Department. I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my noble Friend, Baroness Ashton of Upholland on 22 July 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 150WS.

For the number and cost of press officers, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1129W.

### Departmental Mass Media

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which keywords or terms her Department has monitored in the media in each of the last three years. [239713]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department has a contract with an external media agency (Durrants) to search for and cut relevant national newspaper items for inclusion in a daily cuttings pack. A list of keywords is made available to the agency for this purpose. This list is reviewed and updated as necessary on a regular basis. The current list used by the agency has been deposited in the Library, each keyword is accompanied by instructions that help editors only cut relevant items.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in her Department has been in the last 12 months. [238166]

**Mr. Khan:** Special advisers have no entitlement to an allocated Government car. As temporary civil servants, their travel arrangements are made in accordance with the rules and guidance set out in the Civil Service Management Code and the Department's staff handbook.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what bonuses were paid by her Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [239672]

**Mr. Khan:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) gave to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 538W.

### Departmental Postal Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department uses the Royal Mail as the primary company for sending its post, parcels and packages. [238120]

**Mr. Khan:** With the exception of international mail, the Department for Communities and Local Government currently use Royal Mail for the majority of postal services. International mail accounts for less than 1 per cent. of all departmental post and is administered by Corporate Mailing Services (CMS) who are a private company sub-contracted to our facilities management services provider.

### Departmental Procurement

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 119-20W, and to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 303W, on departmental procurement, what payments were made to each of the individual organisations listed in the table placed in the Library during the period when the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister existed as a Government Department. [235870]

**Mr. Khan:** A table has been placed in the Library showing payments made since 5 May 2006 to those organisations previously listed, in respect of expenses incurred by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office. The table shows the date on which the expenditure was recorded on the SAP accounting system.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether there has been any nugatory cost to her Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [239688]

**Mr. Khan:** The Department does not hold this information centrally and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre has had no cancelled tenders in the last three years.

Fire Service college has only cancelled one tender in the last three years for the National Leadership programme in October 2006. The abortive expenditure is estimated at £2,500 in staff costs.

Planning Inspectorate and Ordnance Survey would only be able to supply this information at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much she estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [239043]

**Mr. Khan:** The data are not held centrally in the format requested. The information relating to previous years is not readily available. Compiling the information would incur disproportionate costs.

### Empty Property

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate she has made of the number of empty non-residential properties in each local authority area. [240017]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### Empty Property: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vacant retail units there were in each principal seaside town in each year for which figures are available; and what proportion of the total retail units in each town this represents. [238919]

**John Healey:** The information requested is not held centrally.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty properties there were in each *(a)* ward and *(b)* lower layer super output area of each principal seaside town in England in each year for which figures are available, ranked from highest to lowest (i) number of properties and (ii) percentage of total housing stock in each town. [239005]

**John Healey:** Vacant dwellings statistics at ward level for 2003, 2004 and 2005 are published by the Office for National Statistics in the Housing domain of the Neighbourhood Statistics Service website and can be downloaded at.

http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/datasetList.do?JSAllowed=true&Function=&%24ph=60&CurrentPageId=60&step=1&CurrentTreeIndex=-1&searchString=&datasetFamilyId=1618&Next.x=10&Next.y=8

Lower super output area level statistics are not currently available.

### Empty Property: East of England

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty homes there are in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* the East of England. [240000]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The following table shows the number of long-term empty dwellings and total empty dwellings in Suffolk and the East of England region as at October 2007.

| | *Number of long-term empty dwellings (empty for more than six months)* | *Total number of empty dwellings* |
|---|---|---|
| Suffolk | 3,570 | 9,830 |
| East of England | 24,700 | 69,070 |

*Source:*
Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) returns from local authorities.

Those dwellings vacant for less than six months are more likely to be empty for a short period following a sale and are seen as 'transactional' vacant dwellings and are thus a characteristic of the housing market.

It is therefore sometimes more appropriate to look at long term vacancies rather than the total number of vacant dwellings.

### Fire Services

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when each regional fire control room outside London is planned to come into operational use; [230313]

(2) what the timescale is for the introduction of regional fire control rooms; and which control rooms will be operational before June 2010. [230541]

**Mr. Khan:** Our current assumption is that the first three Regional Control Centres in the North East, East Midlands and South West will cut-over in summer 2010 and that the full system will be in place by spring 2012.

As with any project of this nature, we will only have certainty about the timing of these later stages of the project once earlier stages have been completed successfully.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the latest Part 1 business case for FiReControl, what the *(a)* current control room costs and *(b)* forecast regional control centre running costs are in each government office region in estimated cash prices during the periods in which the control rooms will go live. [230542]

**Mr. Khan:** Current control room costs and forecast RCC running costs are detailed in the following table. Where a region is forecast to incur a net cost, Communities and Local Government has committed to making a resilience payment.

| | *Current control room costs* | *Forecast RCC running costs* | *Cost/saving* | *£000 Resilience payment* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | 7,439 | 7,373 | 66 | 0 |
| East Midlands | 5,390 | 6,262 | -872 | 872 |
| London | 8,683 | 10,898 | -2,215 | 2,215 |
| North East | 4,803 | 5,405 | -602 | 602 |
| North West | 8,828 | 8,426 | 403 | 0 |
| South East | 10,232 | 8,767 | 1,466 | 0 |
| South West | 7,056 | 6,992 | 64 | 0 |
| West Midlands | 6,746 | 7,457 | -710 | 710 |
| Yorks and Humber | 5,952 | 7,124 | -1,172 | 1,172 |
| Total | 65,130 | 68,703 | -3,573 | 5,571 |

*Notes:*
1. All figures in financial year 2006-07 prices
2. Resilience payments subject to periodic review

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the cost of delivery of the FiReControl project. [230916]

**Mr. Khan:** My statement on 26 November 2008 gives the estimated overall costs for delivery of the FiReControl project as £380 million.

### Fire Services: Consultants

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent to date on external consultants working on the FiRe Control project. [238687]

**Mr. Khan:** To the end of October 2008 the cost of consultancy services for the FiRe Control project totalled £41.8 million.

### Fire Services: East of England

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the FiRe Control project to be implemented in full *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the East of England region. [238683]

**Mr. Khan:** Our current planning assumption is that the East of England will achieve cut-over in spring 2012. I refer the hon. Member to my statement on 26 November 2008 about the FiRe Control project.

As with any project of this nature, we will only have certainty about the timing of these later stages of the project once earlier stages have been completed successfully.

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's original estimated date for the full implementation of the FiRe Control project was *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the East of England region. [238684]

**Mr. Khan:** The original estimated date for the full implementation of the FiRe Control project was September 2011. The East of England was in the final wave, and so expected to cut over to the new arrangements at that date 2011.

For further information on FiRe Control costs and delivery timetable I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 26 November 2008.

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on the FiRe Control project *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the East of England region to date. [238685]

**Mr. Khan:** To the end of October 2008 £133.5 million has been spent on the FiRe Control project. This includes support to the East of England of £3.3 million in grant funding.

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's original budget was for the implementation of the FiRe Control project *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the East of England region. [238686]

**Mr. Khan:** The FiReControl Business Case Part 2: the National Case, which will be published today, forecasts that the estimated current costs for the delivery of the FiReControl Project as £380 million. This compares to about £340 million contained in the Full Business Case version 1.0 published in 2007. The East of England has received £3.3 million in grant funding to support work required to transfer control room services to the new Regional Control Centre.

For further information on FiReControl costs and delivery timetable I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 26 November 2008.

### Fire Services: South West

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the effect of the costs of operating the South West Regional Fire Control Centre is expected to be on Dorset Fire Authority's budget. [232273]

**Mr. Khan** *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* In the "FiReControl Business Case Part One" the South West region is forecast to make as saving of £64,000, compared to the cost of where a region is forecast to incur a net cost as a consequence of the FiReControl project, Communities and Local Government has committed to making a payment to meet the shortfall. It is for the authorities within the region to decide how shared costs are apportioned between them.

For further information on FiReControl costs and delivery timetable I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 26 November 2008.

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received requesting a delay in the entry into operation of the South West Regional Fire Control Centre; and if she will make a statement. [232274]

**Mr. Khan** *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* I have received no formal representations requesting a delay to the operation of the South West Regional Control Centre. We work closely with the fire and rescue services in the South West, as in other regions, to enable effective implementation of the FiRe Control Project.

I refer the hon. Member to my statement of 26 November 2008 about the FiRe Control project.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department originally budgeted for the creation of the South West regional fire control room; what its current anticipated cost is; and what estimate her Department has made of future savings which will be made from the regional fire control room project in the South West. [235979]

**Mr. Khan:** The current estimated cost of operating the South West Regional Control Centre is £6,992,000 per annum when the entire network is fully up and running. In the South West it is forecast that there will be a saving of £64,000 per year compared to the costs of running the existing separate control rooms.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date she expects the South West regional fire control room to become fully operational. [235981]

**Mr. Khan:** Our current planning assumption is that the South West region will achieve cut-over in summer 2010. I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 26 November 2008 about the FiRe Control project.

As with any project of this nature, we will only have certainty about the timing of these later stages of the project once earlier stages have been completed successfully.

### Fire Services: Taunton

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the monthly cost of maintaining the Regional Fire Control Centre at Taunton was in the latest period for which figures are available. [238999]

**Mr. Khan** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* The cost of the South West Regional Control Centre for October 2008 was £140,839.

### Floods: Housing

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of households *(a)* displaced from their homes and *(b)* living in caravans as a result of the floods in (i) summer 2007 and (ii) September 2008. [239608]

**John Healey:** Estimates from the Association of British Insurers indicate that approximately 17,000 households were displaced by the floods in summer 2007. We do not have data on the number of those households who moved into caravans immediately. As at December 2007 we estimated that around 2,300 households were living in caravans.

The floods of September 2008, although very serious for those affected, were not of a scale which required national co-ordination of the recovery effort and this process is being managed effectively at the local level. In Castle Morpeth, which was by far the most badly affected area, 906 households were affected by the September flooding in some way, though of course many of those did not have to move out of their homes. The council contacted every household and continues to monitor the situation closely offering advice and information during the recovery period.

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of people who will be living in temporary accommodation on 25 December 2008 as a result of the floods in *(a)* summer 2007 and *(b)* September 2008. [239609]

**John Healey:** Returns from affected local authorities indicate a quickening in the pace at which displaced households are returning to their homes following the floods of summer 2007. On a like-for-like basis, local authority data show that the number of displaced households fell by about 30 per cent. between the end of June and beginning of September and we estimate the figures have fallen by around 36 per cent. between the beginning of September and 24 October. Those living wholly or partially in caravans halved between the end of June and the beginning of September and, where we have updated data, the number had at least halved again by 24 October. Furthermore, the figures we have from local authorities show that all council and housing association tenants are now home.

We will publish more up-to-date figures on those still displaced by the summer 2007 flooding as soon as we are able. I continue to work closely with local authorities and the insurance industry to ensure that the momentum in getting people back home is maintained.

The floods of September 2008, although very serious for those affected, were not of a scale which required national co-ordination of the recovery effort and this process is being managed at the local level.

## Homelessness: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were recorded as homeless in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [240002]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Local authorities within the Suffolk are as follows; Babergh, Forest Heath, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk, St Edmundsbury, Suffolk Coastal, and Waveney.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information is also collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night.

Summary tables showing the total number of households *(a)* accepted as owed a main homelessness duty *(b)* in temporary accommodation for each year since 1997-98, and *(c)* rough sleeper estimates for each year since 1998, for each local authority, have been placed in the Library. For convenience an extract of the last five years for the local authorities within Suffolk can be found in the following tables.

*Table A: Number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty during the year, 2003-04—2007-08*

| *Local authority* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-7* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Babergh | 80 | 77 | 48 | 34 | 54 |
| Forest Heath | 57 | 55 | 55 | 57 | 56 |
| Ipswich | 285 | 331 | 162 | 253 | 157 |
| Mid Suffolk | [1]— | 81 | 78 | 54 | 46 |
| St Edmundsbury | 141 | 188 | 139 | 29 | 35 |
| Suffolk Coastal | 151 | 136 | 73 | 59 | 33 |
| Waverley | 81 | 75 | 32 | 22 | 3 |

*Table B: Number of households in temporary accommodation[1], March 2004 to March 2008*

| *Local authority* | *2003-0* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Babergh | 33 | 42 | 21 | 13 | 8 |
| Forest Heath | 19 | 25 | 19 | 17 | 16 |
| Ipswich | 230 | 224 | 209 | 167 | 133 |
| Mid Suffolk | [1]— | 6 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| St Edmundsbury | 36 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 18 |
| Suffolk Coastal | 100 | 89 | 50 | 42 | 27 |
| Waverley | 107 | 80 | 53 | 28 | 17 |

*Table C: Number of rough sleepers (persons), 200 -07, mid-year estimates local authority*

| *Local authority* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Babergh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forest Heath | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ipswich | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mid Suffolk | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| St Edmundsbury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Suffolk Coastal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Waverley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Data not reported.

## Housing: Low Incomes

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to ensure support is given to low income households facing possible repossession of their homes. [238801]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government are determined to do everything possible to ensure all families facing repossession have the chance to remain in their homes, and that repossession is always the last resort.

We are working with a range of stakeholders including mortgage lenders, local authorities, the courts and third sector debt and advice agencies to ensure that appropriate support is available for households in financial difficulty, at the time they need it.

On 2 September we announced plans for a mortgage rescue scheme targeted at the most vulnerable households facing repossession. This is in addition to enhanced homelessness prevention work with local authorities, funding for court desks to provide free legal representation for people attending repossessions hearings and additional support for advice services for households in financial difficulty.

Additionally, as part of this week's pre-Budget report the Government announced further support for homeowners and households in difficulty. This includes

changes to regulation of second charge mortgage market; consulting on the sale and rent back market; establishing a lending panel to bring together Government, regulators, lenders, trade bodies and consumer groups; and protecting vulnerable homeowners in financial difficulty by extending the mortgage rescue scheme to cover second charge lending.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much social housing stock each local authority in the ceremonial county of Devon holds; how many people were waiting for housing in each authority on the latest date for which figures are available; and what percentage of each authority's housing stock this figure represents, ranked from highest to lowest. [239961]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information on the number of social dwellings owned by local authorities is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 116 at:

http://www.commumties.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140882.xls.

Information on the number of social dwellings owned by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 115 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140879.xls

Copies of the tables have been deposited in the Library.

The number of social dwellings by local authority in Devon as at 1 April 2007 for local authority stock and 31 March 2007 for RSL stock is given in the following table.

*Social dwellings by local authority in Devon: 2007*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Devon | 35,820 |
| East Devon | 5,740 |
| Exeter | 8,700 |
| Mid Devon | 4,030 |
| North Devon | 4,250 |
| South Hams | 3,970 |
| Teignbridge | 4,820 |
| Torridge | 2,370 |
| West Devon | 1,940 |

*Source:*
Local Authority Dwellings—as reported by Local Authorities through the Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA). RSL stock—as reported by Registered Social Landlords through the Housing Corporation's Regulatory Statistical Returns. Rounded to the nearest 10.

Local authorities in England report the number of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Where local authorities and registered social landlords operate a common register, households registered with the RSL will be included in the data. However, registered social landlords are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists. Information on the number of households on local authorities' waiting lists is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/144458.xls

Copies of this table have been deposited in the Library.

The number of households on local authorities' waiting lists for each local authority and as a percentage of all households in Devon in 2007 is given in the following table.

*Numbers of households on local authorities' housing waiting in Devon: 2007*

| | *Number of households on the waiting list (excludes households looking for transfers)* | *Percentage of all households*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| Devon | 22,250 | 7.2 |
| North Devon | 4,340 | 11.3 |
| Exeter | 4,970 | 10.3 |
| East Devon | 4,520 | 7.9 |
| West Devon | 1,520 | 7.2 |
| Torridge | 1,330 | 4.9 |
| Mid Devon | 1,440 | 4.7 |
| South Hams | 1,650 | 4.7 |
| Teignbridge | 2,480 | 4.6 |

[1]. Latest available mid-year household estimates for the districts used i.e. 2004

*Note:*
As reported by local authorities. Excludes households looking for transfers. Rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA)

The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need; it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house.

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average period of time was for a household to be provided with suitable housing after joining a socially provided housing waiting list in Suffolk in each of the last five years; and how many households were on each socially provided housing waiting list in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [240001]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information for average length of time on a housing waiting list is not collected centrally.

Local authorities in England report the number of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Where local authorities and registered social landlords operate a common register, households registered with the RSL will be included in the data. However, registered social landlords are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists. Information on the number of households on local authorities' waiting lists is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/144458.xls

Copies of this table have been deposited in the Library of the House.

The number of households on local authorities' waiting lists for Suffolk in each of the last five years is given in the following table.

*Numbers of households on local authorities' housing waiting: 2003-2007*

| | *Number of households on the waiting list (excludes households looking for transfers)* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Suffolk | 12,830 | 14,370 | 16,870 | 17,680 | 17,160 |
| Babergh | 1,380 | 1,530 | 1,470 | 1,920 | 1,700 |
| Forest Heath | 1,060 | 1,110 | 1,220 | 1,510 | 1,510 |
| Ipswich | 2,650 | 3,540 | 3,550 | 3,850 | 4,860 |
| Mid Suffolk | 1,490 | 1,760 | 1,840 | 1,850 | 1,590 |
| St. Edmundsbury | 2,810 | 3,100 | 4,120 | 4,670 | 4,430 |
| Suffolk Coastal | 1,200 | 1,400 | 1,570 | 1,260 | 930 |
| Waveney | 2,230 | 1,920 | 3,110 | 2,620 | 2,130 |

*Note:*
As reported by local authorities. Excludes households looking for transfers. Rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA)

The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need; it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house.

**Housing: Standards**

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the housing stock in each of the principal seaside towns has been assessed as *(a)* meeting and *(b)* not meeting the Decent Homes standard. [238460]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the relationship between opportunities for regeneration and redevelopment in seaside towns and levels of public housing below the decent homes standard in such towns. [238461]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Regeneration schemes are one option that a local authority uses to help it deliver decent homes. The role and use of such schemes is a matter for local decision making and Communities and Local Government has made no assessment of the relationship between opportunities for regeneration and redevelopment in seaside towns and levels of public housing below the decent homes standard.

The Department's report 'England's Seaside Towns—A Benchmarking Study' published in early November present findings on the socio-economic conditions of the principal seaside towns in England. It highlights considerable variations exists between seaside towns, with a number faring markedly better than others and some faring better than England as a whole. The report can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/englishseasidetowns

**Local Area Agreements: Coastal Areas**

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress her Department has made in implementing its statutory duty to co-operate in local area agreements (LAAs) in respect of those LAAs which cover principal seaside towns. [239977]

**John Healey:** While it is still too soon to make a definitive judgment on the impact of the duty to co-operate, early indications are that LAAs have led to a strengthening of partnership working in local areas. Further evidence will be considered as part of CLG's ongoing work programme on LAAs into 2009, which will include seaside towns. All LAAs are publicly available on the IDeA website at: http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=8399555 and contain details of partners that are signed up to LAA targets.

**Local Authorities: Copyright**

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much additional funding the Government has allocated to local authorities for enforcement of sections 198 and 101A of the Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988; and how much of that sum local authorities have allocated to trading standards departments for that purpose; [238354]

(2) what proportion of the increase in the revenue support grant for 2008-09 intended for the enforcement of sections 198 and 107A of the Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988 she expects local authorities to allocate to their trading standards departments. [238355]

**John Healey:** The Government provided a specific grant of £4.191 million in 2007-08 for the enforcement of section 198 and 107A of the Copyright Design and Patents Act 1988 by English authorities. The new burden associated with these additional powers was taken into account in the spending plans for local government as announced in the comprehensive spending review 2007. Local authorities are responsible for decisions on their spending priorities.

**Local Government Finance**

**Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will revise her guidance to local authorities on capitalisation in order to allow them to re-profile expenditure for street works and construction projects. [238876]

**John Healey:** The Department has no plans to review the guidance in order to allow local authorities to re-profile such expenditure, as these costs are not appropriate for capitalisation.

### Local Government: Public Appointments

**Mr. Dhanda:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she issues to local authorities on the appointment by them of non-executive directors; and what requirements there are on local authorities to appoint non-executive directors on the basis of open competition. [240041]

**John Healey:** Communities and Local Government has not issued any specific guidance on the appointment of non-executive directors to local authorities. Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 says that an authority can appoint such officers as it thinks fit and on such reasonable terms and conditions, including conditions as to remuneration, as the authority appointing him think fit. Section 7 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 states that every appointment of a person to a paid office or employment under a local authority shall be made on merit.

### Minister for the South West

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if the Minister for the South West will assist hon. Members from constituencies in the South West who are experiencing difficulty securing responses to their correspondence with Ministers. [238863]

**Mr. Khan:** The Regional Minister for the South West has no formal powers with which to assist Members from the South West on this issue.

### Mortgages

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the mean *(a)* mortgage payment and *(b)* rent payment was in England in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) age of household reference person and (ii) disposable income of household reference person and partner. [226458]

**Kitty Ussher:** I have been asked to reply.

The available data are provided in the following tables.

*Table 1: Mean weekly mortgage[1] payments for mortgaged households, by age of household reference person[2] (£)*

| | Age of household reference person | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *16 to 25* | *25 to 34* | *35 to 44* | *45 to 54* | *55 to 64* | *65 plus* | *All* |
| 1997-98 | 62 | 81 | 81 | 72 | 54 | 35 | 74 |
| 1998-99 | 71 | 88 | 89 | 79 | 62 | 36 | 81 |
| 1999-2000 | 66 | 85 | 89 | 76 | 58 | 36 | 79 |
| 2000-01 | 76 | 98 | 100 | 84 | 62 | 43 | 89 |
| 2001-02 | 82 | 103 | 102 | 87 | 69 | 39 | 93 |
| 2002-03 | 80 | 103 | 106 | 87 | 66 | 37 | 93 |
| 2003-04 | 84 | 104 | 107 | 93 | 77 | 46 | 97 |
| 2004-05 | 99 | 121 | 126 | 103 | 80 | 43 | 110 |
| 2005-06 | 116 | 134 | 133 | 117 | 92 | 56 | 121 |
| 2006-07 | 129 | 146 | 143 | 125 | 101 | 62 | 131 |

*Source:*
Family Resources Survey

*Table 2: Mean weekly rent[3] for private tenancy households, by age of household reference person[2] (£)*

| | Age of household reference person | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *16 to 25* | *25 to 34* | *35 to 44* | *45 to 54* | *55 to 64* | *65 and over* | *All* |
| 1997-98 | 94 | 88 | 108 | 95 | 80 | 54 | 89 |
| 1998-99 | 102 | 100 | 101 | 94 | 71 | 58 | 94 |
| 1999-2000 | 105 | 102 | 92 | 89 | 72 | 58 | 93 |
| 2000-01 | 106 | 106 | 100 | 92 | 83 | 56 | 97 |
| 2001-02 | 121 | 125 | 117 | 103 | 83 | 65 | 112 |
| 2002-03 | 128 | 122 | 113 | 101 | 89 | 69 | 113 |
| 2003-04 | 128 | 133 | 127 | 119 | 105 | 66 | 123 |
| 2004-05 | 131 | 134 | 127 | 123 | 98 | 80 | 124 |
| 2005-06 | 127 | 142 | 136 | 119 | 103 | 75 | 128 |
| 2006-07 | 146 | 146 | 133 | 131 | 117 | 91 | 136 |

*Source:*
Family Resources Survey

*Table 3: Mean weekly mortgage payments[1] for mortgaged households, by weekly income of household reference person[4] (£)*

| | Weekly net income | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Under £200* | *£200 to under £400* | *£400 to under £600* | *£600 to under £800* | *£800 and over* | *All* |
| 1997-98 | 54 | 57 | 75 | 103 | 147 | 74 |
| 1998-99 | 54 | 62 | 80 | 105 | 158 | 81 |
| 1999-2000 | 50 | 60 | 79 | 101 | 144 | 79 |

*Table 3: Mean weekly mortgage payments[1] for mortgaged households, by weekly income of household reference person[4] (£)*

| | Weekly net income | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Under £200* | *£200 to under £400* | *£400 to under £600* | *£600 to under £800* | *£800 and over* | *All* |
| 2000-01 | 54 | 65 | 85 | 106 | 163 | 89 |
| 2001-02 | 62 | 64 | 82 | 108 | 169 | 93 |
| 2002-03 | 58 | 63 | 82 | 106 | 166 | 93 |
| 2003-04 | 64 | 67 | 86 | 111 | 160 | 97 |
| 2004-05 | 77 | 74 | 96 | 121 | 181 | 110 |
| 2005-06 | 88 | 82 | 102 | 129 | 190 | 121 |
| 2006-07 | 88 | 86 | 110 | 137 | 203 | 131 |

*Source:*
Family Resources Survey

*Table 4: Mean weekly rent[1] for private tenancy households, by weekly income of household reference person[4] (£)*

| | Weekly net income | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Under £200* | *£200 to under £400* | *£400 to under £600* | *£600 and over* | *All* |
| 1997-98 | 74 | 85 | 102 | 199 | 89 |
| 1998-99 | 76 | 94 | 104 | 183 | 94 |
| 1999-2000 | 79 | 90 | 106 | 164 | 93 |
| 2000-01 | 74 | 93 | 110 | 180 | 97 |
| 2001-02 | 85 | 103 | 122 | 218 | 112 |
| 2002-03 | 92 | 107 | 127 | 164 | 113 |
| 2003-04 | 105 | 110 | 126 | 194 | 123 |
| 2004-05 | 101 | 114 | 130 | 185 | 124 |
| 2005-06 | 102 | 114 | 140 | 185 | 128 |
| 2006-07 | 115 | 124 | 142 | 187 | 136 |

*Source:*
Family Resources Survey

### Multiple Occupation

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have introduced *(a)* licensing requirements for homes in multiple occupation outside the Housing Act 2004 and *(b)* selective licensing arrangements for houses in multiple occupation in areas (i) of low housing demand and (ii) with significant antisocial behaviour problems. [238090]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There have currently been no departmental approvals for additional HMO licensing schemes. However, there have been an increasing number of local authorities expressing interest in the additional HMO licensing provisions.

The following local authorities have been granted departmental approval to operate selective licensing schemes in areas of low housing demand.

Salford City Council;

Middlesbrough Borough Council;

Manchester City Council;

Gateshead Borough Council;

Sedgefield Borough Council;

Bolton Borough Council;

Burnley Borough Council;

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council; and

District of Easington Council

The Department is also currently considering applications for selective licensing from Leeds city council, Blackburn with Darwen council (second designation) and Hartlepool borough council.

### Multiple Occupation: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 129W, if she will make it her policy to *(a)* collect and *(b)* hold centrally information on houses of multiple occupation in seaside towns. [238656]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department collects from local authorities (LAs) and holds centrally property level information on licensed houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) but currently only produces statistics on these at local authority level. The latest LA level statistics on licensed HMOs were published on 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 393W. There are currently no plans to produce statistics on licensed HMOs in seaside towns, although this is something the Department will continue to review.

The Department also collects from LAs and holds centrally LA estimates of the total numbers of HMOs.

### Non-domestic Rates

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information she holds on the number of local authorities in England which have exercised their discretion to award hardship relief in respect of unpaid business rates; and if she will make a statement. [239212]

**John Healey:** 80 local authorities in England reported that they had exercised their discretion to award hardship relief in respect of unpaid business rates in 2007-08. The total value of the relief awarded by these authorities was £989,000.

**Non-domestic Rates: Ports**

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the level of non-payment of retrospective business rates on UK port occupiers in respect of 2005 will have an effect on her Department's budget for 2008-09. [238313]

**John Healey:** The level of non-payment will have no impact on the budget for this Department in 2008-09.

**Non-domestic Rates: Small Businesses**

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many small businesses have claimed small business rates relief in Bolton, South-East constituency in the last 12 months; and how much relief they have claimed. [239280]

**John Healey:** Information on small business rate relief in the Bolton, South-East constituency is not available.

For the financial year 2007-08, Bolton council awarded £1.9 million in small business rate relief, but the number of businesses claiming is not available.

**Ordnance Survey**

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Ordnance Survey has received in respect of use of its mapping data covering the Greater London area for the purpose of promoting information from *(a)* Government agencies, *(b)* the Crown Estate, *(c)* Greater London Authority, *(d)* the London Development Agency, *(e)* Visit London, *(f)* Transport for London, *(g)* each London borough and *(h)* each business improvement district, broken down by category of income. [236051]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Ordnance Survey licenses data to a large number of public and statutory bodies whose work in whole or part includes the Greater London area, including Government Agencies, the Crown Estate, Greater London Authority, the London Development Agency, Transport for London and each London borough.

A significant number of these bodies acquire their Ordnance Survey data through collective purchasing agreements which are paid centrally. Licensees are not required to indicate the nature of the internal business use to which they apply their data or the specific areas in which these business uses are undertaken.

Ordnance Survey does not, therefore, hold specific information on the revenue received from the use of mapping of the Greater London area from public and statutory bodies for the purpose stated.

Visit London is a company which does not currently licence data directly from Ordnance Survey, though may have access to Ordnance Survey data through contract work for Ordnance Survey licensees.

The Greater London Authority, Transport for London and the London Development Agency have access to Ordnance Survey's data through the Greater London Agreement.

Ordnance Survey does not collect information on how data licensed through these collective agreements are used by individual bodies.

Ordnance Survey is in the process of undertaking a strategic review of its operations. Two of the issues that are being addressed are first, the perceived and actual complexities in licensing arrangements and secondly, the accounting treatment for revenue raised via different products.

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Ordnance Survey has received in respect of use of mapping data covering the Greater London area for the purpose of providing information from public and statutory bodies in each of the last five years, broken down by category of income. [236053]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Ordnance Survey licenses data to a large number of public and statutory bodies whose work in whole or part includes the Greater London area. A significant proportion of these bodies acquire their Ordnance Survey data through collective purchasing agreements which are paid centrally. Licensees are not required to indicate the nature of the internal business use to which they apply their data or the specific areas in which these business uses are undertaken.

Ordnance Survey does not, therefore, hold specific information on the revenue received from use of mapping of the Greater London area for the purpose stated. Ordnance Survey is in the process of undertaking a strategic review of its operations.

Two of the issues that are being addressed are first, the perceived and actual complexities in licensing arrangements and secondly, the accounting treatment for revenue raised via different products.

**Redundancy**

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (Y) her Department and (Z) each of her Department's agencies. [237354]

**Mr. Khan:** Details of salaries paid to staff in Communities and Local Government who left the Department in each year since 2005-06 under involuntary or voluntary staff exit schemes have not been retained centrally. As a consequence there would be a disproportionate cost in providing that information.

The following table shows the number of staff who involuntarily left Communities and Local Government, having received notice of compulsory redundancy in each year since 2005-06:

| | Total |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 21 |
| 2007-08 | 0 |

The following table shows the number of staff who voluntarily left Communities and Local Government and its Agencies under early retirement or early severance schemes in each year:

| | Main department | Planning inspectorate | Fire service college | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 97 | 1 | 0 | 98 |
| 2006-07 | 168 | 5 | 17 | 190 |
| 2007-08 | 97 | 7 | 0 | 104 |
| 2008-09 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 13 |

Compensation for early departure is paid from the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. Communities and Local Government meets the cost of early departures, and this includes the cost of lump sum severance payments and the additional costs of benefits beyond the normal Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) benefits in respect of employees who retire early.

The following table shows expenditure on early departures by Communities and Local Government, or its predecessor, and Agencies in each year since 2005-06.

£000

| | Central department | Planning inspectorate | QEII conference centre | Fire service college | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 6,931 | 76 | 59 | 0 | 7,066 |
| 2006-07 | 23,165 | 119 | 1 | 591 | 23,876 |
| 2007-08 | 12,372 | 980 | 93 | 0 | 13,365 |
| 2008-09 | 0 | 70 | 0 | 171 | 241 |

The Department for Communities and Local Government and its Agencies are not planning any involuntary or voluntary staff exit schemes in 2008-09 or 2009-10 although funding may be made available for individual cases as appropriate.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of her Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if she will make a statement. [29165]

**Mr. Khan:** The following table shows the numbers of staff who left Communities and Local Government, or its predecessor, on voluntary exit schemes as well as those who left, having received notice of compulsory redundancy in each year since 2005-06 broken down as requested:

*Number undertaking exit schemes by compensation lump sum amounts*

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 97 | [1]189 | 97 |
| £0 to £25,000 | 60 | 101 | 41 |
| £25,001 to £50,000 | 15 | 36 | 18 |
| £50,001 to £75,000 | 18 | 23 | 16 |
| £75,001 to £100,000 | 0 | 20 | 17 |
| Over £100,000 | 4 | 7 | 7 |

[1] Of the 189 exits in this year 13 were involuntary exits.

### Rented Housing: Hertfordshire

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many properties in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire are privately rented; [29044]

(2) how many people have been registered as private tenants in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [29046]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Information on the number of properties in Hemel Hempstead and in Hertfordshire that are privately rented is not available.

Private tenants do not have to "register". However, estimates are available for the number of households in the private rented sector—but only from the 2001 Census. Annual figures, other than for 2001, are not available at below Government office region.

In the parliamentary constituency of Hemel Hempstead there were 2,154 households who were privately renting during the 2001 Census. In Hertfordshire the number of privately renting households was 36,317.

### Rented Housing: Private Sector

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures are in place to tackle unscrupulous landlords in the private rented sector; and if she will make a statement. [29065]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Housing Act 2004 provides local authorities with a range of tools to improve management standards in the private rented sector. Local authorities are now under a statutory duty to licence all houses in multiple occupation (HMO) that are of three or more storeys housing five or more persons forming more than one household. They also have the discretion to introduce additional HMO licensing schemes to cover smaller HMOs where they have identified problems with management and property condition.

Local authorities also have the discretion to introduce selective licensing schemes to cover all privately rented property in areas which suffer or are likely to suffer from low housing demand and also to those that suffer from significant and persistent antisocial behaviour.

Breach of a licence condition is an offence subject to a fine of up to £5,000. Letting or managing a property without a licence is a criminal offence, subject to a maximum fine of £20,000.

The Act also provides local authorities with powers to take over the management of HMOs and other privately rented property in specified circumstances.

The independent review of the private rented sector, published on 23 October by Julie Rugg and David Rhodes from University of York, also put forward some recommendations on how to raise standards and professionalism in the sector. We will be considering these in consultation with stakeholders.

### Repossession Orders

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effect on levels of home repossessions when the standard interest rate used to calculate claims for mortgage interest payments is reduced but lenders do not pass on interest rate cuts to borrowers. [238647]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Communities and Local Government Ministers meet colleagues across government regularly to discuss housing policy.

The pre-Budget report on 24 November confirmed that income support for mortgage interest will be paid at the same level as September (6.08 per cent.) for the next six months, despite the recent fall in base rates.

### Repossession Orders: Barnet

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will assess the effects of house repossessions in Chipping Barnet constituency. [237553]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government are determined to do everything possible to ensure families facing possible repossession have the chance to remain in their homes, and that repossession is always the last resort.

We continue to work closely with all English local authorities to ensure that advice and assistance is available to all households where homelessness is threatened, including through house repossession.

Over the next three years, CLG is providing funding of £200 million to local authorities and voluntary organisations to support local authorities' statutory responsibilities to prevent homelessness.

Since July, all English LAs have reviewed and published their homelessness strategies, including greater emphasis on landlord and lender repossessions to reflect changing market conditions.

Additionally, as part of this week's pre-Budget report, the Government announced further support for homeowners and households in difficulty. This includes changes to regulation of second charge mortgage market; consulting on the sale and rent back market; establishing a lending panel to bring together Government, regulators, lenders, trade bodies and consumer groups; and protecting vulnerable homeowners in financial difficulty by extending the Mortgage Rescue scheme to cover second charge lending.

### Second Homes: Hampshire

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of homes are registered as second homes in the *(a)* Test Valley borough and *(b)* Hampshire County Council area. [239844]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There were 237 properties registered as second homes for council tax purposes in the Test Valley borough area in October 2007, 0.5 per cent. of all dwellings. At the same date, 4,436 properties, or 0.8 per cent. of all dwellings, were registered as second homes for council tax purposes in the Hampshire county council area.

The data are from a snapshot taken each year and are as recorded, in council tax base returns submitted annually, by each local authority.

### Smoking: Foster Care

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has provided to local authorities on whether adults who smoke may be eligible to become foster parents. [235930]

**Beverley Hughes:** I have been asked to reply.

It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Social Rented Housing

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government has taken to ensure that the views of local authority tenants on *(a)* social housing issues and *(b)* improvements to their homes are considered appropriately. [230813]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* The Government are establishing a new social housing regulator, the Tenant Services Authority. Professor Ian Cole was appointed as independent chair of an advisory panel appointed to look at how best to extend the role of the Tenant Services Authority, the new regulator for social housing, to regulate local authority providers. Professor Cole's recommendations were published in September. Both Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) and Tenants and Residents Organisations of England (TAROE) were members of the panel and two workshops were held with tenants of local authorities to help inform the panel's considerations. We will be consulting about extending its remit to local authority housing and how it engages with the views of local authority tenants.

The Government are also creating working with tenants a new 'National Tenant Voice' to ensure tenants can shape and influence policy and decision-making in local, regional and national Government.

The Government have also set a new agenda that puts tenants at the heart of decision-making about their homes and neighbourhoods. This combines many existing tenant engagement activities with new ones.

The Department is also reviewing Tenant Participation Compacts introduced in 2000. Compacts are produced by all local authorities and set out how tenants will be involved collectively in decision-making about the service they receive from their landlord. The Review was announced in the Community Empowerment White Paper "Communities in Control".

In order to ensure that the views of tenants on improvements to their homes are considered appropriately we have set out consultation requirements in legislation and guidance. Tenants have been engaged in an options appraisal process to decide the best delivery route for decent homes and then further consultation is required at different stages in the delivery process. We have

recently advised local authorities that want to change their delivery route for decent homes, or choose a different route to maintain decency that we expect the same options appraisal process to be undertaken.

Tenants are also able to take the initiative over the management of their homes. The Right to Manage Regulations, which were introduced in 1994, were updated at the beginning of October to simplify and speed up the process. These regulations were accompanied by guidance to encourage and support tenant management.

The Housing and Regeneration Bill 2008 introduced a requirement for local authorities to co-operate with tenants groups to undertake stock options studies and to work with them towards their preferred option. As part of ongoing housing policy development and delivery, officials and Ministers meet with tenants and tenant representative bodies.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many registered social landlords *(a)* are in breach of their borrowing covenant, *(b)* are within 5 per cent. of breaching their covenant, *(c)* expect to be charged higher rates of interest, *(d)* are renegotiating loans and *(e)* are seeking increases in their gap funding; and what steps her Department has taken to assist them in each case. [234312]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Tenant Services Authority (TSA), the new regulator of the social housing sector, will from 1 December 2008 operate the Housing Corporation's existing powers to require financial information from RSLs and will have a statutory objective to ensure that they are financially viable and properly managed.

The Housing Corporation currently collects and evaluates the business plans of all housing associations that are development partners (those that are eligible to bid for Social Housing Grant under the National Affordable Housing Programme 2008-11). The current evaluation of 2008 business plans includes reviews of current and projected compliance with loan covenants. This work will be complete early in 2009. The TSA will be able to report fully on loan covenant compliance for those associations shortly thereafter. There is no evidence that any associations are currently in breach of their loan covenants, nor that any are seeking increases in their existing gap funding agreements.

The Corporation has also been monitoring the impact of current market conditions, both in terms of loan covenant compliance and market sales, through its quarterly surveys with its development partners and other associations since the beginning of 2008. The results of these surveys are placed in the Library of the House. The results of the October 2008 survey were published on 25 November and are available on the Corporation's website at:

http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.16146/changeNav/431

Key findings of the survey are that:

most housing associations have loan facilities that cover more than two years worth of projected loan drawdowns

a small number of associations are intending to raise new debt

of the £5.5 billion that associations intend to drawdown from loan facilities in the next 12 months, only £0.3 billion, or 5 per cent. of the total, is new debt which has still to be arranged; and

associations are projecting receipts of £1.2 billion through sales of low cost home ownership units and other assets; if those sales are not achieved, further debt will be required.

### Social Services: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the use of out-of-county placements of vulnerable adults and children in principal seaside towns in England. [238421]

**Phil Hope:** I have been asked to reply.

Information about the number of adults placed out of county in the principal seaside towns in England, is not collected centrally. It is not, therefore, possible to make an assessment of the use of such placements.

Information is only collected at council level and by total number of clients funded by a council but receiving services outside the council boundary.

Children's services are the responsibility of the Department for Children, Schools and Families

### Staffordshire County Council

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessments of Staffordshire County Council's social services department have been made since 2000. [239403]

**John Healey:** The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold records of the inspections and assessments taking place in individual councils. However, inspectorates have advised that the following inspections/assessments took place:

The Social Services Inspectorate (SSI) of Older People in January 2002;

SSI's of Staffordshire children's social care services in 2003;

The Audit Commission of Supporting People in 2003;

CSCI of disabled people in December 2004;

Joint review by CSCI, Ofsted and other relevant inspectorates of children's social care services in 2005;

People with a learning disability in July 2006;

Joint CSCI and Healthcare Commission for people with mental health needs in December 2006;

CSCI of local authority's fostering services in January 2007;

The Audit Commission of Supporting People in 2008;

Ofsted of the local authority's adoption service 2008.

In addition to specific inspection activity, there are annual reviews of all the council's adults' and children's social care services.

### Working Neighbourhood Funding

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter from the Minister of State for Local Government to the hon. Member for Leeds, East (Mr. Mudie) on the methodology used in respect of Working Neighbourhood Funding in Leeds. [238872]

**John Healey:** Since the launch of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) in December 2007, I have exchanged correspondence and had discussions with a number of hon. Members including the hon. Member for Leeds, East (Mr. Mudie). The methodology for determining eligibility for the WNF which we have published was a feature of all correspondence and conversations between hon. Members and me.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Military Aircraft

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the average daily sortie rate was for the eight Harrier aircraft deployed in Afghanistan in October 2008; [238822]

(2) what the planned sortie rate is for 8 Tornado aircraft due to replace Harrier in Afghanistan next year during its first month of operation in theatre. [238823]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. However, I can confirm that the Tornado force will provide the same vital capability in support of the International Security Assistance Force as is currently being provided by the Harrier force and I cannot understand why you are telling people otherwise.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding has been spent on urgent operational requirements for the Harrier force since it deployed to Afghanistan in 2004. [238824]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* A maximum of £45 million has been approved for spend on urgent operational requirements for the Harrier force in Afghanistan. This corrects the previous figure I provided in my answer to the hon. Member on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 135W. It has not been possible in the time available to identify how much of this amount has been spent.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost to the public purse has been in addition to that which would routinely have been incurred as part of the routine Harrier Annual Flying Task of sustaining the Harrier force in Afghanistan over the last three years. [238825]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The cost to the public purse of sustaining Harrier over and above that which would have been expected to be incurred as a result of routine Harrier Force activity over the last three financial years is:

| | *FY 2005-06* | *FY 2006-07* | *£ million FY 2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cost | 4 | 16 | 16.5 |

It has not been possible to collate and confirm all of the FY 2005-06 costs in the time available; deployment and UOR costs are not included in these figures.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast total cost to the public purse additional to that which would routinely be incurred as part of the routine Tornado Annual Flying Task has been of deploying the Tornado force to Afghanistan for the first year, including costs associated with urgent operational requirements, deployment and sustainable costs, and costs associated with upgrading follow-on aircraft to replace those initially deployed to theatre. [238826]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The forecast additional cost for financial year 2009-10 over and above routine Tornado force activity to support deployment to Afghanistan is up to £67.5 million. Estimated costs break down:

| | *Estimated cost (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| Theatre Specific UORs | 40 |
| Middle East Theatre Entry Standard (TES) upgrade plus role equipment | 7.5 |
| Deployment and Sustainment | 20 |

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds have been fired by British forces in each Brigade rotation in Afghanistan since Herrick 6, broken down by type of ammunition used. [232644]

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds of ammunition were fired by UK armed forces in Afghanistan in 2007-08. [235233]

**Mr. Hutton:** Officials are collating and validating the data needed to answer this question and this is taking longer than anticipated. I will therefore write to the hon. Members when this work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Harrier force at its full establishment could achieve harmony on Operation Herrick. [236786]

**Mr. Hutton:** Full manning of the front-line Harrier Force to current establishment, is insufficient to meet the enduring requirement of Operation Herrick within RAF harmony guidelines. Pilots and ground crew from supporting Harrier units can be used to supplement the front-line to help achieve harmony, but this is not sustainable on an enduring basis.

### Air Force: Manpower

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many senior Royal Air Force officers of 2 star rank and above are former Tornado pilots, broken down by *(a)* rank and *(b)* post. [239717]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** There are 10 RAF officers of 2 star rank and above who are former Tornado Pilots.

| *Rank* | *Appointment* |
|---|---|
| Air Chief Marshal | Chief Defence Staff (CDS) |
| Air Chief Marshal | Chief Air Staff (CAS) |
| Air Marshal | Air Member for Personnel (AMP)/Deputy Commander in Chief (DCinC) Air (Personnel) |
| Air Marshal | Deputy Commander in Chief (DCinC) (Operations) |
| Air Vice-Marshal | Assistant Chief of Air Staff (ACAS) |
| Air Vice-Marshal | Air Officer Commanding (AOC) 22 Group |
| Air Vice-Marshal | Air Officer Commanding (AOC) 2 Group |
| Air Vice-Marshal | Chief of Defence Intelligence (CDI) (Designate) |
| Air Vice-Marshal | Director-General, Saudi Air Force Project |
| Air Vice-Marshal | Senior Directing Staff (Air) RCDS |

### Air Force: Military Bases

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what restrictions there are on flying times and patterns for *(a)* helicopters based at (i) RAF Benson and (ii) RAF Odiham and *(b)* Hercules at RAF Lyncham. [238125]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** All RAF stations must adhere to and operate within the low flying system as outlined in the United Kingdom Military Planning Document Volume 3, Part 1. The publication 'The Pattern of Military Low Flying across the United Kingdom 2007-2008', copies of which are available in the Library of the House, provides a report on the levels of low flying training by both fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft across the United Kingdom.

In terms of restrictions specific to RAF Benson and RAF Odiham, local avoidance zones have been established in order to reduce disturbance to local residents. These are self-imposed local restrictions which can be lifted as operational circumstance require and are only applicable to aircraft operating out of these particular stations. The RAF Benson Station Flying Book directs the restriction of over-flights of the local villages of Ewelme, Benson, Berrick Salome and Roke and the town of Wallingford. Visual circuit flying training (where the aircrew use ground references such as landmarks as a reference instead of flying wholly on instruments) is prohibited after 23:59hrs. In addition, military helicopter crews avoid flying over Aylesbury, Oxford, Thame, Abingdon, Grove, Didcot and Wantage below 1000ft. Aircrew from RAF Odiham strive to avoid flying over the villages of South Warnborough, Long Sutton, Odiham and Crondall whenever possible. There are no instrument approaches to Runway 27 after 20:00hrs and when using fields for training exercises after 20:00hrs the approach is varied to avoid concentrating noise in one area.

Various restrictions are imposed on the operation of C130 Hercules aircraft based at RAF Lyncham. During the day, a maximum of six training aircraft are permitted in a circuit. Night flying is restricted between the hours of 21:00hrs and 08:00hrs by not permitting practice circling low-level approaches and limiting the number of low-level circuits to three. However, there is an exception to this for Tactical Air Landing and Night Vision Goggle training when varied approaches are used to minimise disruption. In addition, night flying circuits on runway 06 alternate from the right-hand to the left-hand of the airfield every hour to minimise noise.

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his estimate is of the level of expenditure on infrastructure improvements required on *(a)* RAF Benson, *(b)* RAF Odiham and *(c)* RAF Lyneham to bring them up to the requisite standard. [238126]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The cost of infrastructure improvements required at the three stations depend upon basing requirements, which are currently under consideration by Programme Belvedere, the results of which are not expected to be announced until late summer 2009.

### Armed Forces: Bereavement Benefits

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average length of time was between a soldier being killed in action and the standard payment following a death in action being paid to the bereaved family in the latest period for which figures are available. [233617]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Armed Forces: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK personnel are deployed on operations, broken down by location. [236448]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The endorsed force levels for current UK military operations are set out. The precise number of personnel in theatre at any one time fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors. Having given detailed consideration to how we answer questions on operational force levels, Ministers have decided that, for reasons of operational security, future answers will be based upon the endorsed force level for each operation.

| *Location* | *Endorsed Number (at 20 October 2008)*[1] |
|---|---|
| Afghanistan | 8,050 |
| Southern Iraq | 4,100 |
| Baghdad[2] | 250 |
| At sea | 1,050 |
| Falklands/South Atlantic | 1,500 |
| Qatar | 700 |
| Cyprus | 300 |
| Kuwait | 550 |
| Kosovo | 150 |
| Bahrain | 50 |
| Bosnia | <50 |
| Other[3] | 150 |

[1] Rounded to 50
[2] Providing support to the Senior British Military Representative Iraq
[3] Small scale deployments in support of EU and UN missions, and headquarters liaison officers.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of personnel in each pinch point trade in the armed forces exceeded harmony guidelines for tour intervals in the latest period for which figures are available. [237814]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Individual Separated Service is currently recorded on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. Individual separation is recorded as one of 16 activity codes; these codes allow commanders to identify how much separation is caused by each activity. Data from the system are currently only available to the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. The Army, being the last to transfer to JPA, does not yet have sufficient data to provide meaningful statistics. A complete period of data should become available in January 2010. Even with a full cycle of data the system is not configured to identify individual tour intervals for Service personnel. The system is designed to identify where individual harmony guidelines are being broken. The current individual harmony guidelines are:

The Royal Navy guidelines determine that its personnel spend, on average, 60 per cent. of their time deployed and 40 per cent. alongside in their home port during a three year period. The maximum individual threshold (Separated Service) is 660 days away from their normal place of work in the same three year period.

The Army guidelines determine that its soldiers can be deployed for one six month tour in every 30 months (six on 24 off) and during that 30 month period a soldier should not expect to be away from his normal place of work for more than a total of 415 days.

The Royal Air Force guidelines determine that its personnel should not spend more than 28 days in every four months away from their normal place of duty, which allows for a four month operational tour (four on 16 off).

## Armed Forces: Labour Turnover

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* outflow and *(b)* voluntary outflow rate has been of each infantry battalion over the last 12 months, broken down by rank. [235427]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Outflow information for each infantry battalion is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, total outflow figures by Arm/Service and paid rank have recently become available for 2007-08 and figures for the Infantry are shown in the following table:

*Outflow from the trained strength of the Infantry by paid rank for FY 2007-08*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| *Officers* | |
| Total | 270 |
| Lieutenant Colonel | 20 |
| Major | 90 |
| Captain | 140 |
| Subalterns | 20 |
| *Soldiers* | |
| Total | 3,480 |
| Warrant Officer Class I | 70 |
| Warrant Officer Class II | 100 |
| Staff Sergeant | 90 |
| Sergeant | 150 |
| Corporal | 270 |
| Lance Corporal | 480 |
| Private | 2,310 |

*Notes:*
1. UK Regular Army includes nursing services and excludes full time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish regiment and mobilised reservists.
2. Total outflow figures include personnel removed from the strength having been declared long term absentee (LTA).
3. Officer figures exclude those with a paid rank of Colonel and above.
4. Due to the implementation of the new Joint Personnel Administration System all Army data from 1 April 2007 are provisional and subject to review.
5. Figures have been rounded to 10; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
6. Where rounding has been used, totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts.
7. All figures are provisional.

Due to the ongoing validation of data on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system, a break down of exit by reason, including voluntary outflow, cannot currently be produced for army officers and other ranks from FY 2007-08 onwards.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* target and *(b)* actual (i) inflow, (ii) outflow and (iii) voluntary outflow rate of each pinch point trade was in the last 12 months. [237927]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1704-08W. This position remains unaltered and is still the case. I have provided as much information as possible for the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force although it is not possible to provide inflow rates for the Royal Navy pinch points due to the configuration of the pinch point trades on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. The Army is currently not able to provide any data of this kind as the information held on JPA has not been validated.

*Royal Navy pinch points*

| Trade | Liability | Strength | Shortfall | | Inflow | Outflow | VO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Number | Percentage | | | |
| Lieutenant XSM Advanced Warfare Qualified | 71 | 67 | 4 | 3 | n/a | 14 | 12 |
| Joint Force Harrier—Harrier GR7 Instructors | 7 | 3 | 4 | 57 | n/a | 0 | 0 |
| Lieutenant GR7 Harrier Pilots | 35 | 18 | 17 | 45 | n/a | 0 | 0 |
| Strategic Weapon System Junior Rates | 110 | 86 | 24 | 22 | n/a | 28 | 17 |
| Merlin Aircrew (Pilots) | 122 | 76 | 46 | 38 | n/a | 6 | 4 |

*Royal Navy pinch points*

| Trade | Liability | Strength | Shortfall Number | Shortfall Percentage | Inflow | Outflow | VO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Merlin Aircrew (Observers) | 116 | 69 | 47 | 41 | n/a | 1 | 1 |
| Merlin Aircrew (Aircrewmen) | 103 | 80 | 23 | 22 | n/a | 9 | 4 |
| Leading Seaman General Service Warfare | 1,105 | 784 | 321 | 29 | n/a | 109 | 74 |
| Able Rate 1 Divers | 137 | 91 | 46 | 34 | n/a | 10 | 9 |
| Able Rate Warfare Specialist Sensor SM | 179 | 146 | 33 | 18 | n/a | 22 | 13 |
| Able Rate 1 (Seaman) | 379 | 284 | 95 | 25 | n/a | 69 | 48 |
| Able Rate 1 Warfare Specialist | 668 | 635 | 33 | 5 | n/a | 167 | 88 |
| Able Rate 1 Communications and Information Systems | 367 | 335 | 32 | 9 | n/a | 81 | 46 |
| Leading Aircraft Controllers | 75 | 41 | 34 | 44 | n/a | 4 | 3 |
| Royal Marine Pte-Cpl | 6,525 | 6,003 | 522 | 8 | n/a | 448 | 339 |
| Able Rate Warfare Specialist Tactical SM | 125 | 111 | 14 | 11 | n/a | 10 | 7 |
| Sea King and Lynx Avionics Supervisors (LAET) | 348 | 284 | 64 | 18 | n/a | 3 | 3 |
| Cat A2 Nuclear Watch Keepers | 210 | 162 | 48 | 23 | n/a | 15 | 6 |
| Cat B Nuclear Watch Keepers | 400 | 323 | 77 | 19 | n/a | 43 | 20 |
| Leading Seaman Mine Warfare | 70 | 60 | 10 | 14 | n/a | 3 | 2 |

*Army operational pinch points*

| Trade | Liability | Strength | Shortfall Number | Shortfall Percentage | Inflow | Outflow | VO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RE Clk ofWks: SSgt-WO1 | 245 | 246 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| RLC Ammo Tech Cpl-SSgt | 285 | 157 | 128 | 44.9 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Infantry Pte-LCpl | 14,615 | 12,68 | 1,647 | 11.3 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| REME Rec Mech: LCpl-Cpl | 344 | 216 | 128 | 37.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| RE EOD Cpl-SSgt | 222 | 95 | 95 | 57.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| REME VM: Cfn-Cpl | 3,625 | 3,132 | 493 | 13.6 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| INT OPMI: Cpl-Sgt (in particular Linguists, IA and HUMINT) | 690 | 462 | 228 | 33.0 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| REME Armourer: Cfn-Cpl | 397 | 317 | 80 | 20.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| RA Gunner: Gnr-Bdr (including Para/Cdo Gnrs and OP Asst) | 5,048 | 4,330 | 718 | 14.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a |

*Army manning pinch points*

| Trade | Liability | Strength | Shortfall Number | Shortfall Percentage | Inflow | Outflow | VO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AMS Radiologist Maj+ | 4 | 1 | 3 | 75.0 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| AMS ITU Nurse Cpl-Capt | 121 | 35 | 86 | 71.1 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| AMS EM Nurse Cpl-Capt | 101 | 38 | 63 | 62.4 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| AMS Radiographer Cpl+ | 24 | 10 | 14 | 58.3 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| AMS Anaesthetist Maj+ | 49 | 23 | 23 | 53.1 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| AMS Orth Surg Maj+ | 13 | 7 | 6 | 46.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| AMS Gen Surg Maj+ | 17 | 10 | 7 | 41.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| REME Geo Spr-WO2 | 332 | 292 | 40 | 12.0 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| RLC P and C Op Pte-Cpl | 433 | 350 | 83 | 19.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| RA UAV Op LBdr-SSgt | 280 | 237 | 43 | 15.4 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| RE ME Fitter: Spr-LCpl | 549 | 395 | 154 | 28.1 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| AGC(SPS) Mil Admin Pte-Sgt | 2,610 | 2,302 | 308 | 11.8 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| AMS GMP Capt+ | 153 | 137 | 16 | 10.5 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| R Signals IS Engr Cpl-Sgt | 237 | 202 | 35 | 14.8 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| CAMUS Musician | 300 | 231 | 69 | 23.0 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| AMS ODP Cpl+ | 95 | 82 | 13 | 21.9 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| AMS RGN Cpl-Sgt | 293 | 263 | 30 | 10.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| REME C3S Spr-LCpl | 704 | 593 | 111 | 15.8 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| RLC Chef Pte-LCpl | 1,459 | 1,366 | 93 | 6.4 | n/a | n/a | n/a |

*RAF operational pinch points*

| Trade | Liability | Strength | Shortfall Number | Shortfall Percentage | Inflow | Outflow | VO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Medical | 278 | 218 | 60 | -21.6 | 20 | 10 | — |
| Pilot (Junior Officer) | 1,523 | 1,252 | 271 | -17.8 | 90 | 170 | 40 |
| Flying Branch (Career Stream) (Senior Officer) | 725 | 685 | 40 | -5.5 | 250 | 160 | 30 |
| Operations Support (Intelligence) | 234 | 227 | 7 | -2.8 | 20 | 20 | 10 |

*RAF operational pinch points*

| Trade | Liability | Strength | Shortfall Number | Shortfall Percentage | Inflow | Outflow | VO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Operations Support (Regiment) | 267 | 240 | 27 | -10.1 | 40 | 20 | 10 |
| Operations Support (Flight Operations) | 215 | 203 | 12 | -5.7 | 10 | — | — |
| Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service | 180 | 131 | 49 | -27.1 | 10 | 10 | — |
| Weapons System Operator (Air Load Master) | 539 | 467 | 72 | -13.4 | — | 30 | 10 |
| Weapons System Operator (Linguist) | 66 | 51 | 15 | -22.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Air Traffic Controller (ATC)/Flight Operations Manager (FOM)/Flight Operations Assistant (FOA) | 1,253 | 1,223 | 30 | -2.4 | 40 | 100 | 50 |
| Firefighter | 543 | 495 | 48 | -8.9 | 40 | 80 | 50 |
| Gunner | 1,786 | 1,625 | 161 | -9 | 480 | 220 | 140 |
| Movements Operator/Controller | 863 | 847 | 16 | -1.9 | 30 | 60 | 40 |
| Mechanical Transport Technician | 355 | 342 | 13 | -3.7 | 0 | 30 | 10 |

*RAF manning pinch points*

| Branch/Trade | Liability | Strength | Shortfall Number | Shortfall Percentage | Inflow | Outflow | VO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Administration (Training) | 231 | 201 | 30 | -13.2 | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Chaplains | 79 | 63 | 16 | -20.4 | — | — | 0 |
| Medical Support | 91 | 80 | 11 | -12.4 | 10 | 10 | — |
| Operations Support (Fighter Control) | 346 | 291 | 55 | -15.9 | 30 | 20 | — |
| Operations Support (Air Traffic Control) | 430 | 370 | 60 | -14 | 20 | 40 | — |
| Dental | 69 | 58 | 11 | -16 | — | 10 | 0 |
| Weapons Systems Operator (Junior Officer) | 526 | 448 | 78 | -14.8 | 20 | 60 | 10 |
| Intelligence Analyst (Communications) | 281 | u/k | u/k | u/k | 20 | 50 | 20 |
| Intelligence Analyst (Imagery) | 403 | u/k | u/k | u/k | 0 | 20 | 20 |
| Environmental Health Technician | 47 | 37 | 10 | -21 | 0 | — | — |
| Radiographer | 11 | 7 | 4 | -36.2 | 0 | — | — |
| Mess Manager/Steward | 489 | 448 | 41 | -8.5 | 20 | 40 | 20 |
| Musician | 171 | 151 | 20 | -11.9 | 10 | 10 | — |
| Survival Equipment Fitter | 612 | 566 | 46 | -7.5 | 10 | 70 | 30 |
| Staff Nurse (RMN) | 30 | 24 | 6 | -19.7 | 0 | — | — |
| Laboratory Technician | 15 | 9 | 6 | -39.8 | — | — | — |
| Med Asst/Admin | 584 | 604 | +20 | +3.6 | 30 | 80 | 50 |
| Dent Admin/Nurse | 134 | 127 | 7 | -4.9 | 10 | 20 | 10 |
| Personnel Admin | 1,489 | 1,412 | 77 | -5.2 | 30 | 190 | 80 |
| Supplier | 1,832 | 1,822 | 10 | -0.5 | 20 | 150 | 80 |
| Military Transport Driver | 1,107 | 1,028 | 79 | -7.2 | 80 | 120 | 60 |
| Aircraft Technician (Avionics) | 3890 | 3362 | 528 | -13.6 | 20 | 280 | 150 |
| Engineering Technician (Weapons) | 1588 | 1566 | 22 | -1.4 | — | 120 | 50 |
| General Technician Mechanical | 890 | 413 | 477 | -53.6 | 20 | 20 | 10 |

'—'denotes rounded down to 0

## Armed Forces: Pensions

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the net present value was of a pension for a sergeant retiring after *(a)* 18 years' service on 30 April 1997 as a (i) Gurkha and (ii) regular army non-commissioned officer and *(b)* 22 years' service on 30 April 2008 under (A) AFPS 75 and (B) AFPS 05. [238627]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information is as follows.

*Pensions at 30 April 1997—after 18 years' service*

A direct comparison for pension benefits paid after 18 years service on 30 April 1997 is not possible. If a Gurkha Sergeant was discharged after 18 years service on 30 April 1997, he would have been eligible for the following under the Gurkha Pension Scheme (GPS).

| | Immediate award ICR[1] | NPV[2] ICR | NPV (£)[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Annual | 23,498.64 | 163,584.24 | 2027.57 |
| Monthly | 1,958.22 | 13,632.02 | 168.96 |

[1] ICR—Indian Currency Rupees
[2] NPV—Net Present Value
[3] Current exchange rate of 80.68 ICR to £1.

This pension is paid immediately as under the GPS rules only 15 years service is required for immediate benefits.

Under Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 (AFPS 75) a regular soldier leaving after 18 years would need to wait until aged 60 to claim his pension.

A regular Army Sergeant completing 18 years service on 30 April 1997 under AFPS 75 would receive the following:

£

| | Award payable at age 60 | Net present value |
|---|---|---|
| Pension | 4,994.55 | 6,739.14 |
| Terminal Grant | 14,983.65 | 20,217.42 |

*Pensions at 30 April 2008—after 22 years' service*

To ensure 22 years reckonable service on 30 April 2008 under AFPS 75 and qualification for Early Departure Payment benefits under AFPS 05 a date of birth of 1 May 1968 and an enlistment date of 1 May 1986 have been assumed. An annual salary figure of £33,922.32, which applies to both Gurkha and Regular Army Sergeants, has been used for the AFPS 05 calculations. This is based on the pay rate for a Sergeant who is on Level 5, on the higher spine.

The following table shows the values for pensions at 30 April 2008 for both a Gurkha and Regular Sergeant under AFPS 75 and AFPS 05.

£

| | AFPS 75 | AFPS 05 |
|---|---|---|
| Gurkha Sergeant | Annual Immediate Pension: 6,410.78<br>Terminal Grant: 19,232.34 | Annual Early Departure Payment: 5,330.65<br>Early Departure Payment Lump Sum: 31,983.90<br>Annual Pension at age 65: 6,819.04<br>Lump Sum at age 65: 20,457.12 |
| Regular Army Sergeant | Annual Immediate Pension: 10,023<br>Lump Sum: 30,069 | Annual Early Departure Payment: 5,330.65<br>Early Departure Payment Lump Sum: 31,983.90<br>Annual pension at age 65: 10,661.30<br>Lump Sum at age 65: 31,983.90 |

In the Gurkha example, pensionable service before 1 July 1997 has been given a value in AFPS broadly equivalent to the pension earned in the Gurkha Pension Scheme. This is in line with the Gurkha pensions Offer to Transfer, which was found to be reasonable and lawful by the High Court.

**Armoured Fighting Vehicles**

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress on the Future Rapid Effects System. [227867]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** On 8 May 2008, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) announced selection of PIRANHA V offered by General Dynamics (UK) Ltd as the preferred design for the FRES (Future Rapid Effect System) Utility Vehicle. Acknowledging that there were significant issues to be resolved during negotiations, the MOD took the step of making General Dynamics (UK) Ltd's preferred bidder status provisional. For reasons of commercial confidentiality I cannot go into further details at this time.

The Specialist Vehicle (SV) element of the FRES programme continues to make good progress. In June 2008, departmental approval was given for the SV Assessment Phase. The aim of this phase is to refine the requirement, develop programme options for delivering the FRES Specialist Vehicle capability and to understand and mitigate technical risk. The Assessment Phase includes the placement of a range study of contracts with industry. We are also currently developing the Acquisition Strategy for future stages of the SV programme.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Jackal vehicles have been damaged beyond repair in service in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; [237621]

(2) how many Warrior vehicles have been damaged beyond repair in *(a)* Iraq in the last five years and *(b)* Afghanistan since they were introduced into that country; [237625]

(3) how many Mastiff vehicles have been damaged beyond repair since their introduction into theatre. [237626]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the public disclosure of the weight of Army vehicles. [238665]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Specific operational information on the weight of Army vehicles is withheld as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. Insurgents could estimate the weight of armour and payload, potentially giving a tactical advantage. Knowledge of the total weight of a vehicle may allow opposing forces to determine the possible routes a convoy may follow and allow more effective attack planning. General equipment weights (i.e. before up-armouring) however are in the public domain.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 28-30WS, on protected mobility, which types of lesser protected vehicles he plans to withdraw from operations. [238751]

**Mr. Hutton:** The tactical support vehicles (TSVs) Coyote, Husky and Wolfhound will replace light utility 'B' vehicles operating 'outside the wire' such as the Pinzgauer 4x4, Pinzgauer 6x6, General Service Land Rover and Land Rover Truck Utility Medium/Truck Utility Light. The TSVs will also undertake some of the roles currently carried out using Snatch Land Rover. TSVs together with the Snatch Vixen modification programme will replace the use of Snatch 2A 'outside the wire'. The Warthog will replace Viking.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans he has for the expansion of the armoured vehicle support initiative in 2009; and if he will make a statement; [239614]

(2) whether his Department plans to continue with the armoured vehicle support initiative programme in 2009. [239616]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The strategic intent to transform the way in which support is delivered to our current Armoured Fighting Vehicle (AFV) fleet in order to ensure best value for money remains extant. The approach so far has been embodied in the Armoured Vehicle Support Initiative (AVSI) which examines the comparative advantage of either contracting with a partner (BAE Systems) or delivering support through incremental improvement to current support arrangements. The Department intends to pursue this strategic intent in 2009 although the format is continually reviewed.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will include the Hadley plant of BAE Land Systems in the work undertaken to deliver the Warrior Fightability Lethality Improvement Programme. [239615]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** This is a commercial decision for the company.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ensure that BAE Land Systems at Hadley is utilised to meet urgent operational requirements arising from the future rapid effects systems utility vehicle programme. [239617]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** There are no current Urgent Operational Requirements arising from the Future Rapid Effect System Utility Vehicle programme, which is in its Assessment Phase. The Department cannot ensure that any particular company is used, as MOD sources globally in order to achieve the best possible value for money through life for the armed forces. Once a company is selected to meet a specific requirement it is matter for the company on how and where it meets this requirement.

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his timetable is for modernising the Warrior turret and increasing its lethality. [239618]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme (WCSP) will upgrade the current Warrior Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV) to meet the current and future requirements of the British Army. The programme is in the early stages of its Acquisition Cycle. In common with all defence equipment programmes, it is our policy not to release or discuss in service dates ahead of main investment decisions.

### Army: Conditions of Employment

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of whether the Army Terms of Service (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2008 are compatible with the Convention rights in the Human Rights Act 1998. [239510]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Army Terms of Service (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2008 came into effect on 6 August 2008. The regulations brought the minimum commitment period for soldiers under 18 years of age back into line with the provisions that existed prior to 1 January 2008, i.e. that they should serve for a minimum of four years from their 18th birthday.

The Ministry of Defence does not consider the provisions of the regulations to be in breach of the Human Rights Act 1998.

### Army: Dental Services

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many dentists the Army employs; and from which sites such dentists operate. [239450]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Army currently employs 127 dental practitioners and six dental consultants. A further four dental practitioners are currently in their probationary year awaiting accreditation.

Army dentists currently practise in the following locations:

Abingdon
Aldershot
Arborfield
Ayios Nikolas (Cyprus)
Bassingbourn
British Army Training Unit Suffield (Canada)
Bicester
Bielefeld (Germany)
Blandford
Bordon
Bovington
Bramcote
Brawdy
Brecon
Bulford
Camberley
Canterbury
Catterick
Celle (Germany)
Chatham
Chepstow
Chester
Chilwell
Colchester
Colerne
Deepcut
Dhekelia (Cyprus)
Edinbrugh
Elmpt (Germany)
Episkopi (Cyprus)
Fallingbostel (Germany)
Fort George
Gutersloh (Germany)
Hameln (Germany)
Harrogate
Hereford
Herford (Germany)
Hermitage
Hohne (Germany)
Holywood
Hounslow

Larkhill
Leconfield
Linton-on-Ouse
Lisburn
Maidstone
Marchwood
Middle Wallop
Minley
Munster (Germany)
Osnabruck (Germany)
Ouston
Paderborn (Germany)
Pirbright
Preston
Rheindahlen (Germany)
Ripon
Sennelager (Germany)
Seria (Brunei)
Mons (Belgium)
Shorncliffe
Shrivenham
Tern Hill
Thorney Island
Tidworth
Topcliffe
Warminster
Waterbeach
Wattisham
Weeton
Wellington
Winchester
Windsor
Woodbridge
Woolwich
York

Visiting dental teams provide a service to more remote or smaller locations on a rotational basis.

All figures are taken from the Joint Personnel Administration system.

**Army: North West**

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many regiments were based in the North West in each of the last three years; and how many will be based in the North West in the next 12 months. [239451]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The following units have been based in the north-west over the last 22 months:

| *Serial* | *Unit* | *Location* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (2 YORKS) | Preston—to move to Cyprus in December 2010 |
| 2 | 2nd Battalion The Rifles (2 RIFLES) | Preston (up to August 2007) |
| 3 | 4th Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (4 LANCS) | Preston |
| 4 | 103 (Lancashire Artillery Volunteers) Royal Artillery (Volunteers) (103 Regt RA(V)) | St Helens |
| 5 | 75 Engineer Regiment (Volunteers) (75 Engr Regt (V)) | Failsworth, Manchester |
| 6 | 156 (North West) Transport Regiment The Royal Logistics Corps (156 Tpt Regt RLC (V)) | Liverpool |
| 7 | 33rd (Lancashire and Cheshire) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) (33SigRegt(V)) | Liverpool |
| 8 | 5 General Support Medical Regiment (5 GS Med Regt) | Preston—moving to Catterick in 2009 |
| 9 | 207 Field Hospital (Volunteer) (207FdHosp(V)) | Manchester |
| 10 | 208 Field Hospital (Volunteer) (208FdHosp(V)) | Liverpool |
| 11 | 1st Battalion The Royal Welsh (The Royal Welch Fusiliers) (1 R Welsh) | Chester |
| 12 | Liverpool University Officer Training Corps | Liverpool |
| 13 | Lancaster University Officer Training Corps | Lancaster |
| 14 | Manchester University Officer Training Corps | Manchester |

The following units are due to move to the north-west in the next three years:

| *Serial* | *Unit* | *Location* |
|---|---|---|
| 15 | 2nd Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (2 LANCS) | Preston (from December 2010) |
| 16 | 253 General Support Medical Regiment (Volunteers) (253GSMedRegt(V)) | Elements will be based in Preston from early 2009 |
| 17 | 254 General Support Medical Regiment (Volunteers) (254GSMedRegt(V)) | Elements will be based in Preston from early 2009 |

Data on the units located in the North West before January 2007 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Army: Recruitment**

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many recruits joined the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy, *(c)* Royal Marines and *(d)* Royal Air Force in each of the last three years, broken down by region of recruitment. [239452]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Information on recruitment by region is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The total number of personnel that were recruited (intake from civilian life) to the UK regular[1] forces by service for each of the last three financial years is as follows:

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Royal Navy | [2]2,690 | [2]2,640 | [2]2,750 |
| Marines | [2]1,240 | [2]1,130 | [2]1110 |
| Army | [2]12,730 | [2]14,300 | [2]14,540 |
| Royal Air Force | [2]1,480 | [2]1,720 | [2]1,930 |

[1] UK regular forces includes nursing services but excludes full-time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.

[2] Denotes provisional and subject to review due to ongoing data validation of the Joint Personnel Administration system (JPA).

*Note*:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

Recruitment (intake from civilian life) figures can be found in table 3 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 01: Strength, intake and Outflow of UK Regular Forces. TSP 01 is published monthly. The most recent publication shows figures at 1 September 2008 and can be found at

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=30&date=2008-10-14&pubType=1&PublishTime=09:30:00&from=home&tabOption=3.

## Army: Weapons

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when the L14A1 side attack mine came into army service; when it was removed from the inventory; and how and when the ordnance's disposal took place; [239848]

(2) what trigger mechanisms were employed for the L14A1 side attack mine while it was in Army service; and whether it was ever fitted with infrared sensors. [239849]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** According to our records, the L14A1 side attack mine was not in service with British Armed Forces. Two variants of an off-route anti-tank mine, the L114A1 and the L131A1, are known to have entered military service prior to 1971, but no record can be found of the precise dates. Initiation was either by an operator using a trigger switch or by means of a break-wire stretched across the road. Neither munition was fitted with infrared sensors. They were withdrawn from service in 1994 and were disposed of by burning at the MOD range at Shoeburyness in the mid 1990s.

## Christmas

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruits to be served by his Department at Christmas functions which will be sourced from British producers. [239723]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The information requested is not collected.

The Government will shortly be publishing a report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and National Offender Management Service (previously HM Prison Service) between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008.

This report will be available on the PSFPI website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm

## Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; what the target rates set for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [238926]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** It is not possible to break down the rate of non-sickness absence as there are currently no reliable data available.

Sickness absence rates in MOD for the 12 months ending 31 December 2005, 31 December 2006, 31 December 2007 and 31 March 2008 are shown in the following table:

*Sickness absence rates*

| Year ending | Industrial | Non industrial | Full-time equivalent Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 31 March 2008 | 11.54 | 8.01 | 8.66 |
| 31 December 2007 | 11.85 | 8.22 | 8.90 |
| 31 December 2006 | 12.11 | 8.04 | 8.82 |
| 31 December 2005 | 12.54 | 8.55 | 9.30 |

*Notes*:
1. Data exclude staff in trading funds, the royal fleet auxiliary, and locally engaged civilians for whom sickness absence data are not readily available.
2. Data presented reflect the current Cabinet Office definition, setting a maximum absence of 225 days per person, and exclude data for weekends, annual leave and bank holidays.
3. Rates are calculated by dividing the total working days lost for each period by a weighted 13 month average for the period listed with the first and last month receiving a weighting of 0.5, and all other months a weighting of 1.

Information prior to the 12 months ending 31 December 2005 is compiled on a previous definition for monitoring sickness absence which is incomparable with figures for 1 January to 31 December 2005 onwards.

*Sickness absence rates—trading funds*

| Year ending | Industrial | Non Industrial | FTE Rates Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 31 March 2008 | — | — | 8.66 |

*Notes*:
1. Trading fund personnel cannot be broken down by industrial status.
2. Data presented reflect the current Cabinet Office definition, setting a maximum absence of 225 days per person, and exclude data for weekends, annual leave and bank holidays.
3. Rates are calculated by dividing the total working days lost for each period by a weighted 13 month average for the period listed with the first and last month receiving a weighting of 0.5, and all other months a weighting of 1.

Information prior to the 12 months ending 31 March 2008 is not considered robust enough to provide any meaningful sick absence rates due to data inconsistency within the HR systems used by trading funds to record absences.

*Target rates of worker sickness absence for civil servants in the Ministry of Defence*

Since the Cabinet Office publication of 'Working well together in the Public Sector' in June 1998 the Ministry of Defence have had sickness absence targets included in departmental plan with performance contained in the appropriate departmental report and accounts.

Targets have been to reduce sickness absence by cumulatively by 2.5 per cent. each year, although the continual change in methodology means that the actual figures cannot be compared year on year. The target set for financial year 2008-09 is to reduce sickness absence to 8.0 average working days lost (AWDL) per full-time equivalent employee.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers (i) was in the last 12 months and (ii) has been since 1997-98. [232973]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Civil Servants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civil servants have been employed by each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [239095]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The number of civil servants employed by the Ministry of Defence by core personnel, Agencies, trading fund staff, locally engaged civilians and Royal Fleet Auxiliary staff as at 1 April each year since 1997-98 is shown in the following tables:

| | *April 1997* | *April 1998* | *April 1999* | *April 2000* | *April 2001* | *FTE April 2002* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Core Department* | | | | | | |
| Ministry Of Defence (less agencies, trading funds, LEC's and RFA's) | 50,520 | 46,060 | 48,070 | 41,210 | 40,800 | 42,140 |
| *Agencies:* | | | | | | |
| Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency | 970 | 110 | 100 | 120 | 120 | 230 |
| Army Base Repair Organisation | 3,020 | 2,780 | 2,530 | 2,560 | 2,690 | — |
| Army Base Storage And Distribution Agency | 3,810 | 3,430 | — | — | — | — |
| Army Personnel Centre | 1,450 | 1,070 | 1,120 | 1,170 | 1,250 | 760 |
| Army Technical Support Authority | 830 | 830 | 780 | — | — | — |
| Army Training And Recruitment Agency | 4,810 | 4,700 | 4,410 | 4,400 | 4,390 | 4,390 |
| British Forces Post Office | 350 | 340 | 330 | 360 | 370 | 360 |
| Defence Analytical Services Agency | 130 | 130 | 120 | 140 | 140 | 160 |
| Defence Animal Centre | 70 | 70 | — | — | — | — |
| Defence Aviation Repair Agency | — | — | 4,920 | 4,790 | — | — |
| Defence Bills Agency | 680 | 700 | 660 | 620 | 610 | 610 |
| Defence Clothing And Textile Agency | 550 | 540 | 530 | — | — | — |
| Defence Codification Agency | 150 | 120 | — | — | — | — |
| Defence Communications Service Agency | — | 530 | 660 | 1,460 | 3,060 | 3,100 |
| Defence Dental Agency | 120 | 170 | 190 | 210 | 490 | 170 |
| Defence Estates | 1,230 | 1,160 | 1,240 | 1,220 | 1,350 | 1,420 |
| Defence Geographic Imagery Intelligence Agency | — | — | — | 860 | 780 | 720 |
| Defence Housing Executive | — | — | 1,020 | 960 | 990 | 940 |
| Defence Intelligence And Security Centre | 1,080 | 1,070 | 1,290 | 1,040 | 360 | — |
| Defence Medical Training Organisation | — | 110 | 160 | 160 | 170 | 170 |
| Defence Procurement Agency | — | — | — | 4,090 | 3,930 | 3,910 |
| Defence Secondary Care Agency | — | 760 | 810 | 790 | 730 | 620 |
| Defence Storage And Distribution Agency | — | — | — | 2,760 | 3,240 | 2,930 |
| Defence Transport And Movements Agency | 150 | 150 | 170 | 210 | 320 | 330 |
| Defence Vetting Agency | 50 | 350 | 359 | 370 | 350 | 280 |
| Disposal Services Agency | 70 | 60 | 60 | 80 | 80 | 80 |
| Duke of York's Royal Military School | 100 | 100 | 100 | 110 | 100 | 110 |
| Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre | 140 | 150 | 150 | — | — | — |
| Logistic Information Systems Agency | 170 | 190 | 200 | — | — | — |
| Logistics Support Services | 460 | 390 | 510 | — | — | — |
| Medical Supply Agency | — | 330 | 340 | 240 | — | 300 |
| Military Survey | 710 | 700 | 710 | — | — | — |
| Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency | 4,060 | 3,950 | 3,840 | 3,810 | 3,690 | 3,580 |
| Naval Aircraft Repair Organisation | 1,180 | 1,550 | — | — | — | — |
| Naval Bases And Supplies Agency | 9,490 | 8,100 | 4,060 | — | — | — |
| Naval Manning Agency | 90 | 100 | 90 | 100 | 110 | 110 |
| Naval Recruiting And Training Agency | 1,640 | 1,540 | 1,220 | 1,200 | 1,090 | 1,020 |
| People Pay And Pensions Agency | 930 | 870 | 730 | 660 | 670 | 690 |
| Queen Victoria School | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | — |

| | April 1997 | April 1998 | April 1999 | April 2000 | April 2001 | FTE: April 2002 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RAF Maintenance Group Defence Agency | 4,590 | 4,530 | — | — | — | — |
| RAF Personnel Management Agency | 220 | 230 | 240 | 220 | 240 | 240 |
| RAF Signals Engineering Establishment | 580 | 580 | 590 | — | — | — |
| RAF Training Group Defence Agency | 2,270 | 2,250 | 2,130 | 2,100 | 2,070 | 2,120 |
| Service Children's Education | 760 | 720 | 890 | 860 | 870 | 870 |
| Specialist Procurement Services | — | 820 | — | — | — | — |
| Veterans Agency | — | — | — | — | — | 880 |
| Warship Support Agency | 2,350 | 2,340 | 2,350 | 10,540 | 8,500 | 7,960 |
| *Trading Funds:* | | | | | | |
| Army Base Repair Organisation | — | — | — | — | — | 2,050 |
| Defence Aviation Repair Agency | — | — | — | — | 4,490 | 4,420 |
| Defence Scientific and Technical Laboratories | 12,590 | 11,000 | 10,960 | 11,420 | 11,320 | 2,870 |
| Meteorological Office | 2,150 | 2,230 | 2,270 | 2,270 | 2,160 | 2,160 |
| UK Hydrographic Office | 790 | 790 | 820 | 850 | 860 | 910 |
| *Other:* | | | | | | |
| Locally engaged civilians | 15,860 | 15,160 | 14,870 | 14,850 | 13340 | 14,120 |
| Royal Fleet Auxiliary Staff | 2,210 | 2360 | 2360 | 2,420 | 2360 | 2,370 |
| Ministry of Defence civilian total | 133,30 | 126,290 | 123,010 | 121,290 | 118,170 | 110,090 |

*Note:*
Figures are individually rounded to the nearest 10, and not may not sum precisely to the overall total.
*Source:*
DASA (Quad-Service)

| | April 2003 | April 2004 | April 2005 | April 2006 | April 2007 | FTE: April 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Core Department:* | | | | | | |
| Ministry Of Defence (less agencies, trading funds, LEC's and RFA's) | 41,240 | 40,560 | 45,220 | 47,650 | 55,550 | 52,470 |
| *Agencies:* | | | | | | |
| Service Personnel Veterans Agency | 170 | 160 | 210 | 200 | 1,000 | 940 |
| Army Personnel Centre | 820 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Army Training And Recruitment Agency | 4,310 | 4,000 | 4,020 | — | — | — |
| British Forces Post Office | 380 | 360 | 330 | 320 | — | — |
| Defence Analytical Services Agency | 160 | 180 | 190 | 200 | 190 | — |
| Defence Bills Agency | 590 | 590 | 580 | 540 | — | — |
| Defence Communications Service Agency | 3,200 | 3,180 | 3,430 | 3,610 | — | — |
| Defence Dental Agency | 170 | 170 | — | — | — | — |
| Defence Estates | 1,550 | 2,450 | 2,820 | 2,900 | — | — |
| Defence Geographic Imagery Intelligence Agency | 760 | 810 | — | — | — | — |
| Defence Housing Executive | 880 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Defence Intelligence And Security Centre | 140 | 160 | — | — | — | — |
| Defence Medical And Education Training Agency | 650 | 580 | 600 | 600 | 570 | — |
| Defence Procurement Agency | 3,750 | 3,870 | 3,840 | 4,460 | — | — |
| Defence Storage And Distribution Agency | 4,690 | 4,530 | 4,440 | 4,370 | 3,910 | 3,160 |
| Defence Transport And Movements Agency | 290 | 320 | 350 | 150 | — | — |
| Defence Vetting Agency | 300 | 340 | 320 | 320 | 350 | 380 |
| Disposal Services Agency | 70 | 60 | 60 | 110 | — | — |
| Duke of York's Royal Military School | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | — | — |
| Medical Supply Agency | 260 | 270 | — | — | — | — |
| Ministry Of Defence Police | 3,550 | 6,030 | 7,360 | 7,470 | 7,800 | 7,760 |
| Naval Manning Agency | 110 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Naval Recruiting And Training Agency | 1,050 | 1,160 | 990 | — | — | — |
| People Pay And Pensions Agency | 700 | 790 | 810 | 930 | 1,080 | 1,110 |
| Queen Victoria School | 70 | 70 | — | — | — | — |
| RAF Personnel Management Agency | 210 | — | — | — | — | — |
| RAF Training Group Defence Agency | 2,100 | 2,310 | 2,220 | — | — | — |

| | April 2003 | April 2004 | April 2005 | April 2006 | April 2007 | FTE April 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Service Children's Education | 800 | 960 | 1,010 | 1,040 | 960 | 960 |
| Veterans Agency | 820 | 850 | 780 | 800 | — | — |
| Warship Support Agency | 5,180 | 4,990 | — | — | — | — |
| *Trading Funds:* | | | | | | |
| Army Base Repair Organisation | 1,990 | 1,840 | 1,660 | 2,150 | 2,170 | — |
| Defence Aviation Repair Agency | 4,110 | 3,670 | 3,160 | 2,600 | 2,060 | — |
| Defence Support Group | — | — | — | — | — | 3,120 |
| Defence Evaluation And Research Agency | 3,030 | 3,140 | 3,240 | 3,270 | 3,240 | 3,350 |
| Meteorological Office | 2,140 | 1,860 | 1,780 | 1,720 | 1,670 | 1,740 |
| UK Hydrographic Office | 940 | 920 | 930 | 970 | 970 | 1,010 |
| *Other* | | | | | | |
| Locally engaged civilians | 13,860 | 15,430 | 15,660 | 14,540 | 13,840 | 11,360 |
| Royal Fleet Auxiliary Staff | 2,450 | 2310 | 2350 | 2,340 | 2360 | 2,270 |
| Ministry of Defence civilian total | 107,500 | 109,050 | 108,470 | 103,300 | 97,690 | 89,500 |

*Notes:*
Figures are individually rounded to the nearest 10, and may not sum precisely to the overall total.
*Source:*
DASA (Quad-Service)

For the period from 1 April 1997, the Department has steadily reduced the number of agencies within its organisational structure, by either merging smaller agencies to form new ones, or absorbing individual agencies back into the MOD Core Department.

As at 1 April 1997 the MOD had 36 individual agencies, excluding trading funds, by 1 April 2008 this total has reduced to six agencies. Two trading funds have been merged to form a new trading fund—Defence Support Group—on 1 April 2008.

With a couple of exceptions, executive NDPBs are non-Crown bodies and employees are not civil servants—although civil servants can be seconded or loaned to NDPBs. Information on the number of employees in executive NDPBs is published in the annual Cabinet Office "Public Bodies" publication. Copies are available from the Libraries of the House.

Advisory NDPBs do not usually employ staff. They are typically supported by civil servants from the sponsoring Department.

### Departmental Databases

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what type of data have been sold by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [221947]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** For material generated by the Ministry of Defence (the Department) the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) has delegated her responsibility to the MOD's Director of Intellectual Property Rights (DIPR). DIPR's delegation includes managing the external use of MOD archival material such as photographs, film footage and text. In addition DIPR grants exploitation licences to external parties reliant on the use of the Department's trade marks and technology. Licences granted comply with the Re-use of the Public Sector Information Regulations 2005 and are on commercial terms consistent with deriving best value for the tax payer.

DIPR do not sell data, however licences have been granted for the following material during the last 12 months.

| | Approximate number of licences issued |
|---|---|
| Still photographs | 281 |
| Film footage | 14 |
| Copyright text, reports, training material and publications | 6 |

The information requested relating to MOD's Executive Trading Funds Agencies, (namely: Defence Support Group (DSG), Dstl, Met Office and UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO)) is as follows:

DSG and Dstl have not sold data under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months.

Neither the Met Office nor the UKHO sell data.

The Met Office has licensed the following data types under the Re-use Regulations in the last 12 months:

Rainfall radar data;

Observational data;

Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) data;

NWP archive;

Climatological data;

Lightning detection data;

Text weather forecasts;

Photographs;

Charts and graphs;

Archived press releases;

Copy text (from Met Office website, journal articles and publications);

Operational Sea Surface Temperature and Sea Ice Analysis data.

In this period the Met Office has also provided various data from the types listed above for re-use by other European National Meteorological Services. In addition, the Met Office has licensed NWP data and satellite observational data originated by the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts and the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites respectively; the UK is a member state of both organisations, represented by the Met Office.

The UKHO grants licences to re-users of its Crown Copyright data in full accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations. UKHO has licensed the following types of data in the last 12 months:

Chart data in paper and digital form (raster and vector formats;)

Tidal Prediction data (heights and times);

Tidal Harmonics data allowing licensees to calculate their own tidal predictions;

Tidal stream data (horizontal flow);

Nautical Almanac data (data for astronomical navigation, such as sunrise/sunset times and star times and positions);

List of Lights and Fog Signals;

Textual sailing directions (also known as Pilots);

Bathymetry data (survey data);

Wrecks, obstructions, cables and pipelines data;

Practice and Exercise areas data;

Notices to Mariners (weekly updates to charts);

Historical charts and surveys;

Astronomical Publications;

Miscellaneous nautical publications.

Over 80 per cent. of UKHO licences are for non-commercial or low commercial value re-use, and licensed free of charge via the UKHO website on-line licensing system. Commercial re-use of UKHO data is licensed on commercial terms which are consistent with the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI), Information Fair Trader Scheme (IFTS) and the Trading Fund principles and are regularly audited by the OPSI. UKHO re-use licensing is fully in accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations.

### Departmental Early Retirement

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many employees in his Department took early retirement in each of the last five financial years; and at what total cost. [238956]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The following table shows details of the number of Ministry of Defence civilian employees that have taken early retirement in the last five financial years.

*Table 1: Early Retirement 2003-04 to 2008-09*

*Full-time equivalent*

| *Financial year* | *Number of MOD civilian staff who have taken early retirement*[1,2] |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 1,470 |
| 2004-05 | 950 |
| 2005-06 | 1,260 |
| 2006-07 | 1,350 |
| 2007-08 | 1,660 |
| 2008-09[3] | 410 |
| Grand total | 7,100 |

[1] Includes all non-industrial, industrial and trading fund MOD civilian personnel but excludes royal fleet auxiliary and locally engaged civilian staff for whom no information on exit reason is available.
[2] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[3] To 30 September 2008
*Source:*
DASA Quad Service

To provide specific information on the total cost would require a departmental-wide trawl to ascertain the cost of early retirement. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Gifts

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received in each case. [239632]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Staff are required to record all offers of gifts in Hospitality Books held locally. The requested information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many press officers were employed in his Department in each year since 1997-98; what the total cost was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [239108]

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on employing press and communications officers in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies in each of the last three years. [239675]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 496W to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) which provides details for the current year.

The number of press officers fluctuates throughout each year as well as year-to-year. No historical records are available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on cost is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Lost Property

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data were lost by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231445]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 897W, by my hon. Friend the Member for North Durham (Mr. Jones) the Under-Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Veterans to the hon. Member for Chesterfield (Paul Holmes).

The Ministry of Defence has recorded the following personal data-related incidents in the last 12 months.

| *Date of incident* | *Description of incident* | *Scale of data loss* |
|---|---|---|
| November 2007 | Theft of laptop deployed on overseas exercise. Laptop taken from Land Rover between 14 November 2007 and 9 January 2008. | Personal information records for 500 service personnel deployed on exercise. |
| January 2008 | TAFMIS recruiting laptop stolen from car outside private residence in Birmingham. | The laptop held details of 600,000 recruits or potential recruits to the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Air Force. The information held is not the same for every individual. In some cases, for casual inquiries, the record may be no more than a name. But, for those who progressed as far as submitting an application to join the forces, more extensive personal data is held. In some 3,500 cases, banking details were also included. Records also contain limited personal details of an additional 400,000 individuals; either next of kin or referees for the recruits. |
| January 2008 | Service Children's Education (SCE) Agency teacher's laptop stolen in Brunei. | Details on 17 individual pupils. Contact details were only provided at the level of detail of British forces post office codes. |
| February 2008 | Theft of private laptop containing Army personnel date from nightclub in London. Laptop now returned. | Details of about 100 Army personnel serving in an Engineer Regiment. |
| March 2008 | Black bin bag discovered by Frimley Green resident. | Bag contained patient documentation from Derriford Hospital plus personal documentation relating to a current member of the military medical staff at MDHU Frimley Park who had recently served at MDHU Derriford. Documents related to NHS patients treated at Derriford. |
| March 2008 | A computer server holding medical records was lost during transfer from a NATO unit in Lisbon, Portugal to the UK. | Medical records for up to 7,000 individuals. |
| April 2008 | Theft of Defence Dental Service laptop from RAF Halton between 27 April and 1 May 2008. | Contained 300 personal records (these did not contain sensitive personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act). |
| May 2008 | Privately-owned USB memory stick lost by junior Army officer found on floor of night club in Newquay. USB stick returned to MOD. | Exercise instruction for an adventurous training exercise conducted by the officer's platoon and some personal information. |
| June 2008 | 3 laptops stolen on EDS premises between 10 June 2008 and 13 August 2008. | Laptops fully encrypted so no information compromised. |
| August 2008 | Computer server crash at Celle Medical centre in Germany led to accidental destruction of medical records. Subsequent action to restore from back-ups exposed failure of backup process at this medical centre (but not others). | Medical records for 1,150 individuals (servicemen and their dependants) |
| August 2008 | Theft of 3 USB portable hard drives from secure computer facility at RAF Innsworth between 22 August and 17 September 2008. | 6.2 million documents containing an archive of RAF personnel information. |
| October 2008 | Laptop stolen from Army foundation college at Harrogate which had been used for making local passes for junior soldiers. | Photographs and limited personal details for 450 junior soldiers |
| October 2008 | Loss of portable hard disk from EDS hook | Data of the same type as January 2008 TAFMIS laptop loss on 1.7 million recruits and potential recruits. |

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and at what cost in each year. [239074]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** There are two special advisers currently employed in the Ministry of Defence, of which one is within pay band 2 and the other within pay band 3 as shown:

| *Pay bands for 2008-09* | *£* |
|---|---|
| Scheme ceiling | 140,560 |
| Pay Band 4 | 87,651 to 105,285 |
| Pay Band 3 | 65,529 to 101,737 |
| Pay Band 2 | 51,443 to 68,242 |
| Pay Band 1 | 39,756 to 53,321 |

Since 3 May 1997, no more than two special advisers have been in post at any one time.

Currently, there are approximately 108 press officers employed across the Department (as recorded in the Chief Office of Information's White Book) of which 36 are within the central MOD media and communications unit or regional defence press officer network.

Central records are not held on press officer costs in other areas of the Department and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The costs for the 36 press officers employed by the central organisation based on capitation rates is £2,191,638.

No historical records are available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238943]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Expenditure on public relations activities including recruitment, marketing and advertising for the financial years 1997-98 to 2000-01 was published in the annual MOD Performance Report, copies of which are in the Library of the House, except for 1998-99 for which expenditure was given in an answer to the Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth) on 13 January 2004, *Official Report*, column 677W.

From 2001-02, expenditure on public relations activities has been recorded on a resource accounting basis:

| | *Expenditure (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 35.1 |
| 2002-03 | 52.5 |
| 2003-04 | 61.7 |
| 2004-05 | 79.3 |
| 2005-06 | 76.2 |
| 2006-07 | 43.0 |
| 2007-08 | 46.3 |

Public relations activities comprise public relations services (including sales marketing and advertising), Service and civilian recruitment expenses and expenditure on schools and community relations initiatives.

We have no breakdown that distinguishes between publicity and advertising expenditure. Figures for the MOD trading funds or non-departmental public bodies are not included as they lie outside the MOD's accounting boundary.

Information available on expenditure by Defence Agencies is as follows (the figures are included in the related departmental figure):

| | *Expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|
| *Defence Storage and Distribution Agency* | |
| 2002-03 | 81,000 |
| 2003-04 | 255,000 |
| 2004-05 | 84,000 |
| 2005-06 | 166,000 |
| 2006-07 | 330,000 |
| 2007-08 | 95,000 |
| *Defence Vetting Agency* | |
| 2003-04 | 41,000 |
| 2004-05 | 19,000 |
| 2005-06 | 63,000 |
| 2006-07 | 47,000 |
| 2007-08 | 25,000 |
| *MOD Police and Guarding Agency* | |
| 2003-04 | 272,000 |
| 2004-05 | 227,000 |
| 2005-06 | 376,000 |
| 2006-07 | 202,000 |
| 2007-08 | 209,000 |
| *People, Pay and Pensions Agency[1] (PPPA)* | |
| 2006-07 | 960,000 |
| 2007-08 | 1,000,000 |
| *Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA)* | |
| 2003-04 | 80,000 |
| 2004-05 | 56,000 |
| 2005-06 | 120,000 |
| 2006-07 | 88,000 |
| 2007-08 | 50,000 |
| *Service Children's Education* | |
| 2002-03 | 83,000 |
| 2003-04 | 162,000 |
| 2004-05 | 169,000 |
| 2005-06 | 156,000 |
| 2006-07 | 342,000 |
| 2007-08 | 250,000 |

[1] The PPPA was launched on 7 April 2006. It subsumed the former Pay and Personnel Agency which incurred negligible expenditure on publicity and advertising.

*Note:*
The figures for the years before 2007-08 reflect the combined expenditure for the Armed Forces Personnel and Administration Agency and the Veterans Agency which merged to form the SPVA on 1 April 2007.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237319]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The two special advisers at the Ministry of Defence are supported by one full-time member of staff, providing administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers".

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [238168]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The Ministry of Defence Special Advisers have no entitlement to an allocated Government car. Special advisers are temporary civil servants and their travel arrangements are made in accordance with the rules and guidance set out in the Civil Service Management Code and departmental handbooks.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [239662]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 842-43W to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable).

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [239639]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

### Departmental Projects

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which projects his Department has commissioned from (a) think tanks and (b) charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221610]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239036]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, records are available of the amounts spent on polling and focus groups by the central media and communications organisation dating back to 2001-02. Earlier records are not available.

It is not possible to split out the costs of opinion polls and focus groups, the figures provided will include both these elements.

| *Financial year* | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 81,928 |
| 2002-03 | 24,639 |
| 2003-04 | 130,983 |
| 2004-05 | 79,320 |
| 2005-06 | 274,056 |
| 2006-07 | 252,983 |
| 2007-08 | 185,272 |

It should be noted that these figures will only represent a portion of total spend, other areas of the Department may also commission work of this type directly.

For 2008-09 £123,000 has been spent to date and it is projected that a further £75,000 will be spent by the end of the financial year.

Additionally, work of this nature is also procured through the Central Office of Information but figures cannot be made available within the timescale.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* listening exercises and *(b)* public forums his Department has held in each of the last two years; what the *(i)* purpose and *(ii)* cost was in each case; and who the private contractor was and how much it was paid in each case. [221349]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** This information is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost. The MOD engages with the public, including former members of the armed forces, and its stakeholders, including industry, on an extensive range of subjects in a variety of ways and using internal or external resources as appropriate.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on public relations activities in each year since 1997. [236009]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** Expenditure on public relations activities including recruitment, marketing and advertising for the financial years 1997-98 to 2000-01 were published in the annual MOD Performance Report, copies of which are in the House library, except for 1998-99 whose expenditure was given in an answer on 13 January 2004, *Official Report*, column 677W, to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth).

From 2001-02, expenditure on public relations activities has been recorded on a resource accounting basis and the figures are given as follows:

| | *Expenditure (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 35.1 |
| 2002-03 | 52.5 |
| 2003-04 | 61.7 |
| 2004-05 | 79.3 |
| 2005-06 | 76.2 |
| 2006-07 | 43.0 |
| 2007-08 | 46.3 |

Public relations activities comprise public relations services (including sales marketing and advertising), Service and civilian recruitment expenses and expenditure on schools and community relations initiatives.

These figures do not include expenditure for the MOD Trading Funds, which lie outside the MOD's accounting boundary.

### European Defence Agency: OCCAR

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the declaration on co-operation between the European Defence Agency and the Organisation for Joint Armament Co-operation. [236447]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The declaration on co-operation between the European Defence Agency and OCCAR is Annexe I of the Council conclusions from the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 10 November. I will arrange for the Council conclusions to be placed in the Library of the House.

### Helicopters

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to increase the number of helicopters in Regional Command South; and if he will make a statement. [234320]

**Mr. Hutton:** Helicopter support to ISAF operations in Regional Command (South) is provided from a multinational pool of helicopters, to which the UK makes a significant contribution. We fully recognise the vital role played by helicopters of all types in supporting NATO operations in Afghanistan and we have taken a range of measures which have increased our capability in this area. By improving crew arrangements and enhancing logistic support, we have increased available helicopter hours by around 60 per cent. in the last two years. And we have eased the pressure on the military helicopter fleet by making maximum use of civilian helicopters and aircraft for the provision of logistic support.

Looking to the future, we are examining options to deploy Merlin helicopters and additional Chinook airframes to Afghanistan. We will continue to investigate ways to get more capability out of our existing deployed airframes. And we continue to work closely with our allies to ensure other nations make an appropriate contribution in this area.

### Housing: Construction

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to ensure developers and contractors in the house building industry consider the whole life costs and the production process of housing; and whether he plans to introduce producer responsibility for *(a)* the construction industry and *(b)* house building industry products. [239435]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Information Warfare

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* reports and *(b)* statutory instruments which relate to cyber terrorism have been produced by his Department in the last three years. [230579]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The MOD had produced a number of reports relating to cyber terrorism over the past three years. I am withholding further details as their release would, or would be likely to prejudice national security.

No statutory instruments which relate to cyber terrorism have been produced by MOD in the last three years.

### Iraq: Armoured Fighting Vehicles

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured or protected land rovers of each type were deployed to Iraq prior to October 2003; and when they were deployed. [239850]

**Mr. Hutton:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Iraq: Detainees

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers in his Department were informed of the allegations made by the International Committee of the Red Cross about abuses by United States forces at Abu Ghraib prison in its report of February 2004;[1] [228972]

(2) whether Ministers in his Department were informed by officials of *(a)* allegations concerning the treatment of prisoners in Abu Ghraib and *(b)* the interim report of the International Committee of the Red Cross of February 2004 on the treatment of prisoners by coalition forces in Iraq. [229017]

**Mr. Hutton:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my right hon. Friend the then Defence Secretary on 27 May 2004, to the then hon. Member for Cheadle (Mrs. Calton), *Official Report*, column 1843, and the hon. Member for Mid-Sussex (Mr. Soames), *Official Report*, column 1845W, and by my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary to the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) on 16 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 992W.

An advance copy of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) report "The Treatment by the Coalition Forces of Prisoners of War and Other Protected Persons by the Geneva Convention in Iraq during Arrest, Internment and Interrogation", dated 10 February 2004, was received by the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq and, on 12 February, copies were passed to the offices of the UK Special Representative and the Senior British Military Representative in Iraq (SBMR-I). SBMR-I passed a copy to Headquarters Multi-National Division (South East) in Iraq on 13 February, to the Permanent Joint Headquarters in the UK on 16 February, and posted a copy to the Ministry of Defence in London that arrived on 27 February.

On 26 February 2004, the ICRC formally presented the report to Ambassador Bremer as Head of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq at a meeting attended by an official from the Office of the UK Special Representative. The proceeds of this meeting were reported by telegram to the FCO in London within 24 hours.

In their meeting on 18 March 2004, the President of the ICRC, Dr. Kellenberger, did mention briefly to the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell) that the February ICRC report contained allegations concerning treatment of detainees by forces other than UK forces, although naturally the part of their discussion which covered detainees in Iraq focused on specific allegations against UK forces. The Minister discussed the concerns raised by Dr. Kellenberger with officials on his return to

1. *[Official Report, 11 December 2008, Vol. 485, c. 5MC.]*

London. Officials had already received assurances that UK investigations were under way into allegations of abuse of detainees at Abu Ghraib prison. Defence Ministers became aware of the specific allegations against UK forces contained in the ICRC report when they read the report over the weekend of 8-9 March 2004. A copy had been passed by officials to the Defence Secretary's office on 7 May 2004.

The ICRC report summarises a series of working papers handed over to coalition forces based on observations and interviews during the 29 visits the ICRC conducted in 14 places of detention throughout Iraq between 31 March and 24 October 2003. Ministers had been aware of those issues relating to UK forces for five months before they were aware of the report itself. Allegations of abuse are taken very seriously and, by the time the ICRC report was published, the Royal Military Police were already engaged on several investigations into specific alleged incidents of abuse by UK forces.

### Iraq: Military Aircraft

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the Harrier Force played in Operation TELIC in 2003. [238820]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Harriers deployed on Operation Telic in 2003 were tasked with a variety of roles, primarily close air support and tactical reconnaissance.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 15th May 2008, Official Report, columns 1715-6W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, when each member of the Serious Crimes Unit was taken into the custody of UK forces; when each was released; whether any legal proceedings were initiated against any of them; and if he will establish an investigation into the circumstances leading up to their detention by UK forces and during the period of their detention. [207680]

**Mr. Hutton:** The situation in Iraq makes it very difficult to be certain of the identity and background of individuals detained by UK forces and in particular whether or not they are or have been members of the Serious Crimes Unit. Releasing detailed information of the date of capture and release of suspected members of that unit could enable the individuals concerned to be identified and thus pose a threat to their security. I am therefore not prepared to release such information.

As we have made clear previously, there are no reasons to believe that there were outstanding arrest warrants against any of the members of the SCU previously detained and subsequently released by UK forces in southern Iraq. As a result, there was no basis on which the Iraq authorities would wish to take forward legal proceedings against these individuals. They were interned by UK forces under the authority of the UN Security Council Resolution 1546 and subsequent resolution for imperative reasons of security. Their internment and release was overseen by our in-theatre internment review procedures and they were released because of a judgment that they no longer represented an imperative security threat. I therefore have no intention of initiating further investigation into these events.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian contractors employed by his Department were serving on *(a)* Operation Telic and *(b)* Operation Herrick at the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by company providing the contractors; and which service or function is performed by each such contractor. [207910]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** There are currently some 2,200 civilian contractors listed as working for the Ministry of Defence on Operation Telic and some 3,000 civilian contractors listed as working for the Ministry of Defence on Operation Herrick. The Prime Contractors for whom these individuals work and their functions are listed in the following table:

*Operation Telic*

| *Contractor* | *Function* |
|---|---|
| 148 Squadron (EFI) | NAAFI Services |
| Aggreko | Generators |
| AIEE Motorola | Supply of Radios |
| Al Alghanin | White Fleet Supplier |
| Al Bahar and Bardawil (B&B) | Security Walls, Accommodation, General — Trading |
| Al Hanafi | Cleaning Services |
| Al Hasan Fuel Station | Fuel Coupons |
| Al Hilal Enterprise | Accommodation |
| Al Khaleej | Accommodation |
| Al Majd United Engineering Company | Engineering and sub contractors |
| Al Sawari | Waste Disposal |
| Al Yamama | Building/Engineering and sub contractors |
| Almoayed Services | Photocopiers |
| American United Group | Hairdressing |
| BAE | Engineering |
| Bishara | Photocopiers |
| BLK (British Link Kuwait) | Building, Tented Accommodation and Services |
| Blue Helix | Communications |
| Budget Car Rental | White Fleet |
| CMS | Communications |
| Comtec | Communications |
| Damac | Catering |
| DHL | Logistics/Freight/Parcel delivery/ Office Accommodation |
| Dopet | General Support Equipment |
| Echos | Restaurants |
| Elite Logistics | White Fleet |
| Elite Properties | Accommodation |
| Fast Supplies | Aircraft Coolers and general building supplies |
| Fine Foods | Bottled Water |
| Garda World | Vehicle Maintenance |
| Gulf Hotel | Accommodation |
| Gulf House Markets | Forklift Truck hire |
| Harlow Specialist Life Support & Logistics | Hire of Photocopier |
| ICLOS | Internet |
| Inchcape Shipping Services | Logistics (with KBR UK) |
| Iraqi Local Goods | Gift Shop |
| Jamalco | Forklift Truck hire |
| Jarir Bookstore | Stationery |
| Jassim Transport | Hire of Vehicles (RTCH) |
| KBR (UK) | Accommodation/Bulk Fuel Installation Management, Maintenance, Interpreters |
| KGL (Kuwaiti Gulf Link) | Bus Services |
| London Gifts | Gift Shop |

*Operation Telic*

| *Contractor* | *Function* |
|---|---|
| Mott MacDonald | Consulting Civil Engineering |
| No Lemons | Vehicle Repair (Toyota Land Cruisers) |
| Oman Air Engineering | Aircraft Washing |
| Paper Arts Products | Stationery |
| Paradigm | Communication Services |
| Redmack Industrial Services | Waste Disposal |
| Reyam | Design and Construction |
| Said Al-Shuali | Interpreter |
| Shah Nagardas Manji | Stationery |
| Specialist Coffee Shop | Coffee Shop |
| STS (Specialist Transport Services) | Bulk Fluids |
| Synergy | IT Services and Communication |
| Turners | Infrastructure Support |
| United Car Rental | White Fleet |

*Operation Herrick*

| | |
|---|---|
| Kellogg Brown and Root | Works and Maintenance |
| Paradigm | Troop welfare services |
| NAAFI/EFI | Troop leisure and retail services |
| SeaFast | Logistics |

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what stage the Status of Forces negotiations with the Iraqi government have reached; what discussions on the issue there have been with the United Nations, the United States and other nations with a presence in Iraq; what plans there are to present the ensuing agreements to *(a)* the Iraqi Parliament, *(b)* the UK Parliament and *(c)* the United Nations for approval; what consideration has been given to including the status of private security firms of UK origin or with UK personnel in the agreement; and if he will make a statement. [238795]

**Mr. Hutton:** The UK and the Government of Iraq are negotiating a legal framework to allow UK forces to continue to provide the assistance requested of us by Iraqi authorities, laying the foundations for a long-term normalised bilateral relationship. Our negotiations have made good progress and we expect to reach an agreement prior to the expiry of UN Security Council Resolution 1790 at the end of 2008. We continue to discuss our respective legal requirements with the US and other coalition partners.

We keep in close touch with the UN on Iraq. We have not, however, discussed the future legal framework for military activities in Iraq with the UN, given the agreement we are negotiating with the Government of Iraq would be bilateral in nature. Nor would such a bilateral arrangement require explicit UN approval.

Our intention is that Parliament will have the opportunity to consider any agreement in accordance with the standard parliamentary procedures. The approval procedure in Iraq is a matter for the Government of Iraq.

There are no plans to cover the status of commercial organisations, including private military and security companies, in the agreement.

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 18th November 2008, Official Report, column 420W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, whether the Iraqi authorities have taken any steps to remove any of the cameras in the last six months. [239172]

**Mr. Hutton:** As far as we are aware, no steps have been taken by the Iraqi authorities to remove surveillance devices deployed by UK forces in support of operations in Iraq.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Harrier squadrons have served as part of Operation Telic; and on what dates. [239716]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Elements of Numbers 1(F), 3(F) and IV(AC) Harrier Squadrons deployed in February 2003 in advance of operations in Iraq between March and May 2003.

### Joint Force Harrier

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces serving with Joint Force Harrier have broken harmony guidelines in each of the last three years, broken down by *(a)* air crew and *(b)* ground crew and (i) Royal Air Force and (ii) Royal Navy personnel. [239742]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Information on numbers of RAF and Royal Navy air and ground crew personnel who may have broken harmony guidelines in the last three years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, on average, Harrier squadrons spend four months out of every 12 deployed on Operation Herrick.

### Military Aircraft

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how long the Tornado GR4 has been deployed continuously on operations. [238819]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Tornado GR4 has been deployed continuously on operations since June 2001.

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 58W, on future large aircraft, what progress has been made in addressing the shortfall in fitting a fuel tank inerting system to the A400M development aircraft. [238840]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The first UK A400M development aircraft which is not currently fitted with pipework for a fuel tank inerting system will be used initially by Airbus for Flight Test purposes in support of the development programme. This will continue for a period of several years, after which it will be refurbished prior to delivery to the RAF. The specific content and extent of this refurbishment work will need to be reviewed and informed as development progresses. This will be the correct time to address the potential provision of fuel tank inerting on this development aircraft.

### Military Airlift Services

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the proposal put to him by Crown Aviation on the provision of military airlift services; and if he will make a statement. [238043]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** Crown Aviation's unsolicited proposal for the provision of military airlift services was received on 12 May this year. The Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Logistics Operations) wrote to Crown Aviation on 5 June explaining how the request would be dealt with and further information regarding airlift capability was sent to Crown Aviation in mid June to allow them to craft their bid in greater detail.

The proposals were considered in the same way as other unsolicited proposals that we have received from other companies and in line with departmental guidelines. Crown Aviation was informed in mid July 2008 that we did not intend to pursue their bid at present time.

Currently our needs are being met by our own organic airlift assets supported by commercial charter. Even so, our airlift requirements are under constant review and these reviews always include analysis of the requirement for the kind of commercial capability that Crown Aviation offer. However, the operating environments in our current theatres mean that it is highly unlikely that any commercial company would be capable of providing aircraft that offered sufficient protection against the attendant threat. The safety of our service personnel remains paramount.

## Piracy

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance Royal Navy personnel *(a)* have been and *(b)* will be given on (i) the impact of human rights legislation on the ability to transfer captured pirates to other countries, including their own, (ii) the prospect of such captives claiming rights and benefits in the United Kingdom and (iii) whether to take pirates into captivity on Royal Navy vessels. [239467]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

## Redundancy

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (Y) his Department (Z) each of his Department's agencies. [237357]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To provide this specific information would require a departmental-wide trawl to ascertain the number and cost of involuntary and voluntary staff exits in each year since 2005-06. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

We do hold information centrally on departmental-wide voluntary early release schemes which were launched in March 2005 and March 2008. The following table shows the number of staff who voluntarily left the Ministry of Defence under the departmental-wide voluntary 2005 early release scheme (early retirement or early severance) in each year between 2005-06 and 2007-08, grouped by their basic rate of pay at the time of departure:

| | *Up to £25,000* | *£25,001 to £50,000* | *£50,001 to £75,000* | *£75,001 to £100,000* | *Over £100,000* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 260 | 329 | 14 | — | — | 603 |
| 2006-07 | 266 | 346 | 24 | — | — | 636 |
| 2007-08 | 287 | 391 | 13 | — | — | 691 |
| Total | 813 | 1,066 | 51 | — | — | 1,930 |

These numbers vary slightly from those reported previously as different reports have been reconciled. The Ministry of Defence meets the cost of early departures, and this includes the cost of lump sum severance payments and the additional costs of benefits beyond the normal Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) benefits in respect of employees who retire early.

The following table shows expenditure on early departures in each year since 2005-06.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 41 |
| 2006-07 | 51 |
| 2007-08 | 67 |

The following table shows the number of staff who will voluntarily leave the Ministry of Defence under the Departmental-wide voluntary 2008 early release scheme (early retirement or early severance) in the years 2008-09 and 2009-10, grouped by their basic rate of pay at the time of departure. These figures are subject to change as final selections and acceptances are still to be confirmed:

| | *Up to £25,000* | *£25,001 to £50,000* | *£50,001 to £75,000* | *£75,001 to £100,000* | *Over £100,000* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 138 | 189 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 344 |
| 2009-10 | 218 | 265 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 498 |
| Total | 356 | 454 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 842 |

The following table shows the expected expenditure of early departures by year.

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 21 |
| 2009-10 | 40 |

The Civil Service Management Code outlines various categories of early departure under which civil servants can retire and be retired early. These categories provide for the circumstances of departure, and details of the compensation benefits associated with these departures are contained in the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. The categories are split between early retirement, which applies to staff aged 50 or over, and early severance, which applies to staff aged under 50.

Staff who leave on compulsory redundancy receive benefits under the compulsory early severance or compulsory early retirement categories, depending on their age. Benefits are also payable to those who leave voluntarily under these categories, and under the flexible early severance, flexible early retirement and approved early retirement categories.

Departments meet the full costs of early departure. This includes the cost of lump sum severance payments and the additional costs of benefits beyond the normal Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) benefits in respect of employees who retire early.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [239161]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To provide this specific information would require a departmental-wide trawl to ascertain the number and cost of involuntary and voluntary staff exits in each year since 2005-06. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

We do hold information centrally on departmental-wide voluntary early release schemes, launched in March 2005 and March 2008. The following table shows the number of staff who voluntarily left the Ministry of Defence under the departmental-wide voluntary 2005 early release scheme (early retirement or early severance) in each year since 2005-06, grouped by the cost of their severance package:

| | *Up to £25,000* | *£25,001 to £50,000* | *£50,001 to £75,000* | *£75,001 to £100,000* | *Over £100,000* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 142 | 165 | 68 | 60 | 168 | 603 |
| 2006-07 | 70 | 154 | 171 | 77 | 164 | 636 |
| 2007-08 | 40 | 108 | 122 | 118 | 303 | 691 |
| Total | 252 | 427 | 361 | 255 | 635 | 1,930 |

These numbers vary slightly from those reported previously as different reports have been reconciled. The Ministry of Defence meets the cost of early departures, and this includes the cost of lump sum severance payments and the additional costs of benefits beyond the normal Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) benefits in respect of employees who retire early.

The following table shows the number of staff who will voluntarily leave the Ministry of Defence under the departmental-wide voluntary 2008 early release scheme (early retirement or early severance) in the years 2008-09 and 2009-10, grouped by the cost of their severance package. These figures are subject to change as final selection and acceptances are still to be confirmed:

| | *Up to £25,000* | *£25,001 to £50,000* | *£50,001 to £75,000* | *£75,001 to £100,000* | *Over £100,000* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 103 | 92 | 45 | 37 | 67 | 344 |
| 2009-10 | 126 | 71 | 87 | 69 | 145 | 498 |
| Total | 229 | 163 | 132 | 106 | 212 | 842 |

The Civil Service Management Code outlines various categories of early departure under which civil servants can retire and be retired early. These categories provide for the circumstances of departure, and details of the compensation benefits associated with these departures are contained in the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. The categories are split between early retirement, which applies to staff aged 50 or over, and early severance which applies to staff aged under 50.

Staff who leave on compulsory redundancy receive benefits under the compulsory early severance or compulsory early retirement categories, depending on their age. Benefits are also payable to those who leave voluntarily under these categories, and under the flexible early severance, flexible early retirement and approved early retirement categories.

Departments meet the full costs of early departure. This includes the cost of lump sum severance payments and the additional costs of benefits beyond the normal Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) benefits in respect of employees who retire early.

### Royal Air Force: Military Bases

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on upgrading the infrastructure at *(a)* RAF Benson, *(b)* RAF Odiham and *(c)* RAF Lyneham in each of the last five years. [237377]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The amount that has been spent on upgrading the built estate assets including utilities, airfield pavements and underground services is as follows:

| Financial year | RAF Benson | RAF Lyneham | £ million RAF Odiham |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | n/a | n/a | 0.07 |
| 2005-06 | 1.5 | 4.6 | 0.3 |
| 2006-07 | 0.6 | 3.1 | 1.0 |
| 2007-08 | 3.0 | 1.8 | 0.8 |
| 2008-09 | [1]1.7 | [1]4.6 | [1]0.6 |

[1] Forecast.

Information on upgrading the built estate assets at RAF Benson and RAF Lyneham is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Submarines: Procurement**

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the evidence given by the Permanent Under-Secretary of State in his Department to the Public Accounts Committee on 19th November 2008 on the UK's Future Nuclear Deterrent Capability, what recent estimate he has made of the procurement cost of four submarines and their associated equipment and infrastructure; and if he will make a statement. [239959]

**Mr. Hutton:** As the December 2006 White Paper, The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent (Cm 6994), makes clear, our initial estimate is that the procurement costs will be in the range of £15 billion to £20 billion for a four-boat solution at 2006-07 prices. The programme is currently is the Concept phase and the costs will be refined as experts continue to engage in detailed discussion with industry.

**Submarines: Safety**

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to increase the number of nuclear watchkeepers to oversee the safety of the nuclear propulsion units in nuclear powered submarines. [238556]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The shortage of nuclear Watchkeepers does not affect nuclear safety. The impact of manpower shortages is considered, among other factors, by the relevant safety committees to ensure that standards are not degraded.

Measures taken to address the shortfall of nuclear Watchkeepers include: financial, with regard to submarine pay; the restructuring of the engineering branches; modifying career pipelines to deliver suitably trained personnel earlier in their careers; increased recruiting of submariners and encouraging transfers of experienced technicians from other engineering branches.

**Tornado GR4**

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of using the Tornado GR4 to carry (a) 540lb freefall airburst/impact bombs, (b) Maverick Missiles and (c) Paveway 4 (500lb class GPS/LGB). [239740]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** No estimate has been made of the cost of allowing the Tornado GR4 to carry the 540lb freefall airburst/impact bombs or the Maverick Missiles. There is no requirement to integrate these additional weapon systems into Tornado GR4 because the platform already has similar capabilities. An interim Paveway IV capability is planned to be integrated onto the Tornado GR4 as part of an Operation Herrick Urgent Operational Requirement at an estimated cost of up to £4milllion. Full integration will follow as part of the Tornado Capability Upgrade Strategy.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* aircrew and *(b)* ground crew members of the Royal Air Force serving with a Tornado GR4 front line squadron have broken harmony guidelines in the last three years. [239741]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Information on numbers of RAF air and ground crew personnel who may have broken harmony guidelines in the last three years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, on average, Tornado squadrons spend two months out of every 14 deployed on Operation Telic.

**Trident**

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the statement by the then Foreign Secretary on 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 309, on Trident, what reports his Department has made on the Trident programme in the last six months; and when he plans to make the next regular report to Parliament. [239956]

**Mr. Hutton:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend, the hon. Member for Grantham and Stamford (Mr. Davies) gave on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 671-2W to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Davies).

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the evidence given by the Permanent Under-Secretary of State in his Department to the Public Accounts Committee on 19th November 2008 on the UK's Future Nuclear Deterrent Capability, what the approved procedure is for the initial gateway report on the Trident replacement programme; and if he will make a statement. [239958]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** The Future Nuclear Deterrent capability programme is subject, like all major acquisition programmes, to the Ministry of Defence approvals and scrutiny process detailed in the Ministry's Acquisition Operating Framework. The Acquisition Operating Framework is available on the Ministry of Defence's internet site at

www.aof.mod.uk.

The next major approval point is the platform's Initial Gate when the MOD Investment Approvals Board will decide if it is ready to enter the assessment phase that leads to the Main Gate decision point.

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the evidence given by the Permanent Under-Secretary of State in his Department to the Public Accounts Committee on 19th November 2008 on the UK's Future Nuclear Deterrent Capability, what the reasons are for the delay on the (a) Trident replacement programmes and (b) Astute-class submarine programme at Barrow; what estimate he has made of

the additional costs arising from these delays; and if he will make a statement. [239960]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** There was a six week delay in the two-year concept phase for the Trident successor programme due to the speed of contract letting and the build up and mobilisation of capacity in the supplier base. The Department has since taken action to bring the programme back on schedule and is confident that the submarine concept phase can still be completed in time for initial gate in Autumn 2009. This has not led to any additional costs.

There have been a number of reasons for the delays to the Astute programme, but the underlying cause has been the near 10-year gap in production between the Vanguard and Astute classes, which led to valuable staff and skills being lost. As a result, BAE Systems has had to refresh these skills and recruit the staff numbers needed for a project of this size and complexity. The cost of the first three Astute boats was approved in 1997 at £2.5 billion; the current forecast is £3.8 billion.

### Trident Submarines

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the available skills base required for the Trident nuclear submarine replacement programme; and if he will make a statement. [238557]

**Mr. Quentin Davies:** MOD recognises that building the skills required, both in the Department and in industry, to successfully deliver the Trident nuclear submarine replacement programme in the future will be challenging.

Initial work is underway to identify the necessary future skills base, building on and learning from experience with the astute programme.

An initial audit of the projected skills requirements of the MOD's Future Submarines Directorate for the life of the programme has been undertaken and actions are underway to address its recommendations. These include a significantly increased graduate recruitment and post graduate training programme in the nuclear area, robust succession planning and a significantly increased programme of advanced modern apprenticeships.

We are working closely with Cogent, the Sector Skills Council that covers the nuclear industry, and with the industrial supply chain, including BAE Systems Submarines, Rolls-Royce and Babcock Maritime to address and promote an adequate skills base for the life of the programme. We also continue to work closely with the United States on this issue.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 419W, on Department written questions, what the cost of preparing that answer was. [239292]

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** The cost of preparing the answer was £85.25.

## TRANSPORT

### Buses: Safety

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment the Health and Safety Executive has made of the risk to the public from bendy buses. [238844]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Vehicle safety matters are usually dealt with by the Department for Transport and its Agencies. All Public Service Vehicles operating on our roads, including so called "bendy buses", are inspected prior to entering service to ensure they comply with the relevant safety regulations. The Department for Transport is currently reviewing the safety of all heavy vehicles including on buses and coaches.

### Cycling: Accidents

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving cyclist *(a)* injuries and *(b)* deaths have involved collisions with (i) cars, (ii) vans, (iii) heavy goods vehicles, (iv) motorbikes, (v) other cyclists and (vi) pedestrians in each of the last 10 years. [237929]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of reported personal injury road collisions involving a pedal cycle and another vehicle or an injured pedestrian in which at least one pedal cyclist was *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed are shown in the following tables.

In collisions involving more than two vehicles, information on the type of collision between the vehicles involved can not be reliably determined. In 2007, there were a total of 458 accidents involving more than two vehicles in which a pedal cyclist was injured, and six collisions involving more than two vehicles in which a pedal cyclist was killed.

*(a) Injuries*

*Two vehicle accidents in which at least one pedal cyclist was injured: other vehicle involved*

| | *Car* | *LGV* | *HGV* | *Motorcycle* | *Other pedal cycle* | *Single vehicle accidents in which a pedal cyclist was injured with at least one pedestrian casualty*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 18,634 | 1,031 | 483 | 310 | 91 | 67 |
| 1999 | 18,447 | 1,001 | 509 | 332 | 84 | 73 |
| 2000 | 16,753 | 857 | 467 | 307 | 56 | 55 |
| 2001 | 15,365 | 879 | 467 | 323 | 51 | 50 |
| 2002 | 13,905 | 766 | 352 | 314 | 50 | 37 |

*(a) Injuries*

| | *Two vehicle accidents in which at least one pedal cyclist was injured: other vehicle involved* | | | | | *Single vehicle accidents in which a pedal cyclist was injured with at least one pedestrian casualty[1]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Car* | *LGV* | *HGV* | *Motorcycle* | *Other pedal cycle* | |
| 2003 | 13,805 | 772 | 350 | 312 | 58 | 49 |
| 2004 | 13,476 | 704 | 339 | 290 | 51 | 57 |
| 2005 | 13,382 | 757 | 333 | 258 | 60 | 46 |
| 2006 | 12,975 | 833 | 371 | 277 | 54 | 60 |
| 2007 | 13,115 | 843 | 291 | 232 | 54 | 49 |

*(b) Deaths*

| | *Two vehicle accidents in which at least one pedal cyclist was killed: other vehicle involved* | | | | | *Single vehicle accidents in which a pedal cyclist was killed with at least one pedestrian casualty[1]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Car* | *LGV* | *HGV* | *Motorcycle* | *Other pedal cycle* | |
| 1998 | 84 | 6 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1999 | 90 | 9 | 38 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2000 | 47 | 7 | 29 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| 2001 | 50 | 8 | 30 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| 2002 | 65 | 7 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2003 | 61 | 2 | 25 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 61 | 8 | 22 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 2005 | 71 | 7 | 24 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| 2006 | 78 | 8 | 24 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 2007 | 62 | 12 | 32 | 1 | 2 | 0 |

[1] Details of uninjured pedestrians involved in accidents are not held.

### Dangerous Driving

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many incidents of dangerous driving were recorded on *(a)* motorways, *(b)* the M1 and *(c)* A roads in each year since 1990; [239834]

(2) how many fatal incidents involving dangerous driving were recorded on each motorway in each year since 1990. [239836]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Dangerous Driving: Motorways

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures are in place to reduce levels of dangerous driving on motorways. [239835]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The police enforce against the offence of dangerous driving, which carries a penalty of disqualification and up to a two-year custodial sentence (and causing death by dangerous driving, with up to a 14-year custodial sentence), on all roads.

The police also enforce against careless driving (with a maximum penalty of disqualification and a level 5 fine) and, since August, the offence of causing death by careless driving (with a maximum penalty of disqualification and up to a five-year custodial sentence) has also been available.

We are currently consulting on proposals to make careless driving a fixed penalty offence, which would allow the police to enforce against bad driving with a minimum of bureaucracy. The consultation, which includes examples of "careless" driving can be found online at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/compliance/.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; what the target rates set for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [238936]

**Mr. Hoon:** The information requested for absence *(a)* can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department for Transport was established following machinery of government changes in May 2002. Sickness absence is monitored by the central Department and its agencies on a monthly basis. All figures are shown in average working days lost (AWDL):

| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008* | *2010-11 Cabinet Office target* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DfTc | 5.9 | 5.2 | 5.0 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 3.7 |
| DSA | 12.7 | 15.0 | 13.1 | 13.7 | 15.0 | 14.3 | 10.0 |
| DVLA | 12.7 | 13.2 | 14.0 | 13.1 | 13.1 | 13.0 | 9.2 |

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 | 2010-11 Cabinet Office target |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GCDA | 11.0 | 9.6 | 6.4 | 12.2 | 8.8 | 8.6 | 6.7 |
| HA | 8.1 | 6.9 | 5.8 | 6.4 | 8.7 | 9.4 | 5.0 |
| MCA | 8.4 | 6.3 | 7.3 | 7.1 | 7.8 | 6.1 | 5.0 |
| VCA | 5.7 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 4.3 | 5.2 | 5.0 |
| VOSA | 9.0 | 9.1 | 8.9 | 9.1 | 11.4 | 10.7 | 7.4 |
| DFT | 10.2 | 10.7 | 10.4 | 10.2 | 11.0 | 10.8 | 7.5 |

The figures to 2006 have been previously published in "National Audit Office Report: The management of staff sickness absence in the Department for Transport and its agencies". The figures are based on an agreed departmental reporting methodology. Figures for 2007 onwards are in accordance with the Cabinet Office reporting methodology introduced for all Government Departments.

**Departmental Electronic Equipment**

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237441]

**Mr. Hoon:** The requested information is provided as follows.

£

| | 2005-06 | | | 2006-07 | | | 2007-08 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *(a) Flat screen TVs* | *(b) DVD players* | *(c) Stereo equipment* | *(a) Flat screen TVs* | *(b) DVD players* | *(c) Stereo equipment* | *(a) Flat screen TVs* | *(b) DVD players* | *(c) Stereo equipment* |
| DFT Central—London HQ | 1,845.95 | 0 | 0 | [1]5,845.52 | 358.96 | 0 | 6,557.22 | 0 | 1,028.57 |
| DFT Central—Air Accidents Investigation Branch | [2]... | [2]... | 0 | [2]... | [2]... | 0 | [2]... | [2]... | 0 |
| DFT Central—Rail Accident Investigation Branch | [3]4,294.15 | [3]524.50 | [3]37.60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [3]1,329.40 | 0 | 0 |
| Driving Standards Agency | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,000 | 2,637 | 4,000 | 0 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | [4]4,672 |
| Government Car and Despatch Agency | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Highways Agency | [5]... | [5]... | [5]... | [5]... | [5]... | [5]... | [5]... | [5]... | [5]... |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | [6]... | [6]... | [6]... | [6]... | [6]... | [6]... | [6]... | [6]... | [6]... |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | [7]... | [7]... | [7]... | [7]... | [7]... | [7]... | [7]... | [7]... | [7]... |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 0 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Includes installation costs

[2] Total expenditure incurred within the last three years is as follows: *(a)* £4,450, *(b)* £700, *(c)* £0. Detailed breakdown by year is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The equipment is used for aircraft accident investigation purposes such as analysing witness video and monitoring news coverage of air accidents.

[3] The equipment is used for rail accident investigation purposes such as analysing witness video and monitoring news coverage of rail accidents.

[4] Relates to calendar year 2008

[5] Total expenditure incurred within the last three years is as follows: *(a)* £30,000, *(b)* 250, *(c)* £0. Detailed breakdown by year is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Expenditure on flat screen televisions covers the entire estate, including Regional Control Centres.

[6] The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Senior Civil Servants

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff were employed in the Senior Civil Service within his Department on *(a)* 1st April 2007, *(b)* 1st April 2008 and *(c)* 20th November 2008, and what the total basic wage bill was for such staff, excluding bonuses in the last 12 months. [239719]

**Mr. Hoon:** The number of staff employed in the senior civil service (SCS) in the Department for Transport is set out in the following table. Figures are not readily available for the precise dates requested, but numbers for 31 January 2007 and 31 March 2008 are taken from the Department for Transport Annual Reports for 2007 and 2008 respectively. The total annual basic wage bill for the SCS, excluding bonuses, was £15,932,486 at 31 March 2008.

| | *Number of SCS staff* |
|---|---|
| 31 January 2007 | 197 |
| 31 March 2008 | 199 |
| 20 November 2008 | 192 |

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of bonuses paid to members of the Senior Civil Service in his Department was in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09 to date. [239720]

**Mr. Hoon:** The total cost of bonuses paid to members of the senior civil service in the Department for Transport in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* the current financial year to date is set out in the following table:

| | *Total cost of bonuses (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 1,042,560 |
| 2007-08 | 1,202,100 |
| 2008-09 | 1,164,831 |

## Departmental Information Officers

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many press officers were employed by his Department in each year since its inception; and what the total budget for press and communications in his Department was in each year. [238131]

**Mr. Hoon:** The Department for Transport and Executive agencies employ press officers, who liaise with media on behalf of Ministers. The average full-time equivalent (FTE) number of staff employed on press officer activities are set out in the following table.

*Staff FTE*

| *Department for Transport* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DFT Central | 12.7 | 13.0 | 13.0 | 13 | 14.6 | 13.0 |
| Driving Standards Agency | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | 7 | 7 | 7.5 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| Highways Agency | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6.8 | 11.1 | 12.2 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | [1] | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Government Car and Despatch Agency | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] VOSA were the Vehicle Inspectorate in this fiscal year.

The Department's major areas of press and communications spend were in support of our marketing activities on the THINK! road safety campaign, Act on $CO_2$ campaign, Concessionary Bus Fares campaign, aviation security and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's continuous registration campaign. Figures for the Department and Executive agencies since the 2002-03 fiscal year are outlined as follows.

*Marketing costs (£)*

| *Department for Transport* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DFT Central | 17,600,000 | 16,400,000 | 16,200,000 | 20,400,000 | 26,900,000 | 26,700,000 |
| Driving Standards Agency | n/a | 1,270,000 | 905,000 | 702,000 | 1,150,000 | 2,174,000 |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency | 9,461,000 | 13,710,000 | £10,946,000 | 9,250,000 | 9,750,000 | 10,400,000 |
| Highways Agency | 411,000 | 1,096,000 | 2,347,000 | 3,146,000 | 2,400,000 | 1,600,000 |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency | 44,000 | 28,000 | 45,000 | 25,000 | [1] | 57,000 |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | 1,141,000 | 1,322,000 | 1,102,000 | 1,262,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,075,000 |
| Vehicle Certification Agency | 30,000 | 43,000 | 40,000 | 37,000 | 22,900 | 60,500 |
| Government Car and Despatch Agency | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60,000 | 171,000 |

n/a = Not available
[1] Figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost
Note:
Figure from May 2002 because of accounting changes

## Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether there has been any pecuniary cost to his Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [239644]

**Mr. Hoon:** There have been a very small number of instances during the last three years where exercises have been cancelled and thereby costs have been incurred with no contract awarded. For the Department for Transport, this would normally amount to the effort expended on the procurement exercise before its cancellation. The precise number and costs involved are not recorded.

The Department has not reimbursed any supplier during the last three years for costs that they have incurred as a result of tendering for any contract advertised by the Department where the award process for that contract was subsequently cancelled.

### Driving Standards Agency: Training

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many managers in the Driving Standards Agency have attended horse whispering courses; and at what cost; [234065]

(2) what the content is of the horse whispering courses that managers in the Driving Standards Agency have attended; and what the training objectives are for those managers to attend such courses. [234066]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* Five managers from the Driving Standards Agency attended a two-day course on leadership, communication and management skills, organised by The Beyond Partnership. The total cost of the course was £7,000 plus VAT, including overnight accommodation.

### Driving Tests

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the number of learner drivers from Southend who travelled to *(a)* Chelmsford and *(b)* Gillingham to take their driving tests in 2008; [237734]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of driving tests per month which the Southend test centre was able to accommodate in 2008; [237735]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of driving tests per month which the new Basildon test centre is able to accommodate; [237736]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of driving tests per month which the Basildon test centre was able to accommodate before the establishment of the new test centre. [237737]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** During 2008, two people with a postcode that includes Southend (SS) took tests at Gillingham. There were no tests taken at Chelmsford by people with a postcode that includes Southend residents.

Southend Test Centre was able to accommodate, on average, almost 800 tests per month with eight examiners. The average number of test conducted each month so far in 2008 was 780.

Basildon Multi-purpose Test Centre (MPTC) has an average monthly capacity of 980 car practical tests. Forecast demand for car practical tests at Basildon MPTC is 9,494 per annum—an average of around 800 tests per month. Basildon did not previously have a test centre. The MPTC is a new centre which has absorbed the facility at Southend.

### Driving Tests: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the effect of the introduction of multi-purpose practical driving test centres on levels of *(a)* car and motorcycle mileage and *(b)* carbon dioxide emissions. [239472]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There has been no appraisal undertaken on either the increased mileage or carbon emissions resulting from the introduction of multi-purpose test centres.

### Driving Tests: Southend-on-Sea

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of driving tests booked at Basildon test centre which will be taken by learner drivers who had booked a driving test at the Southend centre. [237733]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** No estimate has been made. All tests booked at Southend Driving Test Centre up until 5 December will be conducted there.

The Driving Standards Agency stopped taking bookings for Southend Driving Test Centre on 22 August and the centre will close on 5 December. Bookings made for tests to be conducted from 15 December will have been made for Basildon Multi-purpose Test Centre.

### Heathrow Airport

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many days in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available runway alternation at Heathrow Airport has been *(a)* fully and *(b)* partially suspended (i) overall and (ii) during the morning peak. [239460]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]:* Figures are collected by BAA, and are expressed in terms of the percentage of flights that arrive outside of alternation, on a monthly basis.

Runway alternation during the hours of 6 am to 7 am takes place on a trial basis, and formed part of the adding capacity at Heathrow airport consultation. However the statistics do not take account of this, i.e. flights that arrive outside of alternation during 6 am to 7 am are included in the figures.

The statistics also include periods such as September and October 2006 where alternation was not possible because of runway and maintenance works.

| Month | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | 4.2 | 5.1 | 2.3 | 9.9 | 9 | 5.4 | 4.3 | 7.5 | 3.3 | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| February | 2.2 | 1.6 | 2.3 | 5.9 | 10.6 | 2.7 | 7 | 8.8 | 5.4 | 4 | 4 |
| March | 2.6 | 0.7 | 4.4 | 3 | 4.4 | 3 | 5 | 3.1 | 16 | 4.6 | 4.6 |
| April | 3.5 | 2.5 | 1.1 | 1.9 | 3.1 | 7.4 | 3.4 | 3 | 3.8 | 4.4 | 2.9 |
| May | 0.5 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 2.6 | 3.5 | 3.9 | 10.7 | 3.9 | 8.1 | 6.6 | 4.7 |

| Month | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| June | 3.6 | 0.7 | 1.3 | 2.4 | 3.5 | 5.2 | 3 | 3.6 | 4.3 | 10.1 | 4.9 |
| July | 0.9 | 4.2 | 3.3 | 5 | 6.2 | 4.3 | 2.3 | 4.3 | 7 | 6.4 | 7.6 |
| August | 0.8 | 0.7 | 4 | 4 | — | 3.3 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 8.3 |
| September | 0.7 | 2.7 | 4.9 | 5 | 3.8 | 9.5 | 4.4 | 8.2 | 40.2 | 3.3 | 4.3 |
| October | 4.9 | 2 | 4 | 6.4 | 5.8 | 6.5 | 10.6 | 6.3 | 50.4 | 3.1 | 5.9 |
| November | 4 | 1.4 | 4.2 | 2.2 | 8.9 | 9.7 | 7.2 | 6.4 | 74.3 | 6.2 | — |
| December | 2.7 | 1.5 | 5.5 | 2.1 | 3.2 | 6.9 | 4.4 | 4 | 11.9 | 11.2 | — |

## Redundancy

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (Y) his Department and (Z) each of his Department's agencies. [237344]

**Mr. Hoon:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer given today (UIN 239154). The additional information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [239154]

**Mr. Hoon:** The central Department and its agencies recorded the following exits in the last three financial years:

| | | Number of exits | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Size of severance package (£) | | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
| Up to 25,000 | Involuntary exit | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary exit | 60 | 206 | 43 |
| 25,001 to 50,000 | Involuntary exit | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary exit | 32 | 95 | 32 |
| 50,001 to 75,000 | Involuntary exit | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary exit | 30 | 11 | 12 |
| 75,001 to 100,000 | Involuntary exit | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary exit | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| Over 100,000 | Involuntary exit | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Voluntary exit | 19 | 8 | 7 |
| Total | | 149 | 326 | 100 |

The Department has run a small number of voluntary exits schemes. All applications were reviewed by a panel, taking into account the Department's efficiency targets, the future need for certain skills and grades and overall value for money. As agreed with the trades union, we made no compulsory redundancies and therefore have had no involuntary exits. Exits for reasons such as discipline or performance are not captured on this table.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency could only provide the information requested at disproportionate cost.

## Roads: Closures

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was to his Department of the objections to the stopping-up order at the highway between the Knapp and Castle Street, Dursley resulting in an enquiry having to be held. [239526]

**Paul Clark:** The Stopping Up Order between the Knapp and Castle street, Dursley did not result in a Public Inquiry being held.

The Order was made by the Secretary of State on 5 November 2008 following a sole objection which was not made by a local authority or statutory utility supplier. The Secretary of State was satisfied that because of the special circumstances of the case, the holding of a Public Inquiry was unnecessary (Town and Country Planning Act 1990 S252 (5) refers). The Secretary of State subsequently took a decision to make the Order following the consideration of the written representations of the objector and the applicant. A copy of the decision letter was copied to the relevant parties on 5 November 2008.

No records of costs incurred by the Department are held in connection with the processing of an application for a Stopping Up Order, including for those which attract objections and which are dealt with either through a written representations procedure or by the holding of a Public Local Inquiry.

## Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the cost when first submitted for Targeted Programme of Improvements approval was of each current Government-funded local authority and Highways Agency road scheme; what the latest cost estimates are for each; and what the percentage change is between the two; [237837]

(2) what the cost was when first submitted for Targeted Programme of Improvements approval of each completed Government-funded local authority and Highways Agency road scheme; and what the cost was at completion in each case. [237838]

**Paul Clark:** There were originally 113 schemes in the Highways Agency's targeted programme of improvements (TPI). The TPI only included Government funded Highways Agency schemes.

Of the original TPI schemes:

59 have now been completed and are operational;

16 are currently in the construction phase;

15 are currently in the development phase;

16 are currently in the options phase (including one original TPI scheme that has now been split into two contracts); and

eight have either been remitted, withdrawn or transferred to another promoter.

Updated cost figures for TPI schemes in the development and construction phases were published in July 2008.

Tables showing the updated cost details (where available for release) for each TPI scheme that has either been completed or is in the construction, development and options phases of the Highways Agency's Project Control Framework have been placed in the Library of the House.

Local authority schemes were not part of the TPI. Estimates for the local authority major schemes, costing over £5 million, were first published by the Department in June 2008. Any change in estimated cost has been made with reference to the cost estimate at programme entry (which is not the same as TPI entry).

Tables showing the updated cost details for each local authority major scheme have also been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 271W, on the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, if he will list the legislation for the purposes of which *(a)* the Department and *(b)* a departmental agency may be the employer in accordance with its delegated powers. [239718]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Crown is the employer of all those who work in Government Departments and agencies. However, pursuant to their delegated powers, individual Departments and agencies set the terms and conditions of employment for their staff.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Archives: Offences

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Solicitor-General what steps have been taken following the police investigations conducted in 2006 on the insertion of faked documents into files at the National Archives; and if she will make a statement. [238405]

**The Solicitor-General:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 573W.

### Business: Fraud

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Solicitor General what assessment she has made of the implications of the OECD's recent report on corporate corruption for the work of the Serious Fraud Office on such cases. [231598]

**The Solicitor-General:** The report highlights some historic areas of concern to the Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions. The recently appointed Director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) attended the OECD's last meeting to give a report and answer questions.

As part of its overall transformation programme, the SFO is significantly increasing the resources it is deploying on counter-corruption work and has created a unit solely responsible for this area of work. This will be headed by a senior officer with considerable experience of counter-corruption work. He will work in partnership with key stakeholders and partners to ensure that the SFO builds on recent successful outcomes, including its first conviction for corruption offences, which was achieved in September this year.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Solicitor-General what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) the Attorney-General's Office and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997-98; what the target rates set for the Office are in each case; and if she will make a statement. [239145]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Cabinet Office maintains central records on sick absence which are published annually on the civil service website. The figures following, taken from the Cabinet Guidance, show sick leave absences from 2003, there are no previous years published on the website. In 2003, the Attorney-General's Office (or Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers, as it was then known) reported separately which is why the total number of staff is 29. In subsequent years, Attorney-General's Office figures are combined with the Treasury Solicitors Department and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

| | *Number of staff - year* | *Average working days absence per staff - year* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 29 | 13 |
| 2004 | 722 | 5.1 |
| 2005 | 739 | 7.2 |
| 2006-07 | 742 | 8 |

The NFSA was established as an Executive Agency of the Attorney-General's Office on 1 October 2008, and so annual statistics on absence and sickness are not yet available.

### Departmental Civil Servants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many civil servants have been employed by each of the Attorney-General's Office's agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997-98; and if she will make a statement. [239142]

**The Solicitor-General:** With a couple of exceptions, executive NDPBs are non-Crown bodies and employees are not civil servants, although civil servants can be seconded or loaned to NDPBs. Information on the number of employees in executive NDPBs is published in the annual Cabinet Office "Public Bodies" publication. Copies are available from the Libraries of the House.

Advisory NDPBs do not usually employ staff. They are typically supported by civil servants from the sponsoring Department.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Solicitor-General how much *(a)* the Attorney-General's Office and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in each year since 1997-98; and if she will make a statement. [239143]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Attorney-General's Office has incurred the following costs on external consultancy:

| | *Costs (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98[1] | |
| 1998-99 | 70 |
| 1999-2000 | 17 |
| 2000-01 | 13 |
| 2001-02 | 18 |
| 2002-03 | 36 |
| 2003-04 | 3 |
| 2004-05 | 20 |
| 2005-06 | 14 |
| 2006-07 | 143 |
| 2007-08 | 586 |
| Grand total | 920 |

[1] Accounting records are held back to 1998-99; the costs of providing this information prior to this would be disproportionate.

No expenditure has been incurred by the NFSA on external consultancy since its establishment as an Executive Agency of the Attorney-General's Office on 1 October 2008.

### Departmental Early Retirement

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many employees in the Attorney-General's Office took early retirement in each of the last five financial years; and at what total cost. [238967]

**The Solicitor-General:** None

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Solicitor- General (1) how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by the Attorney-General's Office in each year since 1997-98; and at what cost in each year; [238953]

(2) how many press officers were employed in the Attorney-General's Office in each year since 1997-98; what the total cost was in each year; and if she will make a statement. [239119]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Attorney General's Office does not employ special advisers; the following table shows the figures for the press officers employed.

| | *Number of press officers* | *Costs in (£s)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 1 | 34,306 |
| 2001-02 | 1 | 39,160 |
| 2002-03 | 1 | 45,340 |
| 2003-04 | 1 | 45,715 |
| 2004-05 | 2 | 33,877 |
| 2005-06 | 1 | 42,458 |
| 2006-07 | 3 | 62,936 |
| 2007-08 | 3 | 99,723 |

*Note:*
Records prior to 2000 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Solicitor General how much *(a)* the Attorney-General's Office and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in each year since 1997-98; and if she will make a statement. [239144]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Attorney General's Office has not incurred any publicity costs. Costs for advertising are shown in the following table:

*Advertising Costs AGO*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1997-98[1] | |
| 1998-99 | 1 |
| 1999-2000 | 2 |
| 2000-01 | 5 |
| 2001-02 | 1 |
| 2002-03 | — |
| 2003-04 | — |
| 2004-05 | — |
| 2005-06 | — |
| 2006-07 | — |
| Total | 9 |

[1] Accounting records are held back to 1998-99; the costs of providing this information prior to this would be disproportionate.

No expenditure has been incurred by the NFSA on publicity and advertising since its establishment as an Executive Agency of the Attorney General's Office on 1 October 2008.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Solicitor-General what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by her Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236932]

**The Solicitor-General:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 58W.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Solicitor General how many press releases have been issued by the Attorney-General's Office in each year since 1997-98; and if she will make a statement. [238988]

**The Solicitor-General:** The following table shows the number of press releases since 2003, records were not held prior to 2003.

*Press releases*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 13 |
| 2004 | 44 |
| 2005 | 28 |
| 2006 | 13 |
| 2007 | 42 |
| 2008 | 43 |

### Fraud

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Solicitor-General what criteria are used to determine whether a fraud case is prosecuted by the *(a)* Serious Fraud Office and *(b)* Fraud Prosecution Service. [229421]

**The Solicitor-General** [holding answer 23 October 2008]: Serious Fraud Office and Fraud Prosecution Service decisions on whether or not to prosecute an offence, of any kind, are taken in accordance with the principles set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors, issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions under Section 10 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

Cases must meet one or more of the following criteria: the allegations involve a loss, or risk of loss more than £750,000 for the Fraud Prosecution Service or in excess of £1 million for the Serious Fraud Office; there is a national publicity and/or widespread public concern; highly specialised knowledge is required; a significant element of the case involves inquiries in a foreign jurisdiction.

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Solicitor-General what the respective responsibilities are of the *(a)* Serious Fraud Office and *(b)* Fraud Prosecution Service; and what arrangements are in place to ensure effective liaison between the two organisations. [230930]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) both investigates and prosecutes the most serious or complex cases involving fraud or corruption. This dual function makes the SFO unique among the UK's counter-fraud and counter-corruption agencies.

The Fraud Prosecution Service is responsible for prosecuting fraud cases which fall within its acceptance criteria.

The Serious Fraud Office and the Fraud Prosecution Service have regular liaison at senior management level, and generic and specific issues arising from the investigation and prosecution of fraud cases are formally raised at the Joint Vetting Committee to ensure the effective and appropriate disposal of fraud allegations.

### Performance Appraisal

**David Simpson:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many staff in her Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235212]

**The Solicitor-General:** In the last reporting period the Crown Prosecution Service issued six Performance Improvement Notices. For the other Law Officers Departments (Attorney General's Office, Treasury Solicitor's Department, HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate, Serious Fraud Office and Revenue Customs and Prosecutions Office) there have been less than five members of staff that did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade.

### Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Solicitor-General how much the Attorney-General's Office has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much she estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [239047]

**The Solicitor-General:** The Attorney-General's Office has not spent any money on *(a)* focus groups or *(b)* opinion polls since 1997.

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which the Law Offices' Departments are responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236905]

**The Solicitor-General:** There have been less than five racial abuse complaints relating to staff in the Law Officer's Departments in the last 12 months, therefore this information cannot be provided on grounds of confidentiality.

### Serious Fraud Office

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Solicitor-General whether any Serious Fraud Office (SFO) investigations, apart from that into BAe, have been discontinued by the Head of the SFO following receipt of advice from the Attorney-General in the last five years. [231599]

**The Solicitor-General:** Under section 1(2) of the Criminal Justice Act 1987 the Director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) discharges his functions under the superintendence of the Attorney-General, who in turn is accountable to Parliament. As part of that relationship the Director may consult the Attorney-General, including about sensitive or difficult cases. The Attorney General has never sought to direct the Director to take any particular decision.

In all cases, the decision whether or not to proceed with an investigation or prosecution (including the decision to discontinue the investigation into the affairs of BAE Systems plc in so far as they related to the Al-Yamamah defence contract) has been taken by the director of the SFO, and not by the Attorney-General.

### Serious Fraud Office: Fraud Prosecution Service

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Solicitor-General what support and services the Director of the Serious Fraud Office, Richard Alderman, has provided to the Fraud Prosecution Service (FPS) in his role as an external consultant since the FPS was established; and if she will make a statement. [230931]

**The Solicitor-General:** Richard Alderman has never acted as a consultant to the Fraud Prosecution Service (FPS). He was however very happy to contribute to Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate's review of the FPS and was accordingly interviewed by a member of the review team.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Members: Allowances

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 461W, on Members: allowances (1) in which circumstances hon. Members may *(a)* carry forward an unspent balance and *(b)* ask for an advance in respect of the communication allowance; [239569]

(2) whether the *(a)* carry forward and *(b)* advance provisions apply to expenditure transferred in to the communications allowance from (i) incidental expenses provision and (ii) the staffing allowance. [239570]

**Chris Bryant:** The Green Book rules allow hon. Members some flexibility to transfer funds between years in respect of the communications allowance, the incidental expenses provision and the staffing allowance.

In all cases, Members must seek the agreement of the Department of Resources based on a specific need or circumstance.

Nine requests to carry forward funds from the communications allowance from 2007-08 to 2008-09 were agreed by the Department of Resources. Eight of these were related to difficulties with contractor delivery or invoicing as the financial year came to an end. One case concerned a Member who was unavoidably absent and was unable to complete a project within the year. No Member has requested an advance of funds from a prospective financial year.

The Department of Resources would consider on its merits a request to transfer of funds from the communications allowance to a new financial year if the Member had previously transferred another allowance into the communications allowance.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 461W, on Members: allowances, whether hon. Members are able to spend the communications allowance during the period once a general election has been announced but Parliament has not yet been dissolved. [239714]

**Chris Bryant:** Members can only incur costs against the Communications Allowance for the period prior to the Dissolution of the House. The rules for the use of allowances around the time of a general election are set out in the booklet "General Election Arrangements: Rules for Members". This states that

"Claims from the Communications Allowance which relate to the period after the date the House is dissolved will not be met. Entitlement to the allowances recommences on the day after polling day for returned Members. The use of such resources is prohibited during the dissolution."

### Trade Union and Labour Party Liaison Organisation

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bassetlaw, 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 846-47W, on the parliamentary resources unit, how much has been paid to the Trades Union Party Liaison Organisation through the Department of Resources and its predecessors in each year since 2003-04. [239715]

**Chris Bryant:** The Department of Resources has no record of any payment to the Trades Union Party Liaison Organisation for the period in question.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Early Retirement

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many employees in his Department took early retirement in each of the last five financial years; and at what total cost. [238968]

**Ann McKechin:** All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice who remain their employer and have the responsibility for the operation of any early retirement schemes. The Office has incurred no costs.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and at what cost in each year. [239086]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office was established in its present form on 1 July 1999. Since that date the number and cost of special advisers and press officers is as follows:

| | *Special advisers* | *Press officers* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Number* | *Cost* |
| 1999-2000 | 2 | 4 | 44,078 |
| 2000-01 | 2 | 4 | 139,705 |
| 2001-02 | 2 | 4 | 134,702 |
| 2002-03 | 2 | 4 | 135,919 |
| 2003-04 | 1 | 3 | 114,643 |
| 2004-05 | 1 | 3 | 105,266 |
| 2005-06 | 1 | 2 | 98,114 |
| 2006-07 | 1 | 2 | 70,283 |
| 2007-08 | 2 | 2 | 113,236 |

[1] Relates to number in post as at 31 March in any given year.

Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the number of special advisers in each pay band. For the recent information, I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 99-101WS. Information on the costs of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and this information will be available in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many press releases have been issued by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238989]

**Ann McKechin:** The Scotland Office came into existence on 1 July 1999. We do not hold information on the number of press releases issued by the former Scottish Office between 1997-98. The figures for the calendar years 1999 to 2007 are provided in the following table.

| | *Press releases* |
|---|---|
| 1999 | [1]99 |
| 2000 | 311 |
| 2001 | 262 |
| 2002 | 177 |
| 2003 | 73 |
| 2004 | 47 |
| 2005 | 37 |
| 2006 | 37 |
| 2007 | 111 |
| 2008 | [2]110 |

[1] Partial year. [2] 2008 year to date (1 January to 25 November)

The Scotland Office Press Office has a wide-ranging role within the Department which goes beyond the issuing of press releases. These figures do not include information issued orally in response to media inquiries, articles, operational and diary notes, nor do they include the Office's collaborative work with other Government Departments regarding press and media activity in Scotland.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many holdings claimed payments under the single payment scheme in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by holdings of *(a)* less than one hectare, *(b)* between one and five hectares, *(c)* between five and 20 hectares, *(d)* between 20 and 50 hectares, *(e)* between 50 and 100 hectares and *(f)* more than 100 hectares. [230703]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Rural Payments Agency is the accredited Paying Agency for the Common Agricultural Policy within England and as such does not hold information for Single Payment Scheme (SPS) claimants in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The following table shows the number of claims paid by holding size for English SPS claimants in 2007.

| *Size group* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| ≤ 0.99ha | 1,488 |
| 1ha ≤ 4.99ha | 14,234 |
| 5ha ≤ 19.99ha | 24,029 |
| 20ha ≤ 49.99ha | 21,271 |
| 50ha ≤ 99.99ha | 18,253 |
| ≥100ha | 24,666 |
| Total | 103,941 |

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what administrative costs were incurred in respect of processing claims made under the single farm payments scheme in each of the last five years; [236612]

(2) what the *(a)* administrative and *(b)* legal costs incurred by his Department in relation to outstanding claims made under the Single Farm Payment Scheme were in each of the last five years; [238732]

(3) how much his Department has spent on administering non-compliance penalties made under the Single Farm Payment Scheme since the scheme came into operation. [238733]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2008]:* The costs of administering the single payment scheme are as follows:-

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 88.3 |
| 2006-07 | 104.4 |
| 2007-08 | 105.7 |

These costs exclude the investment in new systems and improvement projects.

It is not possible to identify expenditure associated with non-compliance penalties or in relation to outstanding claims.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent of decoupling under the Common Agricultural Policy in each EU member state for benchmarking purposes. [238096]

**Jane Kennedy:** The extent of decoupling in each member state is set out in the European Commission's own table, which can be found on the European Commission's website

www.ec.europa.eu

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which commoners' associations that were previously responsible for the operation of the Single Farm Payment are now no longer carrying out that function. [238143]

**Jane Kennedy:** The data requested are not held centrally and therefore to answer the question would incur disproportionate cost to the Department.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people on Minchinhampton Common, Gloucestershire are entitled to receive single farm payments; and how many such people received single farm payments in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [238144]

**Jane Kennedy:** There are a total of four customers who have claimed on registered rights on Minchinhampton Common and are entitled and eligible to receive payment under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) for the 2008 scheme year.

Since the introduction of the SPS in 2005, the volume of customers who have received payment under the SPS, who have also declared registered rights on Minchinhampton Common are as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 4 |
| 2006 | 4 |
| 2007 | 3 |

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Minchinhampton Commoners Association on the operation of the single farm payment scheme on the common. [238145]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Minchinhampton Commoners Association's case has been analysed in great detail. Unfortunately the Minchinhampton Commoners Association fails to meet the specific criteria which allows Commoners Associations to claim the single payment scheme payment.

Until such time as the Minchinhampton Commoners Association provides evidence that it meets the criteria we are unable to take any further action.

I am, however, content to meet the MCA to discuss their concerns.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate his Department has made of the potential taxpayer liability for fines disallowance or other penalties as a result of late payment of the Single Farm Payment Scheme and other precursor common agricultural schemes since 1997; [239297]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1181-4W, on the Rural Development Programme, if he will provide the figures requested, excluding projects where ERDP legacy payments were made after 1st January 2007; [239359]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1183-6W, on the Rural Development Programme, if he will provide the figures requested where ERDP legacy payments were made after 1 January 2007; [239360]

(4) on what date the EU target of 96.14 per cent. of payments by value under the Single Payment Scheme in England was met in each of the scheme years to date; and when he expects the target to be met for the 2008 scheme year; [239432]

(5) how much and to how many claimants he expects to have been paid under the 2008 Single Payment Scheme by 25 December 2008; [239433]

(6) what fines, disallowance or other penalties the Government has received to date as a result of late payment of the Single Payment Scheme and other precursor common agricultural schemes since 1997. [239434]

**Jane Kennedy:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**David Mundell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much the Government has paid in fines to the European Union as a result of late payments made under the Single Farm Payment scheme, and how much it has allocated to meet the costs of such penalties arising in the next 12 months; [239974]

(2) in which years his Department *(a)* has and *(b)* has not met the EU target for making single farm payments on time since the scheme was established; and how many single farm payments have been made late to date. [239987]

**Jane Kennedy:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Agriculture: Temporary Employment

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many foreign workers were registered under the HOPS scheme in 2008, broken down by nationality. [224829]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

The HOPS student exchange programme (HOPS) is not administered by the UK Border Agency.

### Air Pollution: EU Law

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has applied for a derogation from compliance with the EU Air Quality Directive. [238661]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Air Pollution: Heathrow Airport

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which areas around Heathrow breach the emission limits contained in the EU Air Quality Directive which are due to come into force in 2010. [238637]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Council Directive 2008/50/EC on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe consolidates existing EU legislation and must be transposed into national legislation by 10 June 2010.

Over the past 10 years the quality of our air has improved and, apart from some hotspots alongside busy roads in major cities, we are meeting our current objectives for all pollutants in 99 per cent. of the UK. Nitrogen dioxide remains the main pollutant of concern around Heathrow. Under existing and new EU legislation, the limit value for nitrogen dioxide comes into force in 2010.

Monitoring data show that in the Heathrow area there were exceedences of the annual limit value (40 microgrammes per metre cubed) in 2005, 2006 and 2007. The following table gives annual average measurements for the two national network sites in the Heathrow area:

*Annual mean nitrogen dioxide concentration (micrograms per metre cubed)*

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|
| London Hillingdon | 45 | 49 | 45 |
| London Harlington | 38 | 37 | 37 |

The Harlington site is closer to the airport, but does not show exceedences of the limit value. The Hillingdon site is around 30 metres from the M4 motorway. The precise location of all of the monitoring sites in the national network can be found at;

www.bv-aurnsiteinfo.co.uk/.

UK ambient air quality monitoring data can be accessed at:

www.airquality.co.uk.

The new directive provides in Article 22 for postponement of attainment deadlines for meeting the limit values for nitrogen dioxide for five years (until 2015). This reflects the challenges faced across EU member states in meeting the current deadlines. Current projections show that we are unlikely to meet the 2010 deadline in some parts of the UK. The UK is, therefore, likely to submit an application to secure additional time to meet the limit value.

Securing such postponement of attainment deadlines is subject to submission of detailed plans that will need to satisfy the Commission that the limit values can be achieved by the extended deadlines. We are determined to tackle remaining hotspots of pollution, and to meet our EU obligations.

### Animals: Infectious Diseases

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the future plans are for the Dog and Cat Travel and Risk Information surveillance systems. [236356]

**Jane Kennedy:** The voluntary DACTARI (dog and cat travel and risk information) system for reporting exotic diseases diagnosed in companion animals provides a formal surveillance system for monitoring the number of cases of Leishmaniasis, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis and Dirofilariasis. Data on the incidence of these diseases are collected and my Department, in conjunction with the Animal Health Agency, is looking at how to best record and update this information on the DEFRA website.

### Badgers

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions there have been for illegal actions relating to badgers in each of the last five years; how many of these were successful; and what advice he now offers police forces on this issue. [239533]

**Jane Kennedy:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Beaches: Standards

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on water quality at English beaches and the Blue Flag scheme. [239809]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Bee Health Advisory Panel

**Bill Etherington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Bee Health Advisory Panel last met; what matters were discussed; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meeting. [237580]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Bee Health Advisory Panel (BHAP) last met on 30 October 2007 to identify high level priorities and objectives for the Bee Health Strategy. The minutes of all BHAP meetings are published on the National Bee Unit's Beebase website at:

www.Beebase.csl.gov.uk

The future liaison arrangements between all stakeholders, including the BHAP, are addressed in the Bee Health Strategy, which will be published early in 2009 subject to completion of the NAO's study on the bee health programme.

### Beekeeping

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding has been provided by his Department to support voluntary bee keeping groups in each region in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [238205]

**Jane Kennedy:** No direct funding is made available specifically for beekeeping groups, but as part of the bee health programme undertaken by the National Bee Unit DEFRA provides a free advisory and inspection service, including training and education, for all beekeepers. The overall cost of the programme is £1.3 million per annum in England.

### Bees

**Bill Etherington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last made an assessment of the effectiveness of the operation of the Bee Diseases Control Order 1982. [237581]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Bee Diseases Control Order 1982 was replaced by the Bee Diseases and Pests Control (England) Order 2006. The operation of the order was reviewed at DEFRA's annual meeting with beekeeping associations which took place on 5 December 2006.

Since then, in conjunction with stakeholders, DEFRA has produced a draft bee health strategy which identifies a series of priorities for taking forward work under the bee health programme, and for implementing the controls under the current legislation.

**Bill Etherington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent guidance his Department has provided to *(a)* hobbyist and *(b)* commercial bee keepers on (i) management of healthy hives and (ii) detection and reporting of bee diseases. [237582]

**Jane Kennedy:** The National Bee Unit (NBU) provides a free comprehensive training and education programme for all beekeepers to enable them to develop their skills and become more self-reliant in combating disease problems through improved bee husbandry. In 2008, beekeepers in England benefited from nearly 23,000 colony inspections and an extensive programme of training, including over 800 technical events to date, delivered by the NBU to help improve disease control through good apiary management.

**Bill Etherington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* hobbyist and *(b)* commercial bee keepers there are in each local authority area in England; and how many hives each type of bee-keeper has. [237583]

**Jane Kennedy:** Details of beekeepers and their colonies are not recorded by local authority area. Details of those registered on the National Bee Unit's Beebase database are shown by county in the following table. As registration is voluntary, actual numbers are likely to be significantly higher. An Economic Evaluation of bee health carried out by ADAS Consulting Ltd in 2001, estimated that there were about 33,000 beekeepers and 230,000 colonies of bees in England of which less than 1 per cent. keep bees on a commercial basis.

| *County* | *Number of beekeepers* | *Number of colonies* |
|---|---|---|
| County Durham | 144 | 594 |
| Cumbria | 379 | 1,384 |
| Greater Manchester | 225 | 846 |
| Lancashire | 300 | 1,046 |
| Merseyside | 145 | 594 |
| Northumberland | 218 | 1,055 |
| Tyne and Wear | 86 | 339 |
| Avon | 340 | 1,039 |
| Cheshire | 246 | 1,330 |
| Gloucestershire | 396 | 2,664 |
| Hereford and Worcestershire | 526 | 2,401 |
| Shropshire | 540 | 2,345 |
| Staffordshire | 267 | 1,237 |
| Warwickshire | 188 | 1,654 |
| West Midlands | 258 | 2,352 |
| Derbyshire | 232 | 718 |
| East Yorkshire | 183 | 1,336 |
| North Yorkshire | 609 | 2,323 |
| Nottinghamshire | 175 | 490 |
| South Yorkshire | 138 | 635 |
| West Yorkshire | 294 | 1,087 |
| Bedfordshire | 230 | 1,259 |
| Cambridgeshire | 460 | 1,762 |
| Essex | 524 | 2,948 |
| Hertfordshire | 359 | 1,872 |
| Leicestershire | 258 | 1,421 |
| Lincolnshire | 404 | 2,149 |
| Norfolk | 537 | 3,611 |
| Rutland | 28 | 111 |
| Suffolk | 470 | 2,404 |
| Cornwall | 516 | 2,996 |
| Devon | 967 | 5,150 |
| Scilly Isles | 10 | [1]— |
| Somerset | 765 | 3,576 |
| Berkshire | 225 | 1,099 |
| Buckinghamshire | 214 | 1,371 |
| Dorset | 453 | 2,771 |
| Hampshire | 648 | 3,435 |
| Isle of Wight | 64 | 392 |
| Northamptonshire | 185 | 1,304 |
| Oxfordshire | 292 | 1,752 |
| Wiltshire | 307 | 1,383 |
| East Sussex | 275 | 1,058 |
| Greater London | 532 | 1,628 |
| Kent | 578 | 3,307 |
| Surrey | 465 | 1,581 |
| West Sussex | 317 | 1,728 |
| Total | 15,972 | 79,537 |

[1] Not known.

**Bill Etherington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps will be taken to maintain levels of UK production of honey from 2009. [237584]

**Jane Kennedy:** DEFRA has consulted on a bee health strategy which is intended to develop beekeepers' skills in maintaining honey bee colonies through increased awareness of disease problems and improved application of husbandry techniques.

The strategy recognises the importance of sharing responsibility between beekeepers and bee inspectors in monitoring bees for diseases and taking early action to tackle problems. Subject to completion of the National Audit Office's study into the Animal Health programme, the bee health strategy will be published early in 2009.

However, honey production is also dependent on good weather in the months in which bees are active.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations his Department has received on the sustainability of the bee population; and if he will make a statement. [238201]

**Jane Kennedy:** Defra has received numerous parliamentary questions, letters from MPs, their constituents, beekeepers and their organisations, as well as a petition from the British Beekeepers' Association. I and the Secretary of State and Defra Ministers have recently met representatives of beekeeping organisations. To help beekeepers maintain a sustainable population of honeybees, in consultation with their representatives Defra has developed a strategy for bee health, which addresses the development of beekeeping skills and allocates responsibilities for action. The strategy should be published early in 2009.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding has been provided by his Department for research into the impact of genetically-modified crops on bee colonies in each region in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [238203]

**Jane Kennedy:** The only research that Defra has funded in relation to genetically modified (GM) crops and bees was as part of the Farm Scale Evaluation

(FSE) trials of GM herbicide-tolerant crops that took place between 1999 and 2003. These assessed the indirect effect on farmland wildlife of the novel herbicide use associated with cultivation of the GM crops, relative to their conventional counterparts, including the impact on bee abundance. A full explanation of this research and its findings is available on the Defra website. It is not possible to isolate specific expenditure figures for the bee monitoring work under the FSE programme.

A number of research studies have been done on the potential direct impact on bees of GM insect-resistant crops. As these crops are designed to be toxic to certain insect pests, there has been a specific reason to consider whether they might also have an effect on other, 'non-target' insect species. However, the research has not identified any cause for concern. These studies were not funded by Defra.

Under European Union legislation, GM crops will only be approved for release if a robust assessment indicates that there should not be any adverse effect on human health and the environment.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to support the sustainability of bee colonies in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [238209]

**Jane Kennedy:** The National Bee Unit (NBU), delivers the bee health programme in England on behalf of DEFRA. The aim of the programme is to control the spread of endemic notifiable diseases of honey bees and to identify and manage the risk associated with new exotic pests and diseases that may be introduced.

The NBU operates a statutory inspection programme for notifiable diseases and pests, and provides a comprehensive training and education programme for beekeepers to enable them to become more self-reliant in combating disease problems through improved bee husbandry.

Details of the inspection and education programme since 1997 are as follows:

| | *Number of inspections* | *Number of training events* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | [1]21,173 | n/a |
| 1998 | [1]22,628 | n/a |
| 1999 | 21,916 | 748 |
| 2000 | 23,297 | 704 |
| 2001 | 19,051 | 340 |
| 2002 | 20,912 | 730 |
| 2003 | 20,882 | 600 |
| 2004 | 21,234 | 736 |
| 2005 | 19,338 | 583 |
| 2006 | 20,220 | 670 |
| 2007 | 22,275 | 649 |
| 2008 | 22,813 | 803 |

[1] Includes Wales

DEFRA recognises the contribution that honey bees make to sustainable agriculture via their role in pollination and take seriously any threat to the sustainability of the beekeeping sector. The development of the Government's bee health strategy confirms our ongoing commitment to protecting and improving the health of honey bees and to sustaining and supporting beekeeping now and for future generations.

**Bees: Disease Control**

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to find an alternative to apivar; and if he will make a statement. [238200]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) permits the importation of authorised medicinal products from other member states and is seeking information from them about the products they have authorised for the control of varroosis. The VMD has identified two such products in other member states that are eligible for mutual recognition and has asked the marketing authorisation holders of these products to apply for mutual recognition. If these applications are successful it will mean that these products can be marketed directly in the UK.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken to find alternative treatments for *(a)* pyrethroid resistance, *(b)* colony collapse disorder and *(c)* varroa in bees in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [238206]

**Jane Kennedy:** When inspectors find pyrethroid resistance in samples of varroa, they advise beekeepers on alternative methods of control, including alternative chemical treatments and husbandry techniques. Information is also provided in published literature available to beekeepers and on the National Bee Unit's website, Beebase. Although the cause of colony collapse disorder in the USA is unknown, we do not have evidence to suggest that the losses experienced in the UK have a similar cause.

Varroa is almost ubiquitous. Inspectors provide advice during visits, through training courses and through published literature on alternatives to chemical controls for varroa. DEFRA has funded research into a possible biocontrol for varroa; discussions are now taking place on how to take this work forward.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department has provided for research into *(a)* pyrethroid resistance, *(b)* colony collapse disorder and *(c)* varroa in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [238207]

**Jane Kennedy:** DEFRA has provided funding for research into pyrethroid resistance as part of projects assessing the impact of varroa and also under the bee health programme. It is not possible to separate out this funding from the overall total. The causes of the syndrome dubbed colony collapse disorder in the USA are currently unclear and we have no current evidence to suggest that it is occurring in the UK. DEFRA provided an additional £27,000 to the National Bee Unit for work related to abnormal colony losses in 2007-08 and with the Welsh Assembly Government provided £120,000 in the current year to continue this work. With respect to research into varroa, DEFRA and its predecessor have provided a total of £1,388,597 since 1997.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of levels of *(a)* pyrethroid resistance, *(b)* colony collapse disorder and *(c)* varroa in bees in each region in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [238208]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information on levels of pyrethroid resistance is available on the National Bee Unit's "Beebase" website.

www.Beebase.csl.gov.uk

The information has not been collected for each year since 1997; a survey to determine the extent of resistance ran from 2000 to 2005.

In the absence of a clear cause for the syndrome dubbed colony collapse disorder in the USA and the lack of trade links between the USA and the UK, DEFRA does not believe that a similar syndrome occurs in the UK. However, the level of colony loss, especially over-winter, is a concern.

Annual percentage losses recorded by inspectors since 1999 are as follows (figures for 1997 and 1998 are not available). Some 15 per cent. of colonies is inspected each year:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 5.6 |
| 2000 | 5.9 |
| 2001 | 4.1 |
| 2002 | 4.9 |
| 2003 | 6.2 |
| 2004 | 6.9 |
| 2005 | 8.6 |
| 2006 | 11.1 |
| 2007 | 11.6 |
| 2008 | 11.9 |

In respect of varroa findings, I would refer to the answer given on 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 912W.

### Bluetongue Disease

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice he has received on the risk of an individual animal being diagnosed with blue-tongue during the period of high midge activity. [237137]

**Jane Kennedy:** The UK remains at risk from Bluetongue, whether from re-emergence of domestic disease, from windborne spread from the continent, or through animal imports. This risk is likely to remain for some time, depending in large part on the success of control measures in other countries. Vaccination is the only effective tool to protect susceptible animals from Bluetongue, and in line with other affected member states, we will shortly publish our plans for vaccination against BTV8 ahead of the 2009 vector season.

### Bluetongue Disease: Import Controls

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what obligations are placed on farmers who import stock from the blue-tongue protection zone in northern Europe. [237135]

**Jane Kennedy:** As of 3 November 2008, all of Great Britain became a single confluent Protection Zone for Bluetongue serotype 8 (BTV-8). Animals can be moved freely within this Protection Zone, and to and from other BTV-8 Protection Zones in Europe provided that they meet the generic import/export requirements and are accompanied by an Export Health Certificate which has been signed by an official veterinarian.

Movements of susceptible animals from Protection Zones for different serotypes are subject to the restrictions set out in Annex III of the Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1266/2007 (as amended).

DEFRA also conducts post-import tests on all susceptible animals imported from continental Europe, for all Bluetongue serotypes, and urges industry to consider the risks and check the health and vaccination status of animals when sourcing any animals, from within the UK or abroad. It is also the obligation of individual farmers to be vigilant and report any suspected Bluetongue cases to their local Animal Health Office.

### Bluetongue Disease: Institute for Animal Health

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provision he has made for members of the blue-tongue stakeholder group to have direct access to scientists at the Institute of Animal Health. [237136]

**Jane Kennedy:** DEFRA consults with experts at the Institute of Animal Health (IAH) at Pirbright on a regular basis. DEFRA's core group of industry stakeholders has the opportunity to regularly put questions to the experts, both at IAH Pirbright, and other experts (eg vets, epidemiologists), directly, or through questions considered by expert groups. The questions asked and advice sought from experts at DEFRA's request are closely informed by discussions with the core group of stakeholders.

### Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what quantities of vaccines for the *(a)* BTV1 and *(b)* BTV6 strains of bluetongue disease are (i) available and (ii) on order. [239221]

**Jane Kennedy:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Compensation

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take following the judgment in the case of Partridge Farms Ltd v. the Secretary of State; and if he will make a statement. [238499]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The judgment in the High Court in Partridge Farms Ltd v. Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs has been appealed to the Court of Appeal, which will hear the appeal in March 2009. Until the case is concluded, I do not propose to make a statement.

### Brussels

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much his Department spent on visits by its staff to Brussels in 2007-08; and how many such visits were made by *(a)* air and *(b)* rail; [239424]

(2) how many *(a)* rail and *(b)* plane tickets to Brussels his Department paid for visits by its staff to Brussels in 2007. [239426]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department and its agencies have made of the effects of emissions of dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls into the air on public health. [235071]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have been asked to reply.

The independent expert advisory Committee on the Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT), advises the Department and other government departments and agencies, including the Health Protection Agency, on the health effects of emissions of dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls. The Committee recommends the levels for the tolerable daily intake (TDI), which is the amount that can be ingested daily over a lifetime without appreciable health risk.

The TDI is expressed in World Health Organisation (WHO) toxic equivalents per kilogram body weight per day (TEQ/kg bw/day). The WHO-TEQs are an internationally recognised method for considering the toxicity of mixtures of dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls, by comparing them to that of the most thoroughly studied dioxin, Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, based on considering their relative potencies.

The COT has recommended a tolerable daily intake for dioxins of two picograms WHO-TEQ/kg body weight/day based on the most sensitive effect in laboratory animals, namely, adverse effects on the developing foetus resulting from exposure in utero. As this was the most sensitive effect it will protect against the risks of other adverse effects including carcinogenicity. A copy of the full statement has been placed in the Library and is available at:

http://cot.food.gov.uk/cotstatements/cotstatementyrs/cotstatements2001/dioxinstate

The majority, more than 90 per cent, of non-occupational human exposure to dioxins occurs via the diet, with animal-based foodstuffs like meat, fish, eggs, and dairy products being particularly important. Limited exposure may also occur via inhalation of air or ingestion of soil depending on circumstances. Provided that the strict emission limits on modern incinerators are adhered to, inhalation of dioxins is not a significant source of exposure for the general public. It has been estimated for example that current levels of dioxin emissions from incinerators accounts for less than 1 per cent of UK emissions of dioxins. These data are available in a comprehensive review carried out for the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in 2004 entitled "Review of Environmental and Health Effects of Waste Management: Municipal Solid Waste and Similar Wastes". This is available through the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk

### Christmas

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruits to be served by his Department at Christmas functions which will be sourced from British producers. [239726]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Civil Proceedings

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many legal proceedings naming his Department as a defending party are ongoing or unresolved; and if he will make a statement. [239728]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The number of legal proceedings where the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has been named as a defending party which are ongoing or unresolved is 81.

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many legal proceedings naming his Department as a defending party are under appeal. [239729]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The number of legal proceedings under appeal in which the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has been named as the defending party is three.

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provision his Department has made in its budget for 2008-09 for potential civil liabilities stemming from legal proceedings. [239730]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Coastal Areas: Departmental Coordination

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to improve its arrangements for co-ordination with other Government departments of policy affecting coastal towns in the last two years. [238650]

**Jane Kennedy:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Common Agricultural Policy: Finance

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the 2007-08 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) budget was allocated to the top 10 recipients of CAP payments. [239225]

**Jane Kennedy:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; what the target rates set for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [238925]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237416]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** As part of its commercial contracting arrangements with its external catering services providers, subsidy is provided where the costs of overheads cannot be offset by the contribution of margin from food and beverage sales. The subsidy payable is reviewed regularly as part of contractual arrangements.

### Departmental Civil Servants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil servants have been employed by each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [239094]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** With a few exceptions, executive NDPBs are non-Crown bodies and employees are not civil servants, although civil servants can be seconded or loaned to NDPBs. Information on the number of employees in executive NDPBs is published in the annual Cabinet Office 'Public Bodies' publication. Copies are available from the Libraries of the House.

Advisory NDPBs do not usually employ staff. They are typically supported by civil servants from the sponsoring Department.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [239057]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237433]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The information is as follows.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Flat Screen Televisions | 19,681.94 |
| *(b)* DVD Players | 921.96 |
| *(c)* Stereo Equipment | 12,572.00 |

### Departmental Expenditure

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of *(a)* Brenda Poller, *(b)* Absolute Energy, *(c)* Noreen Tehrani, *(d)* Alliance Mediation Management Ltd and *(e)* the Gaia Coach Institute in 2007-08; and for what purpose in each case. [233589]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The information requested is as follows:

| *Name* | *Purpose* | *Expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Brenda Poller | Staff Health and Well-being Day | 210.00 |
| Absolute Energy | HR/Welfare Education—Staff Health and Well-being Day | 292.50 |
| Noreen Tehrani | HR Education—Bullying at Work Seminar presentation | 847.42 |
| Alliance Mediation Management Ltd | Training in the use of Mediation to resolve disputes. | 500.00 |
| Gaia Coach Institute | Sustainable Development Programme Leadership Courses | 1300.00 |

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much expenditure his Department incurred in respect of *(a)* Chitterybite Ceilidh Band, *(b)* Off Limits, *(c)* Fresh Attacks, *(d)* Catch 22, *(e)* George Noble, *(f)* Mountain Goat Ltd., *(g)* The Right Address Ltd., *(h)* Devon and Exeter Steeplechases Ltd. and *(i)* Solent Steam Packet Services Ltd in 2007-08; and for what purpose in each case. [238228]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The information requested is as follows:

| *Vendor name* | *Purpose* | *Total (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Catch 22 | Temporary Staff used in a number of positions in Facilities Management areas | 39,605.56 |

| Vendor name | Purpose | Total (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Chittery Bite Ceilidh Band | Performance at a Conference event | 528.75 |
| Devon and Exeter Steeplechases Ltd. | Hire of a room for Responsibility and Cost Sharing Workshop in Exeter | 1,551.00 |
| George Noble | Committee Member responsibilities—LBUK Potato Sector Co. Board Interview Panel | 750.00 |
| Mountain Goat Ltd. | Various bus transfers from 5-8 February 2008, SDC Plenary | 770.00 |
| Off Limits | Corporate Event—Team Building Away Day 22 June 2007 | 1,838.88 |
| The Right Address Ltd. | Development Managers Seminar—Speaker Fees Jeff Grout | 5,357.41 |
| Solent Steam Packet Services Ltd. | Hire of SS "Shieldhall" for conference venue event | 3,000.00 |

**Departmental Information Officers**

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies sponsored by his Department in each of the last three years; and what the cost was of each such contract. [230180]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Media Monitoring Unit (MMU) has provided media monitoring services as follows to DEFRA:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 54,150 |
| 2007-08 | 62,700 |
| 2008-09 | 70,000 |

Durrants provides DEFRA with a daily cuttings service at the following cost per calendar year:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 137,911 |
| 2007 | 152,397 |
| 2008 to date | 136,777 |

DEFRA also subscribes to the Press Association newswire monitoring service at the following cost:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 4,237 |
| 2007-08 | 4,402 |
| 2008-09 | 4,391 |

In addition, since May 2008 DEFRA has used the transcript service of Wordsworth at a cost to date of £8,705.

All figures quoted exclude VAT

Information related to Media Monitoring costs for agencies of DEFRA and NDPBs sponsored by DEFRA could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Departmental Internet**

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for which Government websites his Department is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [235030]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Costs for maintaining DEFRA's corporate website (www.defra.gov.uk) together with information on visitors were set out in my replies to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) and the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell), 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 299W and 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 838W.

Website addresses which are currently the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are listed (this list also includes some website addresses for which the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change may take on responsibility). Information on numbers of visitors, and on costs for maintaining these sites, is not available without incurring disproportionate cost, as the large majority of these websites are managed by the agency or NDPB concerned and not directly by DEFRA.

As part of the Transformational Government web rationalisation process, DEFRA is currently reviewing all its websites. Over time, content will be rationalised and where appropriate moved to Directgov and Business Link. A number of the current websites will close.

*Corporate website*

defra.gov.uk

*Domains operated by core DEFRA*

agwasteplastics.org.uk
airquality.co.uk
bseinquiry.gov.uk
bv-aurnsiteinfo.co.uk
bvpi-leq.com
carbonoffsetcode.org.uk
chpqa.com
climatechallenge.gov.uk
darwin.gov.uk
defra.ambassadorsforschools.com
dwi.gov.uk
eca.gov.uk/etl
eca-water.gov.uk
envirowise.gov.uk
everyactioncounts.org.uk
foodfrombritain.co.uk
ghgi.org.uk
gvs.gov.uk
heavymetals.ceh.ac.uk
huntinginquiry.gov.uk
industrialheatmap.com
laqmsupport.org.uk
lupg.org.uk
mceu.gov.uk
mtprog.com
naei.org.uk
nationalfallenstock.co.uk

m195.com
m195.net
noisemapping.org
ozone-uv.co.uk
rmmet.gov.uk
sedbuk.com
semen-archive.co.uk
sustainable-development.gov.uk
ukbap.org.uk
ukcip.org.uk
ukcip08.org.uk
ukcites.gov.uk
ukgcc.org
ukglobalnfluence.org
ukmab.org
ukmiaburbanforum.co.uk
ukalo.gov.uk
uksmokecontrolareas.co.uk
uksocialdeprivation.acat.com
ukswedensustainability.org
uwe.ac.uk/aqm/review
wfduk.org

*DEFRA's Executive Agencies*

cefas.co.uk
cfishbusiness.co.uk
csl.gov.uk
gds.gov.uk
svs.gov.uk
mfa.gov.uk
bcms.gov.uk
cobody.gov.uk
rpa.gov.uk
vla.gov.uk
amu.gov.uk
vmd.gov.uk

*DEFRA's Advisory NDPBs*

corwm.org.uk
iwaac.org.uk
vet-residues-committee.gov.uk
vpc.gov.uk
fawc.org.uk
seac.gov.uk

*DEFRA's Executive NDPBs*

ccwater.org.uk
ca-transactions.gov.uk
emissionsregistry.gov.uk
environment-agency.gov.uk
intertidalmanagement.co.uk
nefrfcgs.gov.uk
nftpg.org
nottinghamflooddefence.co.uk
wastedirectory.org.uk
wastematters.org.uk
wasterecycling.org.uk
cbnn.org.uk
iucn-uk.org
jncc.gov.uk
nationalbiodiversity.org
searchMESH.net
landshapes.org
nationalforest.org
bobw.co.uk
branchproject.org.uk
contak.org.uk
countryparks.org.uk
countrysideaccess.gov.uk
countrywalks.defra.gov.uk
cqc.org.uk
crosscompliance.org.uk
eastspace.net/biodiversity
ecolots.co.uk
environmentsensitivefarming.co.uk
farmbusinessadvice.co.uk
finest.net.countryside.gov.uk
grazinganimalsproject.org.uk
greatnuthunt.org.uk
landscapecharacter.org.uk
lbp.org.uk
limestone-country.org.uk
limestone-pavements.org.uk
magic.gov.uk
mdcornwallmoors.org.uk
nationaltrail.co.uk
naturalengland.org.uk
naturconthemap.org.uk
nebiodiversity.org.uk
newforestlife.org.uk
nwbiodiversity.org.uk
openaccess.gov.uk
outdoorhealthforum.com
plantpress.com/wildlife
ravinewoodlife.org.uk
sebiodiversity.org.uk
stream.org.uk
swbiodiversity.org.uk
waps.org.uk
wetlandvision.org.uk
whi.net.countryside.gov.uk
whi.org.uk
wmbp.org.uk
woodland.net.countryside.gov.uk
yhbf.org
plantcultures.org
rbgkew.org.uk
gks.gov.uk
ruralcommunities.gov.uk
seafish.org

*DEFRA Levy Boards*

beefyandlamby.co.uk
bmesonline.org.uk
bpex.org
britishmeatfoodservice.com
eblex.org.uk
hgc.org.uk
hgca.com
lookforthemark.co.uk
mdc.org.uk

mdcdatum.org.uk
meatandhealth.co.uk
meatmatters.com
mlc.org.uk
potato.org.uk
potatoesforcaterers.co.uk
potatoesforschools.org.uk
schoolmilk.co.uk
store.mlc.org.uk
stotfoldpigs.co.uk

*Other DEFRA NDPBs*

carbontrust.co.uk
broads-authority.gov.uk
dartmoor-npa.gov.uk
exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk
lake-district.gov.uk
nationalparks.gov.uk
newforestnpa.gov.uk
northumberland-national-park.org.uk
peakdistrict.org
peakdistrict-tourism.gov.uk
yorkshiredales.org.uk
britishwool.org.uk
eftp.com
encams.org
est.org.uk
nfsco.co.uk
nnfcc.co.uk
recyclenow.com
wrap.org.uk

*DEFRA Public Corporations*

britishwaterways.co.uk
cgma.gov.uk
waterscape.com

**Departmental Land**

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much surplus land *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies own; and what the (i) area and (ii) estimated monetary value of each site is. [236416]

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much surplus land (a) his Department and (b) its agencies own; and what the (i) area and (ii) estimated monetary value of each site is. [237189]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The core Department currently holds 117 ha of surplus land awaiting disposal with an estimated value of £6,695,000. The majority of the land is available for sale or under offer.

The Environment Agency hold 63,150 sq m of surplus land comprising eight sites with an estimated monetary value of £1,686,000.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for each of the sites owned by his Department which are registered on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land; what construction projects are planned for each site; and when he expects each site to be returned to use. [236440]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The land recorded on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land has been identified as no longer required in the delivery of Departmental business. Unless there is a demand from another Government Department, in which case the land would be transferred, the primary intention is to seek the earliest possible disposal and maximise the value for money from the sale of surplus assets, subject to prevailing market conditions and planning and development constraints.

Listed as follows is a summary of the surplus land held by the core Department published on the public register as at September 2008 and the status of each site is noted.

Due to the surplus nature of the land, no construction projects are currently proposed and it is not anticipated that the land will return to public sector use. The return to beneficial use, and the nature of that use, will be linked to disposal.

Where it is consider appropriate and the holding is capable of short-term beneficial occupation and use pending disposal the Department has sought to mitigate property holding costs by short term commercial lettings.

Where appropriate to do so the Department seeks to influence future beneficial use. There are two sites where the future beneficial use for residential development has been identified and this is being explored prior to disposal via the property market. These sites are recognised in the Departmental contribution to the Government's affordable homes targets.

The two sites in Perthshire are legacy sites which demonstrated long-term beneficial use for residential development, however changes in local planning framework policy and long term housing demand means that the land is now unlikely to be designated to meet future housing need and disposal in existing use is being pursued.

| *County* | *Town* | *Holding body* | *Description* | *Area (ha)* | *Plans or proposals* | *Construction projects* | *Returned to use* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cambridgeshire | Boxworth | DEFRA (Core Department) | Boxworth Farm | 340 | Sold | None proposed | Retained in agricultural use |
| North Yorkshire | Thirsk | DEFRA (Core Department) | Former Sowerby Buffer Depot | 1.02 | Exploring the potential for residential development on the site as part of maximising disposal proceeds | None proposed | Surplus of departmental requirements[1] |
| Nottinghamshire | Mansfield | DEFRA (Core Department) | Gleadthorpe Farm | 175 | Sold | None proposed | Retained in agricultural use |

| County | Town | Holding body | Description | Area (ha) | Plans or proposals | Construction projects | Returned to use |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tyne and Wear | North Tyneside | DEFRA (Core Department) | Four parcels of land at Long Benton | 2.01 | Planning permission has lapsed for residential development having failed to sell the land for housing. Reconsidering alternative disposal options | None proposed | Surplus of departmental requirements |
| Perth and Kinross | Almondbank | DEFRA (Core Department) | Almondbank 4 (Former Buffer Depot) | 9.28 | None at present, the site is let pending sale | None proposed | Surplus of departmental requirements |
| Perth and Kinross | Almondbank | DEFRA (Core Department) | Almondbank 5 (Former Buffer Depot) | 5.00 | Under Offer | None proposed | Surplus of departmental requirements |

[1] The properties have been identified as not being required for the delivery of departmental business and are therefore surplus to Government use. Return to beneficial use will be dependent upon the use applied by a new owner.

*Note*

Based on the September 2008 published Register Entry for the Department.

## Departmental Legal Proceedings

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many legal proceedings naming his Department as a defending party have been *(a)* filed, (b) concluded and *(c)* dismissed in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) 2008 to date; [239605]

(2) what the monetary value was of each settlement his Department made as a result of legal proceedings naming his Department as a defending party in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* 2008 to date, broken down by the title of litigation in cases where no such related proceedings are ongoing. [239606]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff are on a priority movers list, people action team or similar designation for staff without posts, in each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [233408]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The information requested is as follows:

*Core DEFRA*

There are currently 25 permanent staff in core DEFRA who are on the redeployment register (previously known as the priority movers list), 14 of whom will be redeployed shortly. Of the remaining 11 we are working with these people, following CO guidelines, to ensure the best outcome for them and the Department.

*Executive agencies*

There are 17 permanent staff in DEFRA's executive agencies on the DEFRA redeployment register and it is also expected that this number will reduce through redeployment.

*NDPBs*

DEFRA's NDPBs are separately accountable for redeployment of their staff and therefore this information is not collated centrally. DEFRA does however work closely with NDPBs to help ensure staff can be redeployed and avoid redundancy wherever possible.

*Management and support of employees in this position*

The Department follows the advice contained in the 'Protocol For Handling Surplus Staff Situations' dated April 2008 and ensure we use best endeavours to ensure we avoid compulsory redundancies whenever possible.

This includes:

Working closely with our trade unions to ensure all opportunities are identified and explored.

Using voluntary exit schemes when appropriate.

Sharing all civil service vacancies through CS Vacs and prioritising the selection of staff in this position where there is a skills match.

Allocating resettlement officers when appropriate.

Providing the services of organisations who specialise in supporting people in this position.

Working closely with HR teams across the DEFRA network and other Government Departments to identify possible future vacancies.

Sharing information at an early stage with the Cabinet Office and seeking their support and advice as required.

Identifying temporary project work when possible while we continue to look for a permanent position.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and at what cost in each year. [239073]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Marketing

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226522]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** All major DEFRA advertising campaigns are commissioned through the Central Office of Information (COI). Each campaign is evaluated against agreed objectives using a combination of pre, post and tracking research. This typically involves measuring website hits, levels of awareness and shifts in attitudes and behaviours. COI is able to use its unique position to negotiate significant discounts when purchasing media, ensuring the best return on departmental investment.

For DEFRA's main campaign—Act On $CO_2$—the website is performing well with a good return on investment against the current media spend. To date we have had over 270,000 unique visitors (approx 135,000 a month). This compares favourably with other government campaigns with a similar annual media spend which tend to have unique visits of between 100,000 and 120,000 a month.

The Act On $CO_2$ advice line (delivered by EST) also took 181,000 calls in September and October, compared to 60,000 over the same period in 2007.

Awareness of the phrase 'Act On $CO_2$' has increased by 8 pecentage points from 29 per cent. in summer 2008 to 37 per cent. in 2008. Just over 40 per cent. claim to be aware of the logo, which is perceived by the majority to be from Government. This represents an increase of 17 percentage points—the highest recognition to date.

In July 2008, results showed that over 60 per cent. of the public had or were planning to take actions to reduce their $CO_2$ emissions as a result of the campaign—an increase of 10 per cent. on findings following the summer 2007 campaign phase.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [239072]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236922]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** My Department sponsors 67 executive and advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) which help DEFRA to deliver its strategic priorities. Information about the scope of their interests can be found at

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/delivery/landscape/index.htm.

DEFRA funding information for executive NDPBs in 2008-09 follows.

The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board is largely funded by statutory levies that it collects from the agriculture and horticulture industries and from income from its commercial activities. It receives no dedicated grant funding from DEFRA.

Funding for the Agricultural Wages Board and the Agricultural Wages Committee (there are 15 regional committees) is combined. The figure for the current year is £208,000.

Consumer Council for Water—£6,157,649, which includes a contribution from the Welsh Assembly government.

Commission for Rural Communities—£6.4 million.

Environment Agency—£797.5 million.

Food from Britain (FFB) £4 million though additional funding may be made available this year so that FFB can discharge its liabilities to the FFB pension scheme as part of the process of closing down the organisation.

Gangmasters Licensing Authority—£1.5 million.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee Council—£1.9 million.

National Forest Company—£3.6 million.

Natural England—£176 million.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew—£26.4 million.

Sea Fish Industry Authority is largely funded by statutory levies that it collects from the sea fish industries and from income from its commercial activities. It receives no dedicated grant funding from DEFRA. Additional revenue is in the form of grants from UK Government and the EU. Seafish is expected to bid for grants of around £2,500,000 in 2008-09.

Budgets for executive NDPBs for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not been finalised.

Advisory NDPBs generally incur little or no expenditure and are resourced from within the Department. As a result information on budgets for advisory NDPBs for 2008-11 is not available.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [239664]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. and learned Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Pensions

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229534]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The following table provides the figures for each organisation. Data for Core DEFRA, RPA, CEFAS and VLA are from the pension

administrator's database, data for CSL were taken from their internal HR database. All data are as of the last (October) payroll update.

| | *Number* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| *Core DEFRA (including Animal Health, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine and Fisheries Agency and the Government Decontamination Service)* | | |
| Total Staff | 5,016 | |
| Classic | 2,833 | 56.5 |
| Classic Plus | 254 | 5.1 |
| Premium | 1,518 | 30.3 |
| Nuvos | 210 | 4.2 |
| *RPA* | | |
| Total Staff | 3,555 | |
| Classic | 1,782 | 50.1 |
| Classic Plus | 138 | 3.9 |
| Premium | 1,090 | 30.7 |
| Nuvos | 273 | 7.7 |
| *CEFAS* | | |
| Total Staff | 889 | |
| Classic | 364 | 40.9 |
| Classic Plus | 32 | 3.6 |
| Premium | 190 | 21.4 |
| Nuvos | 67 | 7.5 |
| *CSL* | | |
| Total Staff | 652 | |
| Classic | 335 | 51.4 |
| Classic Plus/Premium | 256 | 39.3 |
| Nuvos | 29 | 4.4 |
| *VLA* | | |
| Total Staff | 1,342 | |
| Classic | 711 | 53.0 |
| Classic Plus | 54 | 4.0 |
| Premium | 401 | 29.9 |
| Nuvos | 41 | 3.1 |

### Departmental Postal Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department uses the Royal Mail as the primary company for sending its post, parcels and packages. [238322]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** For the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008 the postal service providers that carried most of the *(a)* letters and *(b)* parcels sent by the core-Department in each of the last three years were Royal Mail and Amtrak respectively.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many press releases have been issued by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238976]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [239640]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Property

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on maintaining its domestic properties in each of the last five years. [238735]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* The Department has expended the following amounts on maintaining its residential dwellings in each of the last five years:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 18,104 |
| 2005 | 107,131 |
| 2006 | 24,378 |
| 2007 | 22,938 |
| 2008 | 26,997 |

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much expenditure from the public purse for which his Department is responsible was incurred in 2007-08 in respect of *(a)* Balmoral Transport Service, *(b)* MC Chauffeurs and *(c)* Stratstone; and what the purpose was of such expenditure. [239611]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239035]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on external *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations consultants in each of the last five years. [233269]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 4 November 2008]:* In DEFRA, public relations covers a wide range of activity which forms an important element of a broader communications mix. This can include advertising, direct marketing, live events and publications. The following table shows what public relations activity was procured via DEFRA's Communications Directorate since FY 2004-05 using the COI Public Relations Framework.

| *Financial year* | *PR agency* | *Campaign* | *Expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | Amazon PR | Sustainable Development | 58,788 |
| 2005-06 | Amazon PR | Sustainable Development | 67,084 |
| | Weber Shandwick | Climate Change | 86,781 |
| 2006-07 | EdComs and Blue Rubicon | DEFRA Year of Food and Farming | 50,872 |
| | Amazon PR | Sustainable Development | 48,973 |
| | Trimedia Harrison Cowley | Act On $CO_2$ campaign | 49,250 |
| | Amazon PR | Sustainable development | 48,973 |
| 2007-08 | Trimedia Harrison Cowley | Act On $CO_2$ campaign (including a series of regional roadshows) | 476,301 |
| | Munro and Forster | Waste | 64,424 |
| | Trimedia | Climate Change | 32,216 |
| | Communications UK | Champions | |
| | EdComs and Blue Rubicon | DEFRA Year of Food and Farming | 242,578 |
| 2008 to September 2009 | EDComs and Blue Rubicon | DEFRA Year of Food and Farming | 28,230 |
| | Trimedia Communications UK | Act On $CO_2$ campaign | 78,529 |

We do not collate expenditure under the heading 'public affairs'.

## Departmental Research

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on joint research projects of each type with *(a)* universities and *(b)* companies in each of the last five years; and what the name of each company was. [237232]

**Hilary Benn:** The information requested is as follows:

1. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has spent the following total amounts on joint research projects with universities and companies in the last five years:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Universities | 11,867,138 |
| Companies | 11,518,417 |

These figures include amounts spent to date for the 2008-09 financial year

2. The financial year breakdown are as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *1: Universities* | |
| 2003-04 | 1,687,601 |
| 2004-05 | 2,389,961 |
| 2005-06 | 2,782,582 |
| 2006-07 | 2,838,636 |
| 2007-08 | 2,168,358 |

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *2: Companies* | |
| 2003-04 | 1,839,057 |
| 2004-05 | 2,219,279 |
| 2005-06 | 2,194,667 |
| 2006-07 | 2,584,731 |
| 2007-08 | 2,680,683 |

3. DEFRA also carries out joint funding with research councils and higher education funding councils. Much of this will fund work in universities, hence its inclusion, albeit separated from the amount specifically committed in collaboration with universities themselves. During the last five years this has totalled £13,679,932 broken down as:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 80,991 |
| 2004-05 | 2,244,193 |
| 2005-06 | 3,207,115 |
| 2006-07 | 3,635,257 |
| 2007-08 | 4,512,376 |

4. A full list of all the companies (except where this information is confidential), universities and institutes has been placed in the Library showing the cost of each project broken down into Financial Years.

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has allocated for agricultural research in universities in 2008-09. [237233]

**Hilary Benn:** It is difficult to give a definitive answer as not all of the budgets allocated to agricultural research have yet been committed for the current financial year. As much of our research is let by competition, it is not possible to predict whether universities will be successful in winning the remaining procurement processes.

To date, the Department has committed around £11 million to agricultural research in universities for financial year 2008-09. This total includes spending on both sustainable farming and animal health and welfare.

Further details of DEFRA's research projects, including costs and outputs, are available from the DEFRA website at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on agricultural research in each of the last five years. [237234]

**Hilary Benn:** The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has spent the following on agricultural research in each of the last five years:

*£ million*

| | *DEFRA R and D funding into sustainable farming* | *DEFRA R and D funding into animal health and welfare* | *Total DEFRA agricultural R and D spending* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 29 | 39 | 68 |
| 2006-07 | 34 | 41 | 75 |
| 2005-06 | 38 | 40 | 78 |
| 2004-05 | 38 | 40 | 78 |
| 2003-04 | 39 | 36 | 75 |

Further details of DEFRA's research projects, including costs and outputs, are available from the DEFRA website at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/

### Environment Agency: Public Expenditure

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to the public purse of the Environment Agency was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [228621]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Environment Agency received funding from DEFRA amounting to *(a)* £554.4 million in 2006-07 and *(b)* £595.4 million in 2007-08. These figures have been published in the departmental reports for 2007 and 2008, both of which have been published on the DEFRA website:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/deprep/default.htm.

### Eunomia

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the *(a)* date, *(b)* title and *(c)* topic of each research report or project commissioned by his Department and its agencies from the consultancy Eunomia. [235137]

**Jane Kennedy:** The following table lists the completion date, title and topic of recent research reports and other projects commissioned by DEFRA, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the Environment Agency from the consultancy Eunomia. The table is restricted to recent work completed under DEFRA's Sustainable Consumption and Production and Waste agenda.

For work commissioned by WRAP from Eunomia to June 2007, I refer the honourable Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1655W.

| *Completion date* | *Project title* | *Topic* |
|---|---|---|
| *DEFRA (Waste and Resources Evidence Programme)* | | |
| May 2007 | Household waste prevention: policy side research | Research project |
| June 2007 | Impacts of household charging in England | Research project |
| July 2008 | Building on UK marginal abatement cost curves for the waste sector | Research project |
| *DEFRA (Waste Implementation Programme)* | | |
| 2007 | Consultancy | Waste management PFI study |
| 2007 | Consultancy | Somerset contract integration |
| 2007 | Consultancy | Northampton joint waste strategy |
| 2007 | Consultancy | Gloucestershire stakeholder consultation (planning) |
| 2008 | Consultancy | New technologies technical advisory committee assistance |
| *DEFRA (Environmental Permitting Programme)* | | |
| February 2006 - ongoing | Consultancy (jointly funded between DEFRA and the Environment Agency) | Assessment of the costs and benefits associated with the Programme |
| *Waste and Resources Action Programme* | | |
| October 2007 | Consultancy | Technical advice on anaerobic digestion market development |
| March 2008 | Consultancy | Market knowledge gate fee survey |

| Completion date | Project title | Topic |
|---|---|---|
| June 2008 | Consultancy | Compost supply in South East and East of England |
| September 2008 | Consultancy | Organics project support |
| September 2008 | Consultancy | Mixed plastic collection |
| Ongoing | Consultancy | Support to ROTATE team |
| *Environment Agency* | | |
| February 2006 ongoing | See DEFRA Environmental Permitting Programme above | |

**Flood Control**

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in the development of catchment flood management plans; and if he will make a statement. [235059]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Environment Agency has completed 55 Catchment Flood Management Plans in England. The remaining 13 plans are due to be completed by the end of December 2008.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made on implementing the recommendations contained in the Pitt report on flooding; and if he will make a statement. [239600]

**Jane Kennedy:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 489-521, on the pre-Budget report, how much of the capital spending amount will be spent on flood defences; when the funding will be available; what type of projects it will be spent on; whether any of the funding in question has already been announced; and if he will make a statement. [239983]

**Jane Kennedy:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Flooding Lessons Learned Review**

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions with local authorities have taken place on the Pitt review on flooding. [237664]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The Pitt review proposed significant strengthening of the role of local authorities for flood risk management, including from surface water and groundwater where no one organisation currently takes the lead. In developing the Government response to those proposals and other recommendations in the review, DEFRA officials have held regular meetings with the Local Government Association and council officers as well as attending conferences and similar events involving local authorities.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken in response to the Pitt review on flooding. [237665]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* We have already taken a number of steps in response to Sir Michael Pitt's findings and will be publishing a detailed response together with a prioritised action plan shortly.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department intends to publish its detailed response to the Pitt review on flooding. [237666]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The Government's detailed response to the Pitt review will be published shortly.

**Floods: Property Development**

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had on building on flood plains. [237663]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* DEFRA has had a strong input in several key areas of the Department for Communities and Local Government's work, including Planning Policy Statement 25 on development and flood risk, and other changes to planning policy. Changes we have introduced include making the Environment Agency statutory consultees for all planning applications in flood risk areas, and that planning applications which the local planning authority are minded to approve against Environment Agency advice can be called-in for determination by the Secretary of State.

**Food: Retail Sector**

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department is conducting into the effects of farmers' markets on producers and consumers. [239532]

**Jane Kennedy:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Forests**

**Mr. Morley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what proportion of planted ancient woodland sites managed by Forest Enterprise under a clear-fell regime are *(a)* scheduled for and *(b)* in the process of restoration, broken down by forest district; [237685]

(2) what proportion of planted ancient woodland sites managed by Forest Enterprise are *(a)* scheduled for and *(b)* in the process of restoration, broken down by forest district. [237686]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The Forestry Commission's overall objective is to manage ancient woodland sites across the estate to improve their ecological value and ultimately restore them to native woodland.

The majority of restoration work on Ancient Woodland sites is and will be undertaken by thinning and the gradual removal of non-native species. There has been an increase in ancient woodland sites with more than 80 per cent. native species from 16,209 hectares in 2003 to 17,577 hectares in 2007, and a decrease in ancient woodland sites with less than 20 per cent. native species from 26,011 hectares in 2003 to 24,152 hectares in 2007. Many more areas have had thinning work undertaken and are moving towards a more natural state. To supply the information on this restoration work carried out by Forest District would be at disproportionate cost.

At 31 March 2008 the Forestry Commission classified 1,476 hectares of ancient woodland sites as clear felled ready for or in the process of regeneration and 413 hectares as having been restocked or naturally regenerated with broadleaves in the last three years. The areas of this restocking and natural regeneration by Forest District are given in the following table:

| *Forest District* | *Area (hectares)* |
|---|---|
| East Anglia | 77 |
| Forest of Dean[1] | 0 |
| Kielder Forest | 4 |
| North West England | 50 |
| New Forest | 17 |
| Northants | 106 |
| North York Moors | 5 |
| Peninsula Forest District | 20 |
| Sherwood and Lincolnshire | 0 |
| South East England | 92 |
| West Midlands | 42 |

[1] The Forest of Dean is classified as ancient woodland special history and past patterns of clearance, Natural England has agreed with the Forestry Commission that special arrangements will apply.

**Mr. Morley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what proportion of planted ancient woodland sites managed by Forest Enterprise have been replanted with conifers since 2005, broken down by forest district; [237687]

(2) what proportion of planted ancient woodland sites managed by Forest Enterprise are scheduled for replanting with conifers in current management plans, broken down by forest district. [237709]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The total area of ancient woodland sites managed by the Forestry Commission is in excess of 50,000 hectares. As of 1 April 2008, 31,942 hectares of this was recorded as Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). Since 2005, 137 hectares of PAWS sites have been replanted with conifers. This represents 0.4 per cent. of the total area. The area replanted with conifers in each Forest District is given in the following table.

| *Forest District* | *Area (hectares)* |
|---|---|
| East Anglia | 8 |
| Forest of Dean[1] | 0 |
| Kielder Forest | 0 |
| North West England | 7 |
| New Forest | 0 |
| Northants | 0 |
| North York Moors | 12 |
| Peninsula Forest District | 89 |
| Sherwood and Lincolnshire | 0 |
| South East England | 13 |
| West Midlands | 8 |

[1] The Forest of Dean is classified as ancient woodland but, because of its special history and past patterns of clearance, Natural England has agreed with the Forestry Commission that special arrangements will apply.

Forest Design plans, which include plans for felling and regeneration, are reviewed and revised on a 10-year rolling programme. The areas of planted ancient woodland sites in these plans that are shown as conifer regeneration could be provided only at disproportionate cost. As some of these plans pre-date "Keepers of Time: A Statement of Policy for England's Ancient and Native Woodland", many of the proposed activities in these plans will not be implemented. The Forestry Commission's overall objective is to manage ancient woodland sites across the estate to improve their ecological value and ultimately restore them to native woodland.

### Greyhounds: Animal Welfare

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to ensure that the destination of individual greyhounds no longer used by the racing industry is *(a)* reported to the relevant local authority and *(b)* published. [237778]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* No. This proposal would create a significant additional bureaucratic burden for local authorities. Any animal welfare benefits that might arise would be outweighed by the administrative costs.

### Insects

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of trends in the populations of pollinating insects in the last five years. [239808]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Legal Opinion

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much expenditure from the public purse was paid to legal professionals outside his Department for the purpose of acting on its behalf in legal proceedings in which his Department was named as a defending party in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* 2008 to date. [239731]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** The expenditure paid to legal professionals outside the Department for the purpose of acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in which his Department was named as a defending party in 2008 to date is £365,741.59. The resources needed to answer the question in relation to each of the last five years would be disproportionate.

### Marine Animals: Conservation

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals his Department plans to put forward at the next European Fisheries Council on measures to protect sharks and other endangered or threatened species from the impact of over-fishing. [238645]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Natural England: Finance

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what real terms reductions there were in the headings of the budget for Natural England in 2008-09 compared with 2006-07. [237237]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Natural England's core grant is as follows:

*Natural England Core Grant (£million)*

| | *Current value (£)* | *Real terms value (£)* | *Rural Development Programme for England funding (£million)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07[1] | 163.13 | 163.13 | 246.2 |
| 20008 | 175.32 | 170.11 | 316.6 |
| 2008-09 | 169.855 | 160.01 | 363 |

[1] The comparative figure for 2006-07 of £163.13 million covers the grant funding available to its predecessor bodies for the functions that Natural England inherited. Natural England was established on 1 October 2006.

The core grant figures take account of agreed efficiency savings arising from the creation of Natural England.

Natural England received additional funding from the Rural Development Programme for England of £246.2 million in 2006-07, £316.6 million in 2007-08 and £363 million in 2008-09.

Figures exclude additional income from DEFRA and external sources, non cash items such as depreciation, budget neutral recharges for common services and capital expenditure.

2006-07 is used as the reference year in the above table for calculating real term values of the budgets for years 2006-07 to 2008-09.

GDP Deflators are extracted from Treasury Website.

### Natural Gas: Grants

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of central gas government grants went to *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas in the most recent period for which figures are available. [227918]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

The Warm Front Scheme in the current scheme year (1 April to 30 September 2008) has assisted 16,796 properties classified as rural. The scheme does not specifically record the number of urban properties assisted. However, during this period the scheme assisted 108,673 households in total; following the working definitions of rural and urban used by the national audit office, this would mean that the scheme has assisted 91,877 properties that may be classed as urban. The proportions, according to these definitions, are:

Rural—15 per cent.
Urban—85 per cent.

### Non-departmental Public Bodies

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1218-20W, on non-departmental public bodies, if he will break down the budget savings over 2008-09 to 2009-10 for *(a)* Natural England, *(b)* Carbon Trust, *(c)* RPA Operations and *(d)* Animal Health by main spending areas; [239607]

(2) if he will break down the budget savings over 2007-08 to 2008-09 of *(a)* Nature England, *(b)* Carbon Trust, *(c)* Encams, *(d)* RPA Operations and *(e)* Marine and Fisheries Agency by main spending areas. [239610]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Pesticides

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department plans to take on pesticide spraying following the recent high court ruling by Mr. Justice Collins on the matter. [239354]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Invertebrates

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the populations of *(a)* bees, *(b)* moths, *(c)* butterflies, *(d)* beetles, *(e)* upwing flies and *(f)* other invertebrates in the UK in each of the last five years. [239358]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Plastics: Recycling

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to fund new mixed plastics recycling plants; and if he will make a statement. [238638]

**Jane Kennedy:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities are not served by a mixed plastics recycling plant. [236639]

**Jane Kennedy:** The rigid mixed plastics plant recently commissioned by J&A Young in Mansfield has a capacity of circa 80,000 tonnes per annum and as such could process all the rigid mixed plastics packaging waste currently collected by UK authorities.

### Public Relations: Forestry Commission

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 476W, on public relations: Forestry Commission, if he will break down the indicative cost for 2007-08 by category of services provided. [239465]

**Huw Irranca-Davies** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]:* The nature of the Forestry Commission's activities means that individual staff deal with several aspects of communications as part of a single project and it is therefore not possible to break down costs into discrete communications activities. An indicative breakdown can be given for the broad areas of activity.

Promotion of the public forest estate, including advertising and marketing of events, promotion of visitor facilities and attractions and literature for walks, cycling facilities etc., amounted to £316,000.

Press, media and internet communications carried out by Forestry Commission staff and external agencies working on the Commission's behalf amounted to £544,000.

Corporate publicity, which includes the promotion of sustainable forestry policy and practice, grants and licences literature, events and trade shows amounted to £120,000.

### Quarantine

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for human health of the expiry in 2010 of the UK derogations on the quarantine arrangements for pet animals entering the United Kingdom from non-EU countries; and if he will make a statement. [236234]

**Jane Kennedy:** EC Regulation 998/2003 sets out the animal health requirements for movement of pets within the European Union and into the EU from other countries. The regulation makes provision for a pet entering the EU from a third country which does not meet the appropriate animal health requirements to either be placed under official control until it meets those requirements, or returned to its country of origin or, as a last resort, be euthemised where return or isolation in quarantine is not possible. Those conditions will remain in place beyond 2010.

At present, pet animals entering the UK from countries not listed in the EC regulation are licensed in to quarantine for six months and are vaccinated against rabies immediately on their arrival. They are also observed and monitored for any signs of disease or illness whilst in quarantine.

An assessment of the potential risks to public health that could arise as a result of pet dogs, cats and ferrets entering the UK from third countries not listed in EC Regulation 998/2003 has been carried out and is currently being considered across Government in developing our future strategy for the UK Pet Travel Scheme in the event that our derogations from that regulation lapse in 2010.

The shape of the UK's pet movement controls, including quarantine, that may apply in 2010 is under review and is being discussed with the European Commission. These controls need to be based on a good understanding of the disease risks and are being considered on the basis of scientific evidence. We are also in discussions with the other four member states who also have derogations to the pet movement regulation.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the quarantine arrangements will be for pet animals entering the United Kingdom from non-European Union countries when the UK derogations expire in 2010; how these requirements will differ between countries identified as having favourable and unfavourable rabies status; what assessment he has made of the Government's policy in comparison with those applied in other EU member states; and if he will make a statement. [236354]

**Jane Kennedy:** The pet movement derogations that apply to the UK as well as to Sweden, Ireland, Malta and Finland are due to expire on 30 June 2010. The extension to the derogations was granted as the European Commission is still considering its position regarding the shape of the Community pet movement rules that will be in place in 2010. DEFRA is currently engaged in discussions with the European Commission, the Department of Health and the other four member states with derogations with regard to our respective positions on pet movement controls come 2010.

At present, pet animals entering the UK from third countries which are not listed in an Annex to EC Regulation 998/2003 as amended, i.e. the pet passport regulation, are required to be licensed into quarantine for a period of six months. Furthermore, pet animals from other third countries which do not comply with the animal health requirements laid down in that regulation may not freely enter the UK but will either have to remain outside the UK until such time as they meet the requirements in full or be licensed into quarantine in the UK. The regulation also requires that any pet animal entering the European Community from a third country which does not meet the entry requirements shall either be re-exported, kept under official control until such time as it does comply with those requirements or, in the last resort, put down.

For the majority of other member states, pet animals from countries not listed in the regulation may enter their territory without the need for quarantine as long as they have met certain pre-entry requirements, including rabies vaccination and a blood test.

In 2006, my Department carried out a review of the UK rabies import control policies and as part of that review commissioned an independent scientific risk assessment on rabies import controls. This risk assessment has been published on the DEFRA website. The overall

conclusion from the review was that our current controls may no longer be proportionate to the risk of rabies entering the UK. No changes have yet been made to our import controls for pets as a result of that review as we are reviewing further evidence to inform our discussions with the European Commission on the shape of the controls that should be in place in 2010.

We are currently reviewing our position, including a review of published scientific evidence, on what the appropriate entry controls for pets, including those from countries with a less than favourable rabies status, would be for the UK.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government has sought relevant expert opinion on the human and animal health implications of the expiry of the UK derogations relating to pet quarantine arrangements in 2010. [236355]

**Jane Kennedy:** The shape of the UK's pet movement controls, including quarantine, that may apply in 2010 is under review and is being discussed with the European Commission.

In 2006, as part of a review of the UK's rabies import control policy, including the ability to place pet animals into quarantine if necessary, we obtained expert opinion through separate independent veterinary risk assessments on rabies and other exotic diseases, such as those carried by certain ticks and tapeworms. The risk assessments closely examined our existing controls and those controls that may apply should the current derogations which apply to the UK lapse or change in some other way in 2010. Both risk assessments have also been considered by the independent expert Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens. The risk assessment have been placed on the DEFRA website. During the review of our rabies import controls we also sought views from a range of stakeholders including veterinary organisations and Government Scientific advisers.

An assessment of the potential risks to public health that could arise from the introduction of diseases and disease vectors that are exotic to the UK via pet dogs, cats and ferrets entering the UK has been carried out and is currently being considered across Government in developing our future strategy for the UK pet travel scheme in the event that the derogations lapse from EC Regulation 998/2003 lapse in 2010.

## Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236894]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** During the last 12 months (for the period July 2006 to July 2007) the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has received less than five official complaints of racial abuse and therefore the information is withheld the grounds of confidentiality.

## Recycling

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice he has given to local authorities on *(a)* the collection of waste material for recycling and *(b)* the storage of such material; and if he will make a statement. [235821]

**Jane Kennedy:** In general the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) established the Recycling and Organics Technical Advisory Team (ROTATE) with the specific task of providing local authorities with advice and guidance on all the waste collection methodologies currently available. This advisory team has produced a wide range of guidance for local authorities including some covering the collection and storage of different recyclates. These can be accessed through WRAP's website at

http://www.wrap.org.uk.

More specifically in response to the impact of the recent economic downturn on markets for recyclates, DEFRA and the Environment Agency released a joint statement last week. This document has been published on the Environment Agency's website and can be accessed at

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/recyclables_position_2157872.pdf.

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many requests have been made to the Environment Agency for temporary increases in storage capacity for recyclable waste in each of the last 12 months. [239732]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Environment Agency do not hold a central record of temporary increases in storage capacity of recyclable waste. The Environment Agency has, however, seen no increase in requests in the last 12 months for permit modifications or registration of exemptions that may relate to storage of recyclables.

**Mr. Cox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Environment Agency, *(b)* Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee and *(c)* Local Government Association on the state of the recycling sector; [240015]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of current market conditions in the recycling industry on waste *(a)* treatment rates and *(b)* storage capacity. [240016]

**Jane Kennedy:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

## Redundancy

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be

spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (Y) his Department and its predecessor (Z) each of his Department's agencies. [237352]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** In 2007-08 627 staff left core DEFRA under a voluntary exit scheme at a cost of £51 million.

There is no voluntary exit scheme planned for 2008-09 or 2009-10.

Additional information has not yet been collated by the Department in the form requested.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [239162]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Reservoirs: Recreation Spaces

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* water safety and *(b)* other environmental regulations are in place that prevent public access to grassed areas above covered reservoirs; and if he will take steps to encourage water companies to allow such access, with particular reference to urban areas with limited access to green space. [238848]

**Jane Kennedy:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Rivers: South East

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what reports his Department and its predecessor commissioned on the rivers in *(a)* the South East and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the last 10 years. [231136]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Environment Agency is the statutory body with a duty to manage water resources in England and Wales. The Environment Agency regulates water abstraction from sources including rivers, lakes, canals and underground sources through a system of abstraction licensing, to minimise damage to the environment.

The Environment Agency has commissioned a number of reports in relation to water abstraction on rivers in the Thames Region, North East Area covering Hertfordshire, and Southern Region in the last 10 years.

A table containing a list of general reports has been placed in the House Libraries.

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) are six-year plans detailing how the Environment Agency is planning to manage water resources in a given area. They can be found on the Environment Agency's website.

Strategies exist for the following river systems, by Environment Agency operational Area:

*Southern Region—Kent and East Sussex*

- Stour
- North Kent
- Medway
- Rother
- Darent
- Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels

*Southern Region—Solent and South Downs*

- East Hampshire
- Arun and Western Streams
- Isle of Wight
- Adur and Ouse
- Test and Itchen
- New Forest

*Thames region (i.e. in more than one Area)*

- Thames Corridor
- Upper Lee

*Thames region—North East*

- Roding, Beam and Ingrebourne
- London
- Colne

*Thames region—South East*

- Loddon
- Wey
- Mole

*Thames region—West*

- Kennet and Vale of White Horse
- Cherwell, Thames and Wye
- Thames and South Chilterns
- Cotswolds

### Rural Payments Agency

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in processing grant applications made to the Rural Payments Agency by Mr. Norman Coles of N Maidstone, Kent; and if he will make a statement. [239234]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]:* Mr. Norman Coles of Vine Cottage, Lower Street, Broomfield, N Maidstone, Kent received a payment under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) for the 2006 scheme year. This was the first year in which he had claimed under the scheme.

The Rural Payments Agency did not receive an SPS application from Mr. Coles for the 2007 scheme year and he did not therefore receive an SPS payment for that year. Mr. Coles appealed against the decision under the SPS Appeal Procedure, and the appeal is currently being considered.

### Sustainable Development Commission

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to the future chairmanship of the Sustainable Development Commission; and whether Sir Jonathon Porritt has indicated a wish to continue as chair beyond the end of his present term of office in July 2009. [239007]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Waste and Resources Action Programme

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the *(a)* remuneration and *(b)* pension entitlement provided for each board member of the Waste and Resources Action Programme is; [239930]

(2) what expenditure the Waste and Resources Action Programme has incurred on overseas travel in the last 24 months; [239931]

(3) how many of the Waste and Resources Action Programme's staff work on issues relating to alternate weekly collections; [239940]

(4) what guidance the Waste and Resources Action Programme has provided to local authorities on alternate weekly collections since its establishment; [239941]

(5) what research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has commissioned in relation to household waste prevention in the last 12 months; [239942]

(6) if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the speeches and presentations made by the representatives of the Waste and Resources Action Programme at the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee's conference held in November 2008; [239943]

(7) pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 401W, on the Waste and Resources Action Programme, whether the liaison activity funded by the Waste and Resources Action Programme included liaison with *(a)* official representatives of, *(b)* hon. Members and *(c)* noble Lords from the (i) Conservative, (ii) Labour and (iii) Liberal Democrat political parties; [239997]

(8) pursuant to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1006W, on domestic wastes, what advice the Waste and Resources Action Programme has given to local authorities on any proposed charges for the collection of household waste; [239999]

(9) what funding his Department has provided for the Waste and Resources Action Programme in each year since its establishment; and what funding has been allocated for each of the next three years. [240012]

**Jane Kennedy:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2424-25W, on waste disposal: fees and charges, what the penalties are for placing domestic waste in a public, municipal bin. [232583]

**Jane Kennedy:** No such specific penalties exist, however, some such actions may constitute littering or fly-tipping which may in certain circumstances constitute an offence with penalties outlined in the Environmental protection Act 1990.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which local authorities have formally expressed an interest in participating in pilots for charges for the collection of household waste; [235074]

(2) how many local authorities have expressed interest in participating in a pilot waste incentive scheme; [235144]

(3) how many expressions of interest have so far been received from local authorities wishing to participate in pilots for waste incentive schemes. [235840]

**Jane Kennedy:** My hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, Deptford (Joan Ruddock) wrote to local authorities on 20 June inviting them to come forward, with a deadline for submitting final proposals to run pilots of eight weeks after Royal Assent to the Climate Change Bill. The Government will announce the outcome in due course.

### Waste Management: Private Finance Initiatives

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress is being made towards the completion of private finance initiative contracts with local authorities as part of the waste management strategy in compliance with the EU Landfill Directive. [237648]

**Jane Kennedy:** DEFRA's Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme provides support to local authorities with their waste PFI contracts, both in the application and the procurement phase. Generic guidance to help all waste infrastructure projects has also been produced.

Progress of the waste PFI projects to 24 November 2008 are as follows:

| *Project status* | *Number of projects* | *PFI credit amount (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| Completed procurement and are operational | 6 | 184 |
| Completed procurement and are in construction | 5 | 251.8 |
| Completed procurement and are seeking planning approval | 7 | 330 |
| Currently in procurement | 14 | 1117 |
| Awaiting approval | 12 | [1] |

[1] To be confirmed.

### Water Supply

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons his Department has delayed publication of water companies' formal responses to consultation on the new draft Water Resource Management Plans. [239735]

**Jane Kennedy:** All water companies consulted on their draft water resources management plans earlier this year. All consultations had closed by 10 October

and water companies are now considering the representations received and preparing their statements of response.

On 24 October we issued a Direction granting all water companies an additional 13 weeks to prepare their statements of response. This was to allow more time for the companies to consider the representations and the changes that should be made to their draft water resources management plans.

Companies must publish their statements of response in accordance with regulation 4 of the Water Resources Management Plan Regulations 2007 (SI 2007 No.727) and all will have published their response by 6 February 2009.

### Wines

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's practice is on supplying non-alcoholic wine as a choice at official receptions or functions. [229129]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** Government Hospitality (GH), in Protocol Directorate, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, manages official ministerial hospitality for all Government Departments. GH does not serve branded 'low alcohol' or 'alcohol-free' wine at any of its events, and has no plans to do so, though a reasonable choice of non-alcoholic drinks may be provided.

## OLYMPICS

### Commonwealth Games 2014

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many meetings there have been between officials from her Department and the Scottish Executive to discuss preparations for the 2014 Commonwealth Games. [236869]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* Discussions relating to both London 2012 Olympic games and Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth games arise in a wide range of meetings.

The Government Olympic Executive (GOE), which is part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), was set up in 2006 as the lead Government organisation to oversee delivery of the London 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games.

GOE and the Scottish Executive officials meet every quarter through the Nations and Regions Group to discuss preparations for 2012 and securing the legacy from the games. These meetings have taken place over a number of years since the bid phase.

Up to March 2008, GOE also worked closely with all central Government Departments and the devolved Administrations through meetings of an Inter-Departmental Steering Group made up of senior responsible officials. The group was supported by departmental Olympic co-ordinators, including from the devolved Administrations.

We have also recently established a Government Operations Group, which includes representation from the Scottish Executive, to discuss matters of mutual interest across Government Departments in respect of staging the games.

Officials are working closely together to share any lessons learned from London 2012 with the Glasgow 2014 team. Most recently, the GOE organised a day of meetings on 21 July for the Scottish Executive to speak with officials from across build, staging and legacy teams in GOE to talk about the delivery process and planning for a games legacy.

Additionally, on specific issues, officials from GOE and the Scottish Executive are discussing the development of regulations under the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006 to restrict advertising and street trading during games time.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 490, on Commonwealth Games, how many invitations to meetings to discuss preparations for the 2012 Olympics and the 2014 Commonwealth Games have been declined by the Scottish Executive. [236870]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* Following correspondence from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to Scottish Ministers, Glasgow city council and the Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland, the Deputy First Minister declined the offer of regular quadripartite meetings to discuss Glasgow's preparations for 2014.

An ad hoc meeting is planned between Stewart Maxwell, Minister for Communities and Sport in the Scottish Government, and DCMS Ministers to discuss games issues on a date to be agreed.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will publish copies of all correspondence her Department has had with the Scottish Executive on preparations for the 2014 Commonwealth Games. [236871]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 18 November 2008]:* There has been numerous correspondence between UK Government Departments, and in particular the Government Olympic Executive, and the Scottish Executive about the London 2012 games and the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth games. To source and publish or place in the Library copies of all correspondence would incur a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in her Office in each year since its inception; what the target rates set for her Office are; and if she will make a statement. [239130]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Minister for the Olympics is part of the Cabinet Office.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office on 26 November 2008.

### Departmental Civil Servants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many civil servants have been employed by each non-departmental public body for which she has responsibility in each year since its inception; and if she will make a statement. [239132]

**Tessa Jowell:** The information is as follows:

*Olympic Lottery Distributor (OLD)*

The Olympic Lottery Distributor (OLD) does not employ staff on home civil service contracts of employment; and has not seconded any serving civil servants since it was established in 2005.

*The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA)*

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) was established as an NDPB by the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006.

The ODA does not employ staff on home civil service contracts of employment. One member of staff was seconded from the civil service in July 2006.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much her Office has spent on external consultancy in each year since its inception; and if she will make a statement. [239131]

**Tessa Jowell:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster) on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 286W.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by her Office in each year since its inception; and at what cost in each year. [239083]

**Tessa Jowell:** Since the inception of my office in June 2007 I have had one special adviser post. Two people have filled the role in that time.

The Prime Minister publishes on an annual basis, a list of the numbers and cost of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-101WS.

No press officers have been employed by my office since its inception. My press support is provided by the press office of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much *(a)* her Office and *(b)* each of the non-departmental public bodies for which she has responsibility spent on *(i)* publicity and *(ii)* advertising in each year since her Office's inception; and if she will make a statement. [239133]

**Tessa Jowell:** The information is not held in the format requested and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many press releases have been issued by her Office in each year since its inception; and if she will make a statement. [238986]

**Tessa Jowell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many contracts have been awarded by the Olympic Delivery Authority to date; and how many organisations have been awarded such contracts. [228437]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* As of 5 September 2008, 703 organisations had supplied the Olympic Delivery Authority through 1,306 different contracts.

### Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the target build cost per square foot for the Olympic village is; and what comparison she has made of the target build cost with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' index of house prices. [239970]

**Tessa Jowell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what exclusivity agreements are in force over the Olympic village; and for how long each is to be in force. [239972]

**Tessa Jowell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what effect the reduction in the number of proposed *(a)* apartments and *(b)* bed spaces has had on the construction costs of the Olympic village. [239973]

**Tessa Jowell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Olympic Games 2012: Finance

**Sir Robert Smith:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Woking of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 781-82W, whether KPMG have been asked to examine the respective value for money of holding the 2012 Olympic shooting events at *(a)* Woolwich and *(b)* Bisley. [239470]

**Tessa Jowell:** In testing and challenging the plans for a number of temporary venues, KPMG was instructed to evaluate whether Woolwich represents best value for money compared with alternative options. This work on the shooting venue is ongoing and final decisions are yet to be made by the Olympic Board. However, subject

to ensuring that it does not contain commercially sensitive material, the KPMG report will be published as announced on 19 November by the Olympic Board.

### Olympic Games 2012: Scotland

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many meetings there have been between officials of her Office and the Scottish Executive to discuss co-operation over the preparations for the 2012 Olympics. [236766]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* Discussions relating to both London 2012 Olympic games and Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth games arise in a wide range of meetings.

The Government Olympic Executive (GOE), which is part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), was set up in 2006 as the lead Government organisation to oversee delivery of the London 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games.

GOE and the Scottish Executive officials meet every quarter through the Nations and Regions Group to discuss preparations for 2012 and securing the legacy from the games. These meetings have taken place over a number of years since the bid phase.

Up to March 2008, GOE also worked closely with all central Government Departments and the devolved Administrations through meetings of an Inter-Departmental Steering Group made up of senior responsible officials. The group was supported by Departmental Olympic Co-ordinators, including from the devolved Administrations.

We have also recently established a Government Operations Group, which includes representation from the Scottish Executive, to discuss matters of mutual interest across Government Departments in respect of staging the games.

Officials are working closely together to share any lessons learned from London 2012 with the Glasgow 2014 team. Most recently, the GOE organised a day of meetings on 21 July for the Scottish Executive to speak with officials from across build, staging and legacy teams in GOE to talk about the delivery process and planning for a games legacy.

Additionally, on specific issues, officials from GOE and the Scottish Executive are discussing the development of regulations under the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006 to restrict advertising and street trading during games time.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library a copy of correspondence relating to meetings her Office has had with the Scottish Executive on preparations for the 2012 Olympics. [236767]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* There has been numerous correspondence between UK Government Departments, and in particular the Government Olympic Executive, and the Scottish Executive about the London 2012 games and the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth games. To source and publish or place in the Library copies of all correspondence would incur a disproportionate cost.

### Olympic Games 2012: Security

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much of the £600 million of security budget for the London 2012 Olympics has been provisionally allocated for the headquarters building. [239971]

**Tessa Jowell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many buildings are under consideration for the headquarters of the security function for the London 2012 Olympics; and by what criteria the buildings under consideration will be judged. [239975]

**Tessa Jowell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Olympic Games 2012: Wales

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the value is of all contracts awarded by the Olympic Delivery Authority to businesses and organisations in Wales. [232315]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* I am awaiting advice from the Olympic Delivery Authority and will write to the hon. Member once this is received. I will also place a copy of the letter in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much her Office has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since its inception; how much she estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [239045]

**Tessa Jowell:** My Office has not spent anything on focus groups or opinion polls since its inception. I estimate that my office will not spend anything on either category in 2008-09.

Expenditure by the Government Olympic Executive on focus groups and opinion polls will be included in figures provided by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, in his answer to the hon. Member's question tabled on 19 November 2008.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Pests

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the Commission has made of the number of *(a)* mice, *(b)* rats and *(c)* other vermin on the House of Commons estate in each of the last 10 years; and what recent discussions the Commission has had with the House of Lords authorities on this matter. [238553]

**Nick Harvey:** On the House of Commons estate records of evidence of mice go back to 2001 and are as follows—200 sightings in 2001; 199 in 2002; 69 in 2003; 143 in 2004; 58 in 2005; 163 in 2006; 81 in 2007 and 79 so far in 2008.

Evidence of rats is virtually non existent on the House of Commons estate and has been at this very low level for many years.

Other vermin monitored and controlled include ants, fleas and flies, but with the exception of flies, each has less than 10 reported complaints per annum across the House of Commons estate. Complaints about flies reached levels of 16 in 2001; 14 in 2002; 12 in 2003; 17 in 2004; 23 in 2006; 36 in 2007 and 79 in 2008.

The service provision on the Parliamentary Estate is common to both Houses and the Parliamentary Estates Directorate liaises regularly with officers within the House of Lords, focusing on managers with a particular interest, such as the Lords Refreshment Department.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what his most recent assessment is of the extent of carpet infestation by vermin in the House of Commons estate. [238554]

**Nick Harvey:** An infestation of Common House Moth (Tineola bisselliella) was first reported in early 2008 and has been successfully under treatment for the last nine months. The moths were first detected in the T Block area of the Palace of Westminster and quickly spread to areas throughout the Estate. The number of reported specimen counts has fallen steadily from its peak in May 2008 with moths counts of 2,507 to its current level of 907.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Capital Expenditure

**Mr. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Public Prosecution Service in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237868]

(2) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Northern Ireland Prison Service in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237869]

(3) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Forensic Science Northern Ireland Service in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237870]

(4) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Youth Justice Agency in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237871]

(5) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Compensation Agency in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237872]

(6) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Police Service of Northern Ireland in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237873]

(7) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Northern Ireland Policing Board in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237874]

(8) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Office of the Police Ombudsman in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237875]

(9) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Northern Ireland Police Fund in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237876]

(10) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237877]

(11) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237878]

(12) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Northern Ireland Probation Board in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237879]

(13) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Northern Ireland Law Commission in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237880]

(14) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Independent Assessor for Police Service of Northern Ireland Recruitment Applications in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237881]

(15) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Parades Commission in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237883]

(16) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Police Rehabilitation and Retaining Trust in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237884]

(17) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the independent monitoring boards of *(a)* Maghaberry, *(b)* Magilligan and *(c)* Hydebank Wood prisons in the next (i) five and (ii) 10 years; [237885]

(18) To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Prisoner Ombudsman in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237886]

(19) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Life Sentence Review Commissioners in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237887]

(20) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Commissioner for Hearings under Prison Rule 109B (Loss of Remission Commissioner) in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237888]

(21) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the State Pathologist in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; [237889]

(22) what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the medical appeal tribunals in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years. [237890]

**Mr. Woodward:** Under the 2007 comprehensive spending review (CSR07), capital budgets have been allocated up to the 2010-11 financial year. No capital budgets have been allocated beyond then.

The following table shows the current capital budget allocations for the bodies listed until 2010-11:

| Body | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | £000 2010-11 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Public Prosecution Service | 1,780 | 1,935 | 270 |
| Northern Ireland Prison Service | 23,400 | 23,692 | 26,074 |
| Forensic Science Agency | 2,284 | 1,910 | 590 |
| Youth Justice Agency | 1,250 | 200 | 200 |
| Compensation Agency | 1,200 | 60 | 70 |
| Police Service of Northern Ireland | 45,136 | 53,348 | 70,183 |
| Northern Ireland Policing Board | 15 | 15 | 350 |
| Office of the Police Ombudsman | 295 | 260 | 185 |
| Northern Ireland Police Fund | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| RUC George Cross Foundation | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Northern Ireland Probation Board | 3,000 | 1,798 | 1,803 |
| Northern Ireland Law Commission | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Independent Assessor for Police Service of Northern Ireland Recruitment Applications | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Parades Commission | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Independent Monitoring Boards | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Prisoner Ombudsman | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Life Sentence Review Commissioners | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Commissioner for Hearings under Prison Rule 109B | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| State Pathologist | Nil | Nil | Nil |

The medical appeal tribunals do not come under the jurisdiction of the Northern Ireland Office.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in the last 12 months. [237482]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following table shows expenditure by the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies, but excluding Executive NDPBs, on Christmas cards, receptions and decorations in the 2007-08 financial year.

| | Northern Ireland Office | £ Agencies |
|---|---|---|
| Cards | 1,850 | 1,243 |
| Receptions | 32,647 | 1,125 |
| Decorations | 1,811 | 1,438 |

These figures represent a decrease in expenditure of around £2,500 compared to the 2006-07 financial year.

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Community Development

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many social action projects he has visited in the last 12 months. [234229]

**Mr. Woodward:** My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Northern Ireland and I make various visits to organisations involved in areas associated with social and community activity, mainly in the criminal justice sector. However, since devolution the Department of Social Development has assumed responsibility for most organisations involved in social action activities.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; what the target rates set for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [238930]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office does not record centrally the rate of staff absence. The following table details the rate of sickness absence and the target rates set in the Northern Ireland Office for which figures are available. The figures given are for the core NIO, its Agencies and legal offices combined, as this is how sickness absence is recorded and targets set. The Department does not record centrally the rate of absence or the rate of sickness absence in its non-departmental public bodies. The information not recorded centrally could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| | Working days lost per staff year | Target rate set |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 12.8 | [1] |
| 2001-02 | 13.4 | [1] |
| 2003-04 | 14.0 | [1] |
| 2004-05 | 12.6 | [1] |
| 2005-06 | 11.2 | 11.6 |
| 2006-07 | 11.8 | 10.4 |
| 2007-08 | 9.9 | 9.4 |
| 2008-09 | n/a | 8.5 |

[1] Target rate not set.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237423]

**Paul Goggins:** Yes.

### Departmental Civil Servants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many civil servants have been employed by each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [239099]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table details the number of administrative grade civil servants within the Northern Ireland Office's agencies and legal offices from 1997 to 2008. The agencies of the NIO are Forensic Science NI, the Compensation Agency, the NI Prison Service and the Youth Justice Agency (from April 2003). The legal offices of the NIO are the Crown Solicitors Office and Public Prosecution Service.

With a couple of exceptions, executive NDPBs are non-Crown bodies and employees are not civil servants although civil servants can be seconded or loaned to NDPBs. Information on the number of employees in executive NDPBs is published in the annual Cabinet Office "Public Bodies" publication. Copies are available from the Libraries of the House.

Advisory NDPBs do not usually employ staff. They are typically supported by civil servants from the sponsoring Department.

*Number of administrative grade civil servants*

| *Agency* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *(April) 2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FSNI | 119 | 123.5 | 117.5 | 114.5 | 125 | 131.5 | 141 | 149 | 168 | 176 | 175 | 173 |
| Compensation Agency | 121.5 | 122.5 | 129.5 | 108.5 | 139 | 143.5 | 146 | 129 | 120 | 101 | 81 | 77 |
| NIPS | 401.5 | 406.5 | 415 | 348 | 396 | 376.5 | 391 | 373 | 376 | 464 | 436 | 444 |
| YJA | | | | | | | 2 | 53 | 66 | 70 | 74 | 70 |
| CSO | 108.5 | 109 | 103 | 93.5 | 78 | 72 | 73 | 75 | 75 | 78 | 80 | 82 |
| PPS | 148 | 163 | 155 | 153.5 | 161 | 164.5 | 224 | 277 | 345 | 450 | 539 | 565 |

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [239065]

**Mr. Woodward:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* emails, *(b)* telephone calls, *(c)* faxes and *(d)* letters he has received in his capacity as Secretary of State relating to official business since May 2007. [234236]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Early Retirement

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many employees in his Department took early retirement in each of the last five financial years; and at what total cost. [238961]

**Mr. Woodward:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on employing press and communications officers in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies in each of the last three years. [239676]

**Mr. Woodward:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and at what cost in each year. [239079]

**Mr. Woodward:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much surplus land *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies own; and what the (i) area and (ii) estimated monetary value of each site is. [236418]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office and its agencies have registered three sites as surplus to requirements and work is in hand to dispose of these assets. The area of these sites is an estimated 6.95 acres.

Disclosure of the values of these sites would not be beneficial to the public purse or the commercial interests of the Department.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [237469]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office does not have any full time equivalent staff responsible for branding activity. However, from time to time staff in various parts of the office are engaged in related activities, including maintaining and ensuring the application of corporate branding. Therefore a percentage of their time will be periodically devoted to brand management activities.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238947]

**Mr. Woodward:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [238174]

**Mr. Woodward:** Special advisers are temporary civil servants and as such their travel arrangements are made in accordance with the rules and guidance set out in the Civil Service Management Code or other guidance and handbooks used by the NIO for such purposes. They have no entitlement to an allocated Government car and are required to use the most efficient and economic means of travel in all circumstances. In the past year approximately £1,300 has been paid for the use of Government cars by special advisers.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236929]

**Mr. Woodward:** Information on the remit for each non-departmental public body sponsored by my Department can be found in the Departmental Report, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Details of what budgets they have been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 are detailed in the following table.

£000

| Non-Departmental Public Body | Budgets for 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-2011 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Boundary Commission for NI[1] | 57 | 0 | 0 |
| Independent Assessor for Police Service NI Recruitment Vetting | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| NI Human Rights Commission | 1,652 | 1,696 | 1,742 |
| NI Police Fund | 1,849 | 1,899 | 1,950 |
| NI Policing Board | 8,666 | 8,797 | 9,035 |
| Criminal Justice Inspection NI | 1,453 | 1,525 | 1,561 |
| NI Police Ombudsman for NI | 9,682 | 9,938 | 10,199 |
| Parades Commission for NI[2] | 1,860 | 1,932 | 2,206 |
| Probation Board for NI | 16,778 | 18,597 | 19,997 |
| RUC George Cross Foundation | 154 | 159 | 162 |
| NI Law Commission | 500 | 514 | 527 |
| PRRT[3] | 2,234 | 2,294 | 2,356 |
| PSNI[3] | 924,411 | 915,594 | 868,612 |

[1] The Boundary Commission has recently completed its Fifth Periodic Review. The Commission is currently not undertaking significant work and for this reason the Commission offices were closed and its Secretariat was wound-up from 1 October 2008. During this period of inactivity any administrative costs will be met directly by the NIO.
[2] Non-profit Institution.
[3] Although not strictly an NDPB it is analogous to one as per HM Treasury and Cabinet Office.

These budgets are Resource DEL; they are not fixed and can be adjusted by the Directorate and Department if required.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [239659]

**Paul Goggins:** The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) operates three bonus schemes.

Directors (senior civil service pay band 2) have delegated authority to award special bonuses in their business areas throughout the reporting year.

Annual performance related bonuses for staff below the senior civil service are part of the NIO's overall pay arrangements. The bonus levels are reviewed by the Departmental Board each year. Individual bonus recommendations are made by line managers and moderated by panels across the Department under the supervision of more senior managers.

Bonuses for SCS staff are calculated on the basis of the Government's response to the recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body. Individual bonus recommendations are made by line managers and these are moderated by a number of remuneration committees with the involvement of a non-executive director.

The distribution of awards in 2007-08 is shown in the following tables.

*Special bonus awards*

| Grade | Number of staff receiving bonus 2007-08 | Amount 2007-08 (£) |
|---|---|---|
| SCS | 0 | 0 |
| Grade A | 69 | 29,029 |
| Grade B1 | 82 | 24,940 |

*Special bonus awards*

| Grade | Number of staff receiving bonus 2007-08 | Amount 2007-08 (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Grade B2 | 75 | 21,365 |
| Grade C | 187 | 50,767 |
| Assistant Scientific Officer | 18 | 5,610 |
| Grade D1 | 192 | 40,635 |
| Grade D2 | 77 | 15,605 |

*End year bonuses to non SCS staff*

| Grade | Number of staff receiving bonus 2007-08 | Amount 2007-08 (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Grade A | 39 | 46,020 |
| Grade B1 | 55 | 56,650 |
| Grade B2 | 48 | 42,240 |
| Grade C | 88 | 64,240 |
| Assistant Scientific Officer | 7 | 4,725 |
| Grade D1 | 99 | 62,370 |
| Grade D2 | 31 | 16,430 |

*End year bonuses to SCS staff*

| Grade | Number of staff receiving bonus | Amount (£) |
|---|---|---|
| SCS 2007-08 | 42 | 317,200 |

### Departmental Postal Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department uses the Royal Mail as the primary company for sending its post, parcels and packages. [238118]

**Mr. Woodward:** For the distribution of post, parcels and packages my Department predominantly uses an in-house courier service. Any mail that is not delivered by this means generally goes by Royal Mail.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many press releases have been issued by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238982]

**Mr. Woodward:** Records of the number of press releases issued by my Department (core only) are held from 2001-02 onwards. Details by year are shown in the following table.

| Financial year | Number of press releases issued by NIO |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 102 |
| 2002-03 | 202 |
| 2003-04 | 188 |
| 2004-05 | 289 |
| 2005-06 | 362 |
| 2006-07 | 360 |
| 2007-08 | 198 |

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [239653]

**Mr. Woodward:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Television

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the television licence fee in his official Ministerial residence is paid from public funds. [236657]

**Mr. Woodward:** Hillsborough Castle is a working Government building with Government offices and is also used as a residence for members of the Royal family, visiting dignitaries to Northern Ireland and also the Secretary of State and Ministers when staying in Northern Ireland. The TV licence is paid by the Northern Ireland Office.

### Devolution

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has received on the implications of (*a*) the agreement between the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Fein on devolution of policing and justice and (*b*) the other main political parties in Northern Ireland not being party to this agreement. [239837]

**Mr. Woodward:** The historic agreement announced by the First and deputy First Ministers on 18 November sets out the process that will lead to the transfer of policing and justice powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly. The transfer of powers remains subject to agreement within the Assembly and will require cross-community support, as set out in section 4 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. All Northern Ireland parties will therefore be involved in the Assembly's decisions about which powers should be transferred and when.

### Domestic Violence: Convictions

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent steps have been taken to improve conviction rates in domestic violence cases in Northern Ireland. [233490]

**Paul Goggins:** The 'Tackling Violence at Home' strategy, which we launched in October 2005, sends a clear message from Government that domestic violence is a crime and is not acceptable in any circumstances. In addition to providing better support for victims of domestic violence, one of the overall aims of the strategy is to hold perpetrators and abusers accountable and provide effective interventions for their behaviour. For example, a current media campaign highlights that a perpetrator can be prosecuted even when a victim remains silent.

The Policing Plan sets the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) the target of reducing the incidence of repeat victimisation of domestic abuse. Achievement of this target will rest on protective interventions including an increase in convictions. Recent initiatives include the establishment of Public Protection Units in April 2008 and the publication, in July 2008, of an updated policy for police officers responding to incidents of domestic abuse. We are also working towards implementation of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) across Northern Ireland.

In order to support the PSNI in this important work, we have given them greater powers of arrest. Changes in legislation mean that police do not need a warrant to arrest someone committing the offence of common assault. PSNI have also been working closely with the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland to improve evidence gathering, and in June 2008 training was delivered aimed at improving investigation and case management.

### Domestic Visits

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days he spent in Northern Ireland on official business in each of the last 12 months; and on how many occasions he stayed overnight. [220774]

**Mr. Woodward:** The number of days and overnight stays I have spent in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months is shown in the following table.

| | *Day* | *Overnight* |
|---|---|---|
| October 2007 | 14 | 5 |
| November 2007 | 8 | 2 |
| December 2007 | 14 | 8 |
| January 2008 | 7 | 2 |
| February 2008 | 8 | 2 |
| March 2008 | 10 | 6 |
| April 2008 | 4 | 3 |
| May 2008 | 19 | 9 |
| June 2008 | 9 | 4 |
| July 2008 | 4 | 3 |
| August 2008 | 1 | 0 |
| September 2008 | 9 | 5 |
| October 2008 | 9 | 4 |

The hon. Gentleman will be aware the offices of the Secretary of State are in Belfast and in London; Northern Ireland Office business is conducted in both places. As a Member of the Cabinet I have duties which require attendance in London for Cabinet, Cabinet Committees, the National Economic Council as well as additional duties at Westminster.

### Drugs: Crime

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were convicted of drug dealing offences in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [239269]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table gives the number convicted of drug dealing offences for the calendar years 1997 to 2006 (the latest years available).

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

*Number convicted of drug dealing offences 1997-2006*[1]

| | *Number convicted* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 207 |
| 1998 | 171 |
| 1999 | 142 |
| 2000 | 198 |
| 2001 | 152 |
| 2002 | 112 |
| 2003 | 119 |
| 2004 | 182 |
| 2005 | 149 |
| 2006 | 159 |

[1] Drug dealing convictions include offences relating to the importing, exporting, producing and supplying of drugs and the offence of cultivating cannabis.

### Fines: Defaulters

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many and what percentage of admissions to prisons in Northern Ireland resulted from defaulting on fines in each of the last five years; [239265]

(2) how many days were spent in prison by those imprisoned for defaulting on fines in each of the last five years; [239266]

(3) how long on average those imprisoned for defaulting on fines spent in prison in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [239267]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

| | *Total time spent in prison by fine defaulters (Days)* | *Average time spent (Days)* | *Number of receptions of fine defaulters* | *Fine defaulter receptions as a percentage of total prison receptions* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 5,539 | 3.8 | 1,453 | 27.4 |
| 2004 | 6,730 | 4.1 | 1,647 | 30.2 |
| 2005 | 7,970 | 4.4 | 1,814 | 30.7 |
| 2006 | 7,980 | 4.1 | 1,951 | 30.1 |
| 2007 | 7,356 | 4.3 | 1,724 | 28.4 |
| Total | 35,575 | 4.1 | 8,589 | 29.4 |

I am committed to improving the enforcement of fines and reducing the number of fine defaulters sent to prison. A reduction in receptions from 1,951 in 2006 to 1,724 in 2007 is welcome and something that I want to build on.

A reminder scheme to promote prompt payment is being piloted by the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for Delyn (Mr. Hanson) and is proving successful. It has already shown a 32 per cent. reduction in the issue of default warrants.

I recently carried out a public consultation on a range of proposals to tackle fine default. The proposals we have made would ensure courts have all the information they need to set appropriate levels of fine; improve how we enforce fines that are set; and expand the range of

options available where people still default on a fine. I am currently considering the responses to the consultation and will announce the outcome shortly.

### Firearms: Northern Ireland

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many legally-held weapons have been stolen from properties in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years, broken down by police *(a)* districts and *(b)* areas. [238073]

**Paul Goggins:** That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Kidnapping: Northern Ireland

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many attempted child abductions were reported to the police in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years, broken down by police *(a)* district and *(b)* area. [238074]

**Paul Goggins:** That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Prosecutions

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of crimes resulted in successful prosecutions in Northern Ireland in the latest period for which figures are available. [234174]

**Paul Goggins:** At present recorded crime is offence-based (i.e. based on the number of crimes recorded), whereas conviction data are offender-based (i.e. based on the number of offenders). As more than one offender may be prosecuted for a single crime, it is not possible to compare the two datasets.

It is, however possible to determine the number of recorded crimes and the number of people that were convicted at the Crown court and the magistrates courts. In 2007-08 there were 108,468 crimes recorded by PSNI. There were 26,363 convictions in these courts in 2006 (the latest year for which data are available). Court data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

### Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239041]

**Mr. Woodward:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Rape

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of allegations of rape made to the police in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years were later withdrawn by the individual; how many and what percentage of alleged rape cases referred to the Public Prosecution Service were not prosecuted for lack of evidence; and how many and what percentage of cases brought to prosecution resulted in conviction. [237392]

**Paul Goggins:** The data are not available in the format requested. In 2006-07, there were 431 cases of rape recorded by the PSNI while in 2007-08, there were 382 cases. Figures for the number of cases withdrawn by the individual are not available for these years but the establishment of the Rape Crime Unit in April 2008 aims to provide meaningful data regarding attrition.

Table 1 documents the number of rape cases and suspects received by PPS, number of suspects who were not prosecuted and the percentage of suspects not prosecuted for the calendar years 2006 and 2007.

Table 2 documents the number of prosecutions and convictions for rape and the percentage conviction rate for the calendar years 2005 and 2006 (the latest available years). Data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

It is not possible to reconcile the number of prosecutions and convictions with data for PSNI and PPS. Data relating to the number of rapes recorded by PSNI are case based whereas data relating to prosecutions and convictions are person based. Data for PPS refer to the number of cases received for the offence of rape and the number of suspects for this offence. This information can change, for instance, by reducing the offence to a lesser charge eg the offence of indecent assault. Finally data for PPS take account of the number of cases received during a particular calendar year; these cases would not necessarily be proceeded with through the courts during this calendar year.

The Government are committed to tackling the high rate of attrition in cases involving rape and attempted rape in Northern Ireland. The Regional Strategy on tackling sexual violence and abuse in Northern Ireland, a joint initiative between DHSSPS and NIO, sets out the commitment of Government to establish the extent of attrition at each stage of the criminal justice process and to identify the particular causes of the fall-out of cases.

One of the strategy's key measures is the establishment of NI's first Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) which will play a key role in supporting victims in reporting offences and assist in capturing the forensic evidence which may secure more convictions.

*Table 1: Number of cases and suspects, number of cases not prosecuted and non-prosecution rate for the offence of rape 2006 and 2007*[1]

| | *Number of cases received by PPS* | *Number of suspects* | *Number of suspects not prosecuted* | *Percentage of suspects not prosecuted* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 155 | 172 | 137 | 80 |
| 2007 | 217 | 247 | 185 | 75 |

*Source:*
[1] Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland

*Table 2: Number of prosecutions and convictions for rape and percentage conviction rate 2005 and 2006[1]*

| | Prosecutions | Convictions | Percentage convicted |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 21 | 4 | 19 |
| 2007 | 32 | 11 | 34 |

*Source:*
[1] Northern Ireland Office Statistics and Research Branch

### Recruitment: Religion

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people who are *(a)* Catholic and *(b)* Protestant are employed by his Department; and what percentage of the total number of employees these groups represent. [234638]

**Mr. Woodward:** In compliance with the Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998 monitoring regulations, all Northern Ireland Office (NIO) staff working in Northern Ireland, both Home Civil Servants and Northern Ireland Civil Servants, are monitored for community background. The Department also has a small number of staff working in London whose community background is not monitored.

As at 1 October 2008, the NIO Core Department and its Agencies comprises 2,091 staff, of whom 49 are based in London. Of the 2,042 staff in Northern Ireland, 1,278 (62.6 per cent.) are Protestant and 690 (33.8 per cent.) are Roman Catholic, while the community background of 74 (3.6 per cent.) is not determined.

## JUSTICE

### Approved Premises

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints about the new facilities management contractors within the 101 probation approved premises were received in the year ended 31st October 2008; and how many were received in each of the last three years. [239126]

**Mr. Hanson:** New facilities management contracts for a portfolio of Ministry of Justice National Offender Management Service (NOMS) properties have been in operation since 30 June 2008. This includes services provided to approved premises owned by NOMS as part of the National Probation estate in England and Wales.

The contracts envisage and provide for the logging of complaints for service failures through a central help desk managed by the Home Office on behalf of NOMS. Since 30 June this year 241 formal complaints have been logged. Under the previous arrangements, the former suppliers recorded 836 complaints in 2005-06, 384 in 2006-07 and 397 in 2007-08.

### Brussels

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on visits by its staff to Brussels in 2007-08; and how many such visits were made by *(a)* air and *(b)* rail. [239419]

**Maria Eagle:** It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Children Act 1989

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many Children Act proceedings he expects to be brought by local authorities in each of the next three years; [238576]

(2) how many Children Act proceedings were brought by local authorities on each of the last five years. [238577]

**Bridget Prentice:** The main recommendations from the 2006 Review of the Child Care Proceedings were implemented through two key reforms: revised statutory guidance issued to local authorities and the Public Law Outline. It was estimated this could lead to a reduction in the number of care and supervision applications under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 of between 8 per cent. and 13 per cent. per annum, brought about through better early engagement with families through use of initiatives such as Family Group Conferences and early identification of alternatives such as kinship care, as well as better prepared applications to court.

The following table shows the number of applications in Public Law cases in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007.

*Table 1: Family courts matters affecting children: Public law applications made in each tier of court 2003 to 2007[1] — England and Wales*

| | | | | Public law[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Family proceedings courts[3,4] | County court[3] | High court | Total |
| 2003 | 13,200 | 5,380 | 456 | 19,036 |
| 2004 | 14,500 | 5,469 | 703 | 20,672 |
| 2005 | 15,800 | 6,705 | 814 | 23,319 |
| 2006 | 13800 | 6,286 | 729 | 20,715 |
| 2007 | 14,100 | 5,704 | 785 | 20,589 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures relate to the number of children subject to each application. For example, an application relating to two children will be counted twice.
2. Public law cases cover the following applications brought by local authorities or an authorised person (currently only the NSPCC): care order, discharge of care order, substitute supervision order for a care order, supervision order, discharge of supervision order, contact with a child in care, authority to refuse contact with a child in care, education supervision order, child assessment orders, emergency protection order, extension of emergency protection order, discharge of emergency protection order, recovery order, parental responsibility order, section 8 orders (residence, contact, prohibited steps, specific issue) and special guardianship order.
3. Figures for Family Proceedings Courts prior to April 2007 are likely to be an undercount. A new method of data collection was introduced in April 2007 which has improved the coverage and completeness of data. Any comparison with figures prior to April 2007 may be affected by the improved data recording.
4. Special Guardianship Orders figures in the Family Proceedings Courts are only available for those courts which share premises and administrative systems with county courts. The total has therefore been estimated based on the proportion of the total public law and private law applications made in each tier of court.
5. Research undertaken on behalf of Ministry of Justice has identified that some cases that have transferred from the Family Proceedings Court to the County Court have been incorrectly recorded as new applications in the County Court, thus inflating the number of new applications (see Masson et al, 2008).

*Source:*
Family Proceedings Courts: HMCS FamilyMan and manual returns. County Court and High Court: HMCS FamilyMan.

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which 93 local authorities responded to the consultation on public law family fees expressing concern that the new court fees would be unaffordable; [238578]

(2) which 12 local authorities responded to the consultation on public law family fees expressing concern that children would be put at risk due to the increase in court fees; [238579]

(3) what the expected fee income of HM Courts Service for Children Act proceedings is in each of the next three years. [238580]

**Bridget Prentice:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before prorogation. I will write to the hon. Member once the information is available and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

### Community Legal Advice Centres

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice where each of the (*a*) Community Legal Advice Centres and (*b*) Community Legal Advice Networks is located. [238575]

**Mr. Malik:** Community Legal Advice (CLA) centres have opened in Gateshead, Leicester, Portsmouth, Derby and Hull. There are no Community Legal Advice networks yet. The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is in discussions with nine other local authorities on the possibility of jointly commissioning a service, either a centre or a network, that would be operational before April 2010. These are:

1. Barking and Dagenham
2. Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend
3. East Riding of Yorkshire
4. Gloucestershire
5. Manchester
6. Stockport
7. Sunderland
8. Wakefield
9. West Sussex

### Community Orders

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of community sentences were breached in each of the last five years. [239245]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table shows the proportions of community sentences that terminated in England and Wales in each of the last five years for positive and negative reasons, including failing to comply with the order and conviction for further offences. Information specifically on the numbers or proportions of 'breaches' which resulted in orders being continued and not terminated is not held centrally. The improvement shown in positive terminations for the community rehabilitation order reflects the fact that this is a pre Criminal Justice Act 2003 sentence and was only given for offences committed before 4 April 2005. Negative terminations tend to occur earlier in the life of an order, leaving a higher proportion of these orders to terminate successfully over the course of time. This does not apply to the community punishment order, which is still available for juvenile offenders.

The information contained in this table can be found in chapter 5 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007 located online at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

*Termination of court orders by reason: England and Wales*

*Number of persons and percentages*

| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Community Rehabilitation Order* | | | | | |
| Ran their full course | 57 | 56 | 58 | 69 | 77 |
| Ran | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Terminated early for: Good progress | 9 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 6 |
| Failure to comply with requirements | 9 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| Conviction of offence | 19 | 18 | 19 | 11 | 6 |
| Other reasons | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| All CROs (=100%) | 60,427 | 60,584 | 50,745 | 31,216 | 9,380 |
| *Community Rehabilitation Order element of Community Punishment and Rehabilitation Order* | | | | | |
| Ran their full course | 48 | 45 | 45 | 59 | 65 |
| Ran | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Terminated early for: Good progress | 12 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 6 |
| Failure to comply with requirements | 13 | 14 | 13 | 10 | 12 |
| Conviction of offence | 20 | 21 | 23 | 14 | 10 |
| Other reasons | 7 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| All CROs (=100%) | 14,222 | 14,298 | 12,607 | 9,000 | 3,171 |
| *Community Punishment Order* | | | | | |
| Specified hours completed | 68 | 66 | 68 | 62 | 46 |
| Failure to comply with requirements | 12 | 12 | 11 | 14 | 21 |
| Conviction of an offence | 10 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 10 |
| Other change in circumstances | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

*Termination of court orders by reason: England and Wales*

| | *Number of persons and percentages* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Warrant unexecuted | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Other reason | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 16 |
| All CPOs (=100%) | 49,430 | 51,517 | 49,081 | 23,762 | 9,967 |
| *Community Punishment Order element of Community Punishment and Rehabilitation Order* | | | | | |
| Specified hours completed | 59 | 57 | 60 | 54 | 40 |
| Failure to comply with requirements | 15 | 15 | 13 | 15 | 20 |
| Conviction of an offence | 16 | 17 | 18 | 18 | 14 |
| Other change in circumstances | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Warrant unexecuted | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Other reason | 5 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 19 |
| All CPOs (=100%) | 14,654 | 15,159 | 13,919 | 6,288 | 2,510 |
| *Community Order* | | | | | |
| Ran their full course | | | | 39 | 47 |
| Terminated early for: | | | | | |
| Good progress | | | | 13 | 10 |
| Failure to comply with requirements | | | | 24 | 22 |
| Conviction of an offence | | | | 14 | 12 |
| Other reasons | | | | 10 | 10 |
| All Community orders (=100%) | | | | 70,577 | 113,829 |

*Note:*
The figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to increase levels of compliance with (*a*) community sentences and (*b*) other non-custodial sanctions. [239246]

**Maria Eagle:** It is important that community orders and other sanctions are enforced and that offenders comply with their orders. This remains a key priority for Government. The National Offender Management Service is improving performance on compliance by a range of measures which include:

(a) the provision of a compliance toolkit for all probation areas/trusts that highlights best practice;

(b) the implementation of the Offender Management Model in the community, which is designed to help motivate offenders to engage constructively with their community penalties and to improve targeting so that offenders are referred to the right services;

(c) the revision of National Standards for the management of offenders to ensure more effective action to improve the compliance of offenders with orders and licences;

(d) monitoring of the compliance performance of each probation area/trust, with follow up improvement work as required;

(e) utilising the £40 million additional funding for probation to invest in projects designed to improve the compliance of offenders.

In relation to other non custodial sanctions Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) is working towards improved performance through the provisions in the recently published Criminal Compliance and Enforcement Services Blueprint which was launched in July 2008. The blueprint sets out HMCS' strategic objective for enforcement which is for a cheaper, faster and more proportionate system that primarily focuses on first time compliance while continuing to apply the principles of rigorous enforcement to the hard core of defaulters. The blueprint covers fines collection and account management, community penalty breach enforcement, failure to appear warrant execution and confiscation order enforcement.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the effectiveness of community sentencing orders for shoplifting. [239439]

**Maria Eagle:** We have received representations from the hon. Member for the Vale of York and have met representatives of retail trade organisations to discuss available disposals for shoplifting.

For those who go to court and are convicted, a community sentence is available only where the offence is serious enough to warrant it. The Sentencing Guidelines Council is developing a definitive guideline on theft from a shop following full public consultation on a draft guideline. Sentencing in any individual case is entirely a matter for the court within the penalties prescribed by Parliament and taking account of any sentencing guidelines. Community sentences, where appropriate, can often be more effective at reducing re-offending than short prison sentences.

## Copyright: Crime

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on penalties for (*a*) physical and (*b*) online copyright infringement; and if he will make a statement. [239793]

**Mr. Hanson:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. and learned Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### CORE Electoral Database

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* budget is for the work underway on the CORE electoral database; and whether the (i) timescale and (ii) budget are in compliance with original estimates and targets. [238807]

**Mr. Wills:** The CORE project remains within its published budget of £9.7 million capital, with a further £2 million non-capital funds being added during the current spending round to support the appointment of the CORE Keeper. The cost of developing CORE from its launch to date, excluding staff costs, is £3,079,648.

The CORE project was launched in January 2004 with initial delivery of the project being envisaged in 2006-07. Following project initiation a detailed planning exercise was undertaken and this timescale was subsequently revised to reflect issues highlighted by the political parties in relation to the format and completeness of data held at that time on electoral registers. By undertaking work to introduce electoral registration data standards, CORE should provide a more reliable mechanism for donation checking. Following consultation in 2006-07, and to ensure the system developed would be as rigorous as possible, the scope of the project was expanded and associated timescales amended to accommodate the enhanced functionality now required (including some anti-fraud measures). Current time scales indicate that the full system should be operational in 2011.

The data standards were introduced following a direction from the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice) made under section 52 (1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c2) (as amended). The direction requires all Electoral Registration Officers in Great Britain to ensure that any electoral registration data held on electronic systems are formatted in compliance with the standards by 1 December 2009.

Local authorities have been allocated grants in aid to support the implementation, and the total amount made available is £2.4 million.

Another main strand of work is the gathering of user requirements that is scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2009. This work has been ongoing throughout 2008 including meetings with relevant organisations, and 13 workshops involving 280 electoral administrators in England, Wales and Scotland.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether a privacy impact assessment will be produced for the CORE electoral database. [238808]

**Mr. Wills:** Government Departments have committed as part of the Data Handling Review to undertake privacy impact assessments (PIA) on all projects that involve the processing of personal data. Once the CORE system requirements have been defined in 2009, a PIA will be undertaken.

### Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeal Panel for Northern Ireland: Finance

**Mr. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel for Northern Ireland in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years. [237882]

**Maria Eagle:** The Northern Ireland Court Service does not anticipate any capital expenditure for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel for Northern Ireland during the CSR 07 period (2008-09; 2009-10; and 2010-11). Funding beyond the CSR period has not yet been agreed.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since its inception; what the target rates set for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [238927]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007 bringing together the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and National Offender Management Service, including the prison and probation services and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Figures for the National Offender Management Service and HM Prison Service were the responsibility of the Home Office until the creation of the Ministry of Justice.

*April 2007 to March 2008*

| *Agency* | *Sick days* | *Average sick days* | *Government target* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Former DCA HQ | 17915.4 | 8.0 | 7.5 |
| Tribunals Service | 28056.2 | 10.7 | 7.5 |
| Her Majesty's Court Service | 215992.9 | 11.2 | 7.5 |
| OCJR | 12365 | 7.1 | 7.5 |
| HM Prison Service | 598868 | 11.7 | 11 |

The MOJ does not hold sickness absence information for its non-departmental public bodies centrally and it can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

The Ministry is currently undertaking a review of attendance management and is committed to enabling the highest level of attendance at work possible while ensuring that employees who are unwell are treated with understanding and sensitivity.

### Departmental Art Works

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor spent on artwork in each of the last five years. [239458]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007. The total spend on artwork since its creation has been £289,933.45.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237422]

**Maria Eagle:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before prorogation. I will write to the hon. Member once the information is available and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Civil Servants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many civil servants have been employed by each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [239096]

**Mr. Malik:** With a couple of exceptions, Executive NDPBs are non-Crown bodies and employees are not civil servants – although civil servants can be seconded or loaned to NDPBs. Information on the number of employees in Executive NDPBs is published in the annual Cabinet Office "Public Bodies" publication. Copies are available from the Libraries of the House.

Advisory NDPBs do not usually employ staff. They are typically supported by civil servants from the sponsoring Department.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [239059]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007. Its expenditure with external consultants in the financial year 2007-08 was £27 million and is broken down as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Ministry of Justice | 11.8 |
| HM Courts Service | 4.7 |
| Tribunals Service | 1.0 |
| HM Prison Service | 3.5 |
| National Offender Management Service | 3.4 |
| Legal Services Commission | 2.6 |

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of each tender document relating to the consultation on a Statement of Values. [239412]

**Mr. Wills:** We are currently considering the procurement of a programme of public consultation as part of our inclusive discussion on values. It is anticipated that a decision will be made shortly, following which further information regarding the procurement process may be made available.

### Departmental Contracts

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department maintains an electronic database of its suppliers. [239411]

**Maria Eagle:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Credit Cards

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many credit cards have been issued to staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in the last five years. [239413]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007 bringing together three separate card schemes; Her Majesty's Court Service, the Tribunal Service and those agencies previously under the Home Office.

Since its creation in May 2007 the one scheme has issued and maintained 5,921 cards.

Of this number 1,523 of the cardholders are distinguishable as belonging to the Department's agencies.

### Departmental Early Retirement

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employees in his Department have taken early retirement since its inception; and at what total cost. [238957]

**Mr. Malik:** For the purposes of this response we have taken the number of the staff who have retired before their normal pension age, typically aged 60.

Between 9 May 2007 and 31 October 2008 the number of employees who have taken early retirement on this basis is 525.

The Department does not differentiate between the cost of departure under severance and early retirement. Therefore, providing the total expenditure would incur a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department, its predecessor and its agencies have spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237442]

**Maria Eagle:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before prorogation. I will write to the hon. Member once the information is available and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Freedom of Information

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reasons are for the delay in replying to a freedom of information request about deaths in prisons made by the Howard League for Penal Reform in May 2008. [238630]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information the Howard League for Penal Reform requested has now been provided in full.

My Department remains absolutely committed to fulfilling its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act as completely and consistently as possible. In this instance, regrettably, the delay was caused by the accumulation of a backlog of requests within the

Department. Resources within the relevant business area have been realigned to eliminate this as soon as possible.

### Departmental Furniture

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on furniture and fittings for his Department's new headquarters at 102 Petty France. [239471]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry has spent £2,744,622.78 on furniture and fittings at its new headquarters 102 Petty France.

The London accommodation programme has enabled 2,200 staff to move to the new headquarters building 102 Petty France, from four building across London. Not only is this helping to promote closer working and meet our sustainable development targets but, as we make better use of the headquarters building in future, 102 Petty France will save the Department £10 million a year.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on upgrading its IT in each of the last three financial years. [228424]

**Maria Eagle:** Since the Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007, details of significant expenditure incurred on upgrading IT are as follows:

The Criminal Justice System Exchange infrastructure expenditure for 2007-08 was £4.2 million.

The NOMIS Programme to upgrade IT across the National Offender Management Service will provide Her Majesty's Prison Service and National Probation Service staff with improved access to information to support end-to-end offender management processes. Expenditure for 2007-08 was £63.2 million, which included the main costs of developing and implementing new applications, infrastructure costs and supporting the live services.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice's other main IT services are provided through contracts with external suppliers. These contracts include provision for regular maintenance and upgrade of the infrastructures and applications to keep systems up to date and to improve business efficiency. The costs of upgrades are included in the overall contract expenditure and could not be identified separately without incurring disproportionate cost.

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each year since its inception. [234098]

**Mr. Straw:** The Ministry of Justice was established in May 2007. Reported losses for the period May 2007 to March 2008 are as follows:

| | *Lost* | *Stolen* |
|---|---|---|
| Memory sticks | 1 | 0 |
| Laptop computers | 11 | 12 |
| Desktop computers | 0 | 2 |
| Hard drives | 0 | 0 |
| Mobile telephones | 15 | 14 |

Four of the 11 laptops reported lost were subsequently recovered. Another one of those lost went missing in delivery and was never used. Records of mobile telephone losses are not held centrally and the aforementioned numbers reported have been taken from available records.

### Departmental Internet

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for which Government websites his Department is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [235027]

**Mr. Straw:** The websites for which the Ministry of Justice is responsible are included in the following table.

Visitor statistics for the www.justice.gov.uk site between May 2007-March 2008 were 2,472,269. Visitor statistics for the other sites are not collected centrally and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Central contracts cover the provision for most of the Ministry's websites and include the cost of maintenance, web hosting and support. The running costs for this period were approximately £2 million. This does not include staff costs as this information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

| *Website* | *Site address* |
|---|---|
| Adjudicator to HM Land Registry | www.ahmlr.gov.uk |
| Administrative Justice Tribunals Council | www.ajtc.gov.uk |
| Asylum and Immigration Tribunal | www.ait.gov.uk |
| Asylum Support Tribunal | www.asylum-support-tribunal.gov.uk |
| Boundary Commission for England | www.statistics.gov.uk/pbc |
| Boundary Commission for Wales | www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk |
| Care Standards Tribunal | www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk |
| Charity Appeals | www.charity.tribunals.gov.uk |
| Civil Justice Council | www.civiljusticecouncil.gov |
| Claims Management Regulation | www.claimsregulation.gov.uk |
| Commercial Court | www.commercialcourt.gov.uk |
| Community Justice | www.communityjustice.gov.uk |
| Community Legal Service Direct | www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk |

| *Website* | *Site address* |
|---|---|
| Consumer Credit Appeals Tribunal | www.consumercreditappeals.tribunals.gov.uk |
| Council on Tribunals | www.council-on-tribunals.gov.uk |
| Criminal Cases Review Commission | www.ccrc.gov.uk |
| Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel | www.cicap.gov.uk |
| Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority | www.cica.gov.uk |
| Criminal Justice IT Unit | www.cjit.gov.uk |
| Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorders Programme | www.dspdprogramme.gov.uk |
| Former Department for Constitutional Affairs | www.dca.gov.uk |
| Employment Appeals Tribunal | www.emoloymentappeals.gov.uk |
| Employment Tribunals | www.emoloymenttribunals.gov.uk |
| Estate Agents Appeals Tribunals | www.estateagentappeals.tribunals.gov.uk |
| Family Justice Council | www.familyjusticecouncil.org |
| Finance and Tax Tribunals | www.financeandtaxtribunals.gov.uk |
| FOI practitioners site | www.foi-forum.gov.uk |
| Gambling Appeals Tribunal | www.gamblingappealstribunal.gov.uk |
| Gender Recognition Panel | www.grp.gov.uk |
| General Commissioners of Income Tax | www.generalcommissioners.gov.uk |
| Her Majesty's Courts Service | www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk |
| Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Court Administration | www.hmica.gov.uk |
| HM Prison Enterprises | www.hmenterprises.co.uk |
| HM Prison Service | www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk |
| Hutton Enquiry | www.the-hutton-inquiry.org.uk |
| Immigration Services Tribunal | www.immigrationservicestribunal.gov.uk |
| Information Tribunal | www.informationtribunal.gov.uk |
| Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman | www.judicialombudsman.gov.uk |
| Judicial Appointments Commission | www.judicialappointments.gov.uk |
| Judicial Studies Board | www.jsboard.co.uk |
| Judiciary of England and Wales | www.judiciary.gov.uk |
| Land Registry | www.landregistry.hov.uk |
| Land Register Online | www.landregisteronline.gov.uk |
| Lands Tribunal | www.landstribunal.gov.uk |
| Law Commission | www.lawcom.gov.uk |
| Legal Services Commission | www.legalservices.gov.uk |
| Legal Services Research Centre | www.lsrc.org.uk |
| Legal Services Review | www.legal-services-review.org.uk |
| Lord Carter's Review of Legal Aid Procurement | www.legalaidprocurementreview.gov.uk |
| Lord Justice Scott Baker—Inquests | www.scottbaker-inquests.gov.uk |
| Mental Health Review Tribunal | www.mhrt.org.uk |
| Ministry of Justice | www.justice.gov.uk |
| Money Claim Online | www.moneyclaim.gov.uk |
| National Archives—Office of Public Sector Information | www.opsi.gov.uk |
| National Archives Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information | www.appsi.gov.uk |
| National Archives Learning Curve | www.learningcurve.gov.uk |
| National Offender Management Service | www.noms.justice.gov.uk |
| National Parking Adjudication Service | www.parking-adjudication.gov.uk |
| National Probation Service | www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk |
| National Records and Archives | www.nationalarchives.gov.uk |
| National Records and Archives 30-Year Rule | www.30yearrulereview.org.uk |
| National Records and Archives Family Records | www.familyrecords.gov.uk |
| Office of Criminal Justice Reform | www.cjsonline.gov.uk |
| Office for Judicial Complaints | www.judicialcomplaints.gov.uk |
| Office of Legal Services Ombudsman | www.olso.org |
| Office of the Information Commissioner | www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk |
| Office of the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner | www.olscc.gov.uk |
| Office of the Public Guardian | www.publicguardian.gov.uk |
| Offices of Court Funds, Official Solicitor and Public Trustee | www.officialsolicitor.gov.uk |
| Parole Board | www.paroleboard.gov.uk |
| Party Funding Review | www.partyfundingreview.gov.uk |

| *Website* | *Site address* |
|---|---|
| Pensions Appeal Tribunal | www.pensionsappealtribunal.gov.uk |
| Possession Claims Online | www.possessionclaim.gov.uk |
| Prisons and Probation Ombudsman | www.ppo.gov.uk |
| Proscribed Organisations Appeals Commission | www.siac.tribunals.gov.uk/poac |
| Former Public Guardianship Office | www.guardianship.gov.uk |
| Review of Legal Aid Procurement | www.legalaidprocurementreview.gov. |
| Review of the Criminal Courts of England and Wales | www.criminal-courts-review.org.uk |
| Sentencing Guidelines Council | www.sentencing-guidelines.gov.uk |
| Social Security and Child Support Appeals Tribunal | www.appeals-service.gov.uk |
| Social Security and Child Support Commissioners | www.osscsc.gov.uk |
| Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal for England | www.sendist.gov.uk |
| Special Immigration Appeals Commission | www.siac.tribunals.gov.uk |
| Statute Law Database | www.statutelaw.gov.uk |
| Transport Tribunal | www.transporttribunal.gov.uk |
| Tribunals Review | www.tribunals-review.org.uk |
| Tribunals Service | www.tribunals.gov.uk |
| Wiring Up Youth Justice | www.wiringupyouthjustice.info |
| XHIBIT | www.xhibit.gov.uk |
| Youth Justice Board | www.yjb.gov.uk |

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2007-08 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2008-09 financial year. [235299]

**Maria Eagle:** The maintenance costs for the main website

www.justice.gov.uk

cannot be itemised separately as they are part of a larger contract which includes support web hosting and maintenance for the majority of websites for which the Ministry is responsible. The consolidated running costs for these websites from May 2007 (when the Ministry was created) to March 2008 were approximately £2 million. This does not include staff costs as this information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The forecast cost for 2008-09 is expected to be in line with 2007-08 expenditure.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much surplus land *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies own; and what the (i) area and (ii) estimated monetary value of each site is. [236419]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice and its agencies currently have four sites on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Sites which amount to 16.26 hectares and when last valued these sites had an estimated global value of £1,950,000.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by his Department in each year since its inception; and at what cost in each year. [239075]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice was formed on 9 May 2007. The numbers of press officers is 34 at a cost of £1,916,347. The press office operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, dealing with all media relations for the department from the international, national and regional media.

The Ministry of Justice is one of the largest departments in Government. It is right that the public know and understand the work of the MoJ and its agencies and how taxpayers' money is being spent. Communications, including the work of the press office, is an important element of this.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) on 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 863W for the number of special advisers employed.

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) by how much he expects the headcount of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies to change in the next 12 months; [239414]

(2) how many people are employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies; [239415]

(3) what the total employee headcount is in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies; what he expects the headcount to be in each case in 12 months time; and what the reasons for the differences in each case are. [239957]

**Maria Eagle:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Marketing

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226528]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice places most of its recruitment advertising on the Civil Service Recruitment Website as the site of first choice for central Government recruitment.

Where specific vacancy advertising is required the Department will use media most likely to attract people with the necessary skills, giving due regard to cost effectiveness. Digital advertising is now the preferred option for advertising externally and banner press advertisements are used for SCS posts in accordance with Cabinet Office Guidelines.

Marketing campaign advertising evaluation in my Department is standard practice and is subject to strict propriety guidance.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [238944]

**Maria Eagle:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before prorogation. I will write to the hon. Member once the information is available and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget each has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236928]

**Maria Eagle:** Funding for the Ministry of Justice non-departmental public bodies has been agreed for 2008-09 only. Funding for 2009-10 and 2010-11 has not yet been agreed at this time. I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 745-46W, for funding details for 2008-09.

Remit details for each body can be found in the following table.

*MOJ Executive non-departmental public bodies*

| *NDPB* | *Remit* |
|---|---|
| Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority | CICA is the Government body responsible for administering the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme in England, Scotland and Wales. It is part of the Ministry of Justice and also provides a service on behalf of the Scottish Government. |
| Judicial Appointments Commission | The JAC is the independent public body that selects and recommends candidates for judicial office in England and Wales. It was set up by the Constitutional Reform Act in 2005. |
| Legal Services Commission | The LSC runs the legal aid scheme in England and Wales, providing information, advice and legal representation to help about two million people each year get access to justice. The Community Legal Service helps people with civil legal problems such as family breakdown, debt, asylum and housing. The Criminal Defence Service helps people who are under police investigation or facing criminal charges. |
| Office of the Information Commissioner | The ICO is the UK's independent authority set up to promote access to official information and to protect personal information. The ICO enforces and oversees the Data Protection Act, the Freedom of Information Act, the Environmental Information Regulations and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations. |
| Criminal Cases Review Commission | The CCRC is the independent public body set up to investigate possible miscarriages of justice in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Commission assesses whether convictions or sentences should be referred to a court of appeal. |
| Parole Board | The Parole Board for England and Wales is an independent public body that works with its criminal justice partners to protect the public by making risk assessments about prisoners to decide whether they can be safely released into the community or must remain in or be returned to custody. |
| Youth Justice Board (England and Wales) | The YJB is responsible for overseeing the youth justice system in England and Wales. It works to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people under the age of 18 and to ensure that custody for them is safe, secure and addresses the causes of their offending behaviour. |

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [239667]

**Mr. Malik:** It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. and learned Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many press releases have been issued by his Department in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [238978]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007. In 2007-08, my Department has released 196 press notices of a departmental nature and 145 releases announcing judicial appointments. The press office operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, dealing with all media relations for the Department from the international, national and regional media.

The Ministry of Justice is one of the largest departments in Government. It is right that the public know and understand the work of the MoJ and its agencies and how taxpayers' money is being spent. Communications, including the work of the press office, is an important element of this.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies relating to tendered

procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract since the inception of his Department. [239648]

**Maria Eagle:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since its inception; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239037]

**Mr. Wills:** Since May 2007 the Ministry of Justice spent £498,241 on focus groups, and £751,682 on opinion polls. We plan to spend a further £6,500 in 2008-09. The following table provides details of focus groups and opinion polls carried out by the Ministry of Justice since inception in 2007, and any current estimates for such in 2008-09.

*Ministry of Justice focus groups and opinion polls*

£

| | | | | Commissioned research | | | | Planned research | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Name of the opinion poll/focus group* | *Name of firm carrying out the work* | *Opinion poll* | *Focus group* | *Total cost in 2007-08 (exc VAT)* | *Total cost in 2007-08 (inc VAT)* | *Total cost in 2008-09 (exc VAT)* | *Total cost in 2008-09 (exc VAT)* | *Total estimated cost in 2008-09 (exc VAT)* | *Total estimated cost in 2008-09 (inc VAT)* |
| HMCS Court User Survey | MORI | Yes | | | | | | | |
| Witness and Victim Experience Survey (WAVES) | Ipsos MORI | Yes | | 485,990 | 571,038 | | | | |
| Court Service Survey | n/a conducted internally | Yes | | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Constitution Directorate tracker survey | Ipsos MORI | Yes | | 38,300 | 45,000 | | | | |
| General Public Awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (Capibus survey) | Ipsos MORI | Yes | | 22,280 | 26,179 | | | | |
| Legal Professionals Awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (online survey) | Ipsos MORI | Yes | | 7,800 | 9,165 | | | | |
| Health and Social Care Professionals Awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (paper survey) | Distribution through Binleys, Survey conducted by Ipsos MORI | Yes | | 24,278 | 28,468 | | | | |
| Survey Draft Public Law Outline | Not applicable conducted internally | Yes | | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| The Pro Bono Work of Legal Executives | ECOTEC | Yes | | 39,813 | 46,780 | | | | |
| Testing of language and understanding of Departmental Strategic Objectives | GfK NOP | Yes | | 6,270 | 7,367 | | | | |
| Employment tribunal mediation pilot | Westminster University, fieldwork subcontracted to BMRB | Yes | | 43,800 | 51,465 | | | | |
| Local Face to Face satisfaction Survey | Not applicable conducted internally | Yes | | 0 | 0 | | | | |

*Ministry of Justice focus groups and opinion polls*

£

| | | | | Commissioned research | | | | Planned research | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Name of the opinion poll/focus group* | *Name of firm carrying out the work* | *Opinion poll* | *Focus group* | *Total cost in 2007-08 (exc VAT)* | *Total cost in 2007-08 (inc VAT)* | *Total cost in 2008-09 (exc VAT)* | *Total cost in 2008-09 (exc VAT)* | *Total estimated cost in 2008-09 (exc VAT)* | *Total estimated cost in 2008-09 (inc VAT)* |
| Local Victim and Witness Survey | Not applicable—conducted internally by Witness Service | Yes | | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Local Student Confidence in CJS | Not applicable conducted internally | Yes | | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Tribunal Service Customer Satisfaction Survey | FDS International Limited | Yes | | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| Citizenship Insight Project | | | Yes | [2]90,610 | | | | | |
| Customer Expectation Survey | | | Yes | [2]37,000 | | | | | |
| Research on development of the Before The Event legal expenses insurance | | | Yes | [2]20,011 | | | | | |
| Improving public confidence in the Criminal Justice System: inform, persuade and remind. | | | Yes | [2]19,800 | | | | | |
| Justice and Schools | | | Yes | [2]10,000 | | | | | |
| Community Justice Merthyr Tydfil | | | Yes | [2]24,000 | | | | | |
| on consultation paper on Inspection powers and funding arrangements of the Information Commissioner | Arranged internally | | Yes | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 | 6,500 | 6,500 |
| Offender management strategy: practitioner research | PWC | No | | | | 39,871 | | 0 | 0 |
| Public Confidence in the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales: June 2008 | PWC | Yes | Yes | | | 30,975 | | 0 | 0 |
| Assessing implementation of the pilot of the Stable & Acute dynamic risk assessment tool | NatCen | | Yes x5 | | | 106,935 | 125,860 | | |
| Frontline Matters information architecture project: website | Cogapp | | Yes | 175 | 206 | | | | |
| Literature hierarchy project: CJS publications | Bang | | Yes x3 | | | 2,400 | 2,820 | | |

*Ministry of Justice focus groups and opinion polls*

£

| | | | | Commissioned research | | | | Planned research | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Name of the opinion poll/focus group* | *Name of firm carrying out the work* | *Opinion poll* | *Focus group* | *Total cost in 2007-08 (exc VAT)* | *Total cost in 2007-08 (inc VAT)* | *Total cost in 2008-09 (exc VAT)* | *Total cost in 2008-09 (exc VAT)* | *Total estimated cost in 2008-09 (exc VAT)* | *Total estimated cost in 2008-09 (inc VAT)* |
| Community understanding of high risk offenders communities, hostels etc | TNS | | Yes | | | 12,000 | | | |
| Your Justice Your World website usability research | Edcoms | Yes | | | | 11,290 | | | |
| Omnibus survey: module on Non-Resident Parental Contact | Office for National Statistics | Yes | | 55,231 | | 16,630 | | 0 | 0 |
| Process assessment of revised public law protocol guidance | | | Yes | | | 104,464 | | | |
| Use of family (and civil) Sharia Law in the UK | | Yes | | [1] | | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Baseline for evaluation of impact of legal services reform on users and suppliers | | Yes | | | | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |
| Increasing efficacy in commissioning Psychiatric reports—good practice guidance | | | Yes | | | [3] | [3] | [3] | [3] |

[1] Costing information is not supplied as this is commercial in confidence. This survey is subject to periodic re-tendering and release of the costings would weaken the Department's negotiating position.
[2] April to November 2007 spend.
[3] Commercial in Confidence.

*Notes:*
1. Current projects planned but not commissioned are all commercial in confidence as disclosing budget may impact or tendering process.
2. Costs refer to total spend within year for complete project which often includes more than just focus groups or opinion polls (or other deliberative research).

## Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice to which completed consultations his Department has yet to respond. [239790]

**Maria Eagle:** The information on completed consultations that are awaiting a response is shown in the following table.

| *Ministry of Justice: completed consultations awaiting response* | *Date consultation closed* |
|---|---|
| The law on damages | 27 July 2007 |
| Confidence and confidentiality: Openness in family courts—a new approach | 1 October 2007 |
| General Commissioners and Special Commissioners of income tax tribunals—amending rules | 13 November 2007 |
| Freedom of Information Act 2000: Designation of additional public authorities | 1 February 2008 |
| Administration and Enforcement Restriction Orders | 16 April 2008 |
| Rome I—should the UK opt in? | 25 June 2008 |
| Titan prisons | 28 August 2008 |
| Pandemic influenza—guidance on the coroner system | 3 September 2008 |
| Reforming the Legal Aid Family Barrister Fee Scheme | 10 September 2008 |
| Bail and murder | 12 September 2008 |
| Election Day—weekend voting | 24 September 2008 |
| Pleural Plaques | 1 October 2008 |
| Murder, Manslaughter and Infanticide: proposals for reform of the law | 20 October 2008 |
| Proposal to close Nelson County Court | 20 October 2008 |
| Claims Management Regulation—fee levels for 2009-10 | 28 October 2008 |
| S57 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act—draft regulations | 18 November 2008 |

## Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy to his Department in 2007-08. [228148]

**Maria Eagle:** Ministry of Justice has spent the following since it was created on 9 May 2007 to 31 March 2008:

*(a)* Entertainment

The information could be provided across the Ministry only at disproportionate cost.

*(b)* Advertising and promotion £6,459,801.64 (total including HMPS figures for full financial year).

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *Advertising (total including HMPS figures for full financial year)* | 6,300,413.64 |
| MoJHQ (judicial and executive recruitment) | 502,500 |
| OCJR | 224,973 |
| National Probation Service | 58,264 |
| Tribunals Service, HMCS, Office of the Public Guardian | 46,494.64 |
| Her Majesty's Prison Service expenditure on recruitment service under contract for the financial year 2007-08 | 5,469,082 |
| *Promotion (total)* | 159,388 |
| NOMS and Office of the Public Guardian | 159,388 |

*(c)* Public relations consultancy £290,476

All expenditure incurred is in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

## Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [226796]

**Maria Eagle:** The information is as follows.

*(a) Ministry of Justice HQ*

Recording of costs for (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff are combined in the Department's financial system and include campaigns run by the Department on behalf of Her Majesty's Courts Service.

Data for each year are shown in table 1 as follows.

*(b) Executive agencies.*

Recording of costs for (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff are combined in the agencies financial systems, with the exception of Tribunal Services.

Data for each year are shown in table 2 as follows.

*Table 1: Ministry of Justice*

| | 2003-04[1] | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06[2] | | 2006-07[3] | | 2007-08 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Core Department | £ | Consultants | £ | Consultants | £ | Consultants | £ | Consultants | £ | Consultants |
| HQ | 42,000 | KMC International Ltd | | | 164,000 | Capita Resourcing Ltd., KMC International Ltd., Penna | | | 284,000 | Tribal Resourcing, The Whitehall and Industry Group, Odgers Ray Berndtson, Quattrosystems, Capita Resourcing Ltd |

*Table 2: Executive agencies*

| | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Executive agencies | £ | Consultants | £ | Consultants | £ | Consultants | £ | Consultants | £ | Consultants |
| Office of the Public Guardian | 8,666 | Capita Resourcing Ltd., Saville and Holdsworth (UK) Ltd | 29,062 | Hudson Global Resources Ltd.; Brook Street (UK) Ltd.; Hays Accountancy Personnel; Peter Lockyer Advertising (UK) Ltd | 31,432 | TFPL Ltd., Tribal Technology Ltd | [illegible] | Euro RSCG Riley Ltd | 6,400 | Euro RSCG Riley Ltd |
| Tribunals Service | | | | | | | | | 14,975 | Recruitment Consultants Ltd |
| | | | | | | | | | 14,145 | External Recruitment Advertising Allen Lane |
| Her Majesty's Prison Service[4] | | | | | | | 3,080,375 | Barkers Hr Advertising Ltd., TMP Worldwide Ltd., RNR Recruitment Consultancy Ltd | 5,469,082 | Barkers Hr Advertising Ltd., TMP Worldwide Ltd., Strategic Decision Ltd |

[1] Former Department for Constitutional Affairs and The Court Service

[2] Former Department for Constitutional Affairs and Her Majesty's Courts Service

[3] Ministry of Justice core department including National Offender Management Service (HQ elements), Office for Criminal Justice Reform and Her Majesty's Courts Service

[4] Increase in expenditure due mainly to national prison officer recruitment campaign. Comparable figures for earlier years available only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and each of its agencies spent on overseas travel in the last 12 months. [239548]

**Maria Eagle:** This information could be only provided by gathering information from across the Ministry which would incur disproportionate cost.

The Department's annual accounts show travel, subsistence, and hospitality in one line, and to distinguish the travel element from this figure would be at disproportionate cost.

The Department has published rules for official travel in its staff handbook, and all travel is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the 'Civil Service Management Code'.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the 'Ministerial Code' and 'Travel by Ministers', copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

The Government's annual publication about overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers is accessible at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers.aspx.

The list includes details about the number of officials accompanying the Minister when non-scheduled travel is used for the trip. Copies of lists covering information going back to the 1997-98 financial year are available in the Libraries of the House.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 331-32W, on Departmental written answers, where the information on *(a)* questions answered in 2002-03 and 2003-04, *(b)* the number of questions answered substantially and *(c)* the number of questions not answered due to disproportionate cost is held. [239933]

**Mr. Malik:** The information prior to the 2004-05 session is held in paper format and post 2004-05 on an electronic database. Both formats would require a manual collation by checking every question's answer at a disproportionate cost. The database has been adapted and the information will be collated from the new Session.

### Draft Constitutional Renewal Bill

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the timetable is for the publication of the Government's response to the Joint Committee's Report on the Draft Constitutional Renewal Bill, HC 551-I. [239709]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government are grateful for the Joint Committee's report on the draft Constitutional Renewal Bill. Since its publication, we have given careful consideration to its recommendations and a full response will be published ahead of the Bill's introduction to Parliament.

### Driving Under Influence: Hampshire

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people resident in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley borough and *(c)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire were (i) arrested under suspicion and (ii) convicted of driving when drunk in (A) each of the last five years and (B) each month since October 2007. [239841]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by main offence group (e.g. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, theft and handling stolen goods, etc.) and police force area within England and Wales. Information on summary motoring offences including those of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs are non-notifiable and as a result are not covered by the collection.

Available information held on convictions at all courts for offences of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs for the years 2002 to 2006 (latest available) is provided in the following table. Data for 2007 will be available on 27 November 2008. The data provided cover both drink and drugs offences combined, as volumes of prosecutions and convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs cannot be accurately established separately.

Information is available on a calendar year basis and at police force area level only.

*Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], within Hampshire police force area, 2002-06*

| | Number of offences |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 3,846 |
| 2003 | 3,663 |
| 2004 | 3,743 |
| 2005 | 3,372 |
| 2006 | 2,993 |

[1] Data provided cover summary offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot be reliably distinguished separately).

*Notes:*

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

### Electoral Commission

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's policy is on whether the Electoral Commission should be the *(a)* regulator and *(b)* administrator in relation to electoral services. [239703]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government believe that the Electoral Commission has an important role to play as the regulator of party finance and expenditure, and of electoral services. The Commission's regulatory role includes:

Monitoring and regulating party and election finance;

Reporting on elections and referendums; and

Setting performance standards for electoral administrators.

The Government consider that the measures in the Political Parties and Elections Bill to reform the Electoral Commission's governance and powers in line with the recommendations in the Eleventh report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life will help to make the Commission a more effective regulator of electoral services, and better enable it to deliver its wider regulatory role.

The Government have no plans for the Commission to take over all responsibility for electoral administration. This responsibility will continue to rest with locally appointed returning officers and electoral administrators.

### Electoral Commission: Powers of Entry

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to ensure that the new powers of entry to be exercised by the Electoral Commission must be authorised by a judge rather than by a local magistrate. [239705]

**Mr. Wills:** The issue of judicial oversight was raised in debate at Committee stage of the Political Parties and Elections Bill. As I said in that debate, we are actively considering further the appropriate level of judicial oversight for the warrant procedure provided in the Bill.

The powers of entry under a warrant provided by paragraph 3 of Schedule 19A (contained in Schedule 1 to the Political Parties and Elections Bill) will be exercised by a constable, who may be accompanied by other persons named in the warrant and any other constables as required.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the evidential basis is which underlies the proposals to grant the Electoral Commission powers to enter people's homes. [239704]

**Mr. Wills:** The proposals to reform the commission's powers and governance seek to make the commission a more effective regulator. In its 11th Report, the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) stated that: "PPERA should be amended to make it clear that the Electoral Commission has a duty to investigate proactively allegations or suspicions of failures to comply with the regulatory framework." (CSPL 11th Report, p31).

In their report on Propriety and Peerages published in December 2007, the Public Administration Select Committee noted that: "There is now a striking consensus behind the need to make the Electoral Commission into a more effective, proactive regulator. We add our voice to that consensus. The Government is currently considering what steps to take next. One of these steps might need to be changes to legislation to give new powers to the Commission." (Public Administration Select Committee, Propriety and Peerages: Second Report of Session 2007-08, paragraph 99, p.34).

In order to ensure that the commission can effectively carry out its functions as a regulator, the Government have proposed that the commission should have the ability to apply to a magistrate for a warrant, which will be exercised by a constable, together with other persons named in it, to seek entry to premises in connection with an investigation.

The power to grant a warrant to enter and search premises on an application from the Electoral Commission, which is set out in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 to the Bill, is similar to the power given to grant a warrant on an application from the Financial Services Authority, which is set out in section 176 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

As I said during Committee stage, I am reflecting further on the points made on this issue and will return to them at the next parliamentary stage.

### Electronic Voting

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of operating electronic counting at elections for (*a*) Bedford borough council in 2007, (*b*) Breckland district council in 2007 and (*c*) the London Mayor and the London Assembly in 2008. [239566]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice provided funding of £177,364 to Bedford and £164,805 to Breckland to cover the costs of operating the electronic counting pilots.

The Greater London Authority entered into a contract worth just over £4.5 million for the provision of electronic counting services, supply of the three types of ballot papers and support services for the 2008 London Mayor and London Assembly elections. There will have been some savings from not conducting a manual count.

**Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been paid to Indra in respect of work on the operation of e-counting pilots. [239691]

**Mr. Wills:** Indra were selected as one of seven suppliers on the Government's Electoral Modernisation Programme framework of suppliers and have participated in three e-counting pilots. Selection for these pilots was done by the local authorities via a tender among the suppliers on the framework.

In 2003 in Epping Forest they were paid £50,000 to deliver e-counting services as part of a wider electoral modernisation pilot. In 2007 the Government supported e-counting pilots in Bedford and Breckland where Indra were paid £165,792 and £148,831 respectively. There will have been some savings from not conducting a manual count.

### Employment Tribunals Service: Disabled

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to ensure that employment tribunals are fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure that employment tribunals fully implement their disability equality schemes. [239182]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Employment Tribunal, as part of the Tribunals Service, carries out Disability Discrimination Act audits on all of its sites. Those identified as needing improvement to the facilities have these carried out on a priority basis.

The Tribunals Service is covered by the Ministry of Justice Disability Equality Scheme and reports to the Department on its equality scheme action plans. The

Employment Tribunal has equality and diversity representatives, who ensure that the Tribunal is compliant with the scheme.

### Fines: Surcharges

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much he expects to collect from the victims surcharge in each of the next five years. [238860]

**Maria Eagle:** The Victims Surcharge is a £15 charge imposed on fines given in the magistrates and Crown courts in England and Wales on all offences committed on or after 1 April 2007.

Forecasts have not been made for the next five years as the scheme is still in a relatively early stage of its operative life. Initial estimates were that in due course it would generate £16 million in a fully operational year. Firm forecasts will be made after two years of operation. All commitments given on surcharge revenue will be honoured by the MoJ.

### Fixed Penalties

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reason magistrates are not able to access information on fixed penalty notices issued to those before them who have pleaded guilty. [237780]

**Mr. Straw:** The Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) was established under sections 1-11 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Under section 2 (4), a penalty notice is defined as a notice offering the opportunity, by paying the penalty, to discharge any liability to be convicted of the offence to which the notice relates.

Unlike cautions, where there is an admission of guilt during a recorded PACE-compliant interview, PNDs do not involve such an admission and are issued solely on the belief of a police officer that an offence has been committed. PNDs for recordable offences must be recorded on the Police National Computer, not least to ensure that they are not issued to those who repeatedly offend. I am however considering how to improve the reliability of recording of PNDs on the Police National Computer and whether they should be different arrangements by which their issue could be taken into account by a court.

### HM Prison Service: Religion

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which religions HM Prison Service recognises. [238859]

**Mr. Malik:** The Prison Service facilitates the practice of a wide range of religions and denominations. Longstanding Prison Service policy has been not to recognise Scientology, Nation of Islam, or Rastafarianism for the purposes of facilitating religious ministry in prison. All prisoners have the opportunity to register their religious affiliation and to practise within the constraints of good order and discipline.

### Human Rights

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of judgments made by the European Court of Human Rights which required amendments to UK legislation in the last 10 years; what the date was of each such judgment; and in how many cases such amendments have not been made. [238189]

**Mr. Straw:** In the 10 years between 1 November 1998 (when the European Court of Human Rights in its current form came into existence) and 1 November 2008, the Court's statistics record that of the 289 cases involving the United Kingdom in which a full judgment was delivered, 185 resulted in a finding of at least one violation of the convention. All judgments of the European Court of Human Rights may be accessed in full through the Court's website at:

http://www.echr.coe.int/

Not all of these judgments required amendment of primary and/or secondary legislation; in many cases, either no general measures are required by the judgment, or the general measures may be effected by changes in policy or administrative practice. We do not collate information centrally as to the nature of the remedial measures required by these judgments, so it would be possible only at disproportionate cost to determine how many of these cases did require amendments to primary and/or secondary legislation.

There are at present 42 judgments in respect of which remedial measures remain the subject of scrutiny by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe; of these, about half are part of a single group of cases settled by the Government on the basis of a leading judgment by the Court. Of the remainder, the number that may require further amendment to legislation will depend on the final form of the general measures taken.

### Human Trafficking: Sentencing

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the convictions for human trafficking offences in each of the last five years led to *(a)* a custodial sentence of more than one year, *(b)* a custodial sentence of less than one year, *(c)* a community sentence and *(d)* a fine. [232956]

**Jacqui Smith:** I have been asked to reply.

Of the 90 convictions for human trafficking to date 80 have attracted a sentence of more than one year, four have attracted a sentence of one year or less and five are awaiting sentence. In one case the conviction resulted in a suspended sentence.

Information from the UKHTC indicate there have been no cases which resulted in a community sentence or a fine.

### Intellectual Property: Crime

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for intellectual property crime under *(a)* the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 and *(b)* the Trademarks Act 1994 there were in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007; how many of these convictions resulted in (A) a custodial sentence and (B) a fine; what (1) total and (2) average amount paid in such fines was; and what the average custodial sentence in each year was. [239792]

**Mr. Hanson:** The available information for 2006 is contained in the following table. Information on fines paid is not available.

The attention of the House is drawn to the Sentencing Statistics 2007, which will be published on 27 November and copies of which will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Data for 2007 will become available once "Sentencing Statistics, England and Wales, 2007" has been published on 27 November.

*Number of offenders[1] sentenced for intellectual property offences under Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 and Trademarks Act 1994 by selected disposals, all courts, England and Wales, 2006*

| | Principal statutes | |
|---|---|---|
| *Number of offenders, average fine amount and average length of sentence (months)* | *Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988* | *Trade Marks Act 1994* |
| Total number convictions | 249 | 920 |
| Total number sentenced | 243 | 932 |
| Total number fined | 109 | 270 |
| Total fines imposed (£) | 80,958 | 108,119 |
| Average fine amount (£) | 742.73 | 400.44 |
| Immediate custody | 58 | 248 |
| Average custodial sentence length[2] | 3.1 | 4.0 |

[1] Includes companies, public bodies etc.
[2] Months, excludes life and indeterminate sentences.
*Note*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
*Source*
OMS Analytical Services

### Intellectual Property: Training

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the merits of training in intellectual property law for judges and magistrates and their advisers; and what guidance has been issued to the Judicial Studies Board pursuant to recommendation 44 of the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property. [239791]

**Mr. Hanson:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. and learned Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Judicial Appointments Commission: Finance

**Mr. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Judicial Appointments Commission in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years. [237893]

**Maria Eagle:** The Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission has no plans for any significant capital expenditure for the CSR period (2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11). Funding beyond the CSR period has not yet been agreed.

### Judicial Appointments Ombudsman: Finance

**Mr. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Judicial Appointments Ombudsman in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years. [237894]

**Maria Eagle:** The Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Ombudsman has no plans for any significant capital expenditure for the CSR period (2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11). Funding beyond the CSR period has not yet been agreed.

### Low Newton Prison: Manpower

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the sickness rates were for *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* governor grades at Low Newton prison in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average rates in each case were across all prisons. [238631]

**Mr. Malik:** The sick rates for the first six months of 2008-09, stated in annualised terms, for HM Prison Low Newton and across all Prison Service establishments is shown in the following table. Low Newton currently has an unusually high number of long-term sickness cases that are being managed.

*Annualised sick rate (working days lost per person per year) April to September 2008*

| | *Officers* | *Operational managers* |
|---|---|---|
| Low Newton | 16.3 | 16.3 |
| All establishments | 12.2 | 3.6 |

### Northern Ireland Court Service: Finance

**Mr. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Northern Ireland Court Service in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years. [237891]

**Maria Eagle:** The Northern Ireland Court Service capital settlement for the CSR 07 period (2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11) is £7 million, £7.4 million, and £7.4 million.

The allocation provides for expenditure on the Court estate, ICT systems and business modernisation initiatives. Funding beyond the CSR period has not yet been agreed.

### Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission: Finance

**Mr. Donaldson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the anticipated capital expenditure is of the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission in the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years. [237892]

**Maria Eagle:** The Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission expects to spend £1.5 million in capital as part of its short term IT strategy within the current CSR07 period. Funding beyond the CSR period has not yet been agreed.

### Offenders

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the cost of administering offending behaviour programmes was *(a)* in prison and *(b)* on probation in each of the last five years, broken down by type of programme; [239816]

(2) what his estimate is of the number of people who *(a)* started and *(b)* completed offending behaviour programmes (i) in prison and (ii) on probation in each of the last five years; and what the rate of re-offending was for each, broken down by type of programme; [239817]

(3) how many committal hearings were held in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the cost of committal hearings in each of those years; [239825]

(4) what the average cost was of keeping a person in residential drug rehabilitation for *(a)* a week and *(b)* a year in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [239826]

(5) what the *(a)* breach rate of community sentences and *(b)* imprisonment rate for those who breached community sentences was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [239827]

(6) what the average *(a)* daily, *(b)* weekly, *(c)* monthly and *(d)* annual cost of supervising an offender on a community sentence was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [239828]

(7) what the average cost was of keeping a prisoner for a day in each *(a)* prison establishment and *(b)* young offender institution in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [239829]

(8) what the average cost was of keeping a person in prison for a *(a)* week and *(b)* year in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [239830]

(9) how many prisoners on average were serving sentences of *(a)* less than three months, *(b)* between three and six months and *(c)* between six and 12 months in each of the last five years. [239831]

**Mr. Hanson:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Offenders: Biography

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will introduce legislation to prevent criminals profiting from their memoirs or other publications about their crimes. [239815]

**Maria Eagle:** We are committed to bringing forward measures to prevent convicted criminals profiting from publications about their crimes. A range of options were set out in a consultation paper ("Making Sure That Crime Doesn't Pay") published in November 2006. We will be publishing our response to the consultation shortly and intend to legislate when parliamentary time allows.

### Offenders: Deportation

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners recommended for deportation or removal from the United Kingdom by a judge at sentencing were (a) deported or removed from the UK, (b) allowed to remain in the UK and (c) awaiting a Home Office decision on removal or deportation in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available. [231572]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly updated the Home Affairs Select Committee with the most robust and accurate information available and will continue to do so as required. She recently advised the Committee during her appearance of 20 November that the Agency has deported or removed over 4,500 foreign prisoners so far this year and that it is on track to not only meet but exceed the target of 5,000 for 2008.

### Operation Safeguard

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many times Operation Safeguard places were used in the last 12 months; [238455]

(2) what the average nightly cost to his Department of reserving a police cell under Operation Safeguard was in the last 12 months. [238456]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Between 20 November 2007 and 22 September 2008, Operation Safeguard was used on 22,748 prisoner nights.

The estimated average cost of a place in a police cell under Operation Safeguard is £385 a night.

### Personal Injury: Compensation

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Wantage of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 413W, on personal injury: compensation, when he plans to publish his Department's response; and if he will make a statement. [239786]

**Mr. Hanson:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. and learned Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Photography

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what locations and accompanying local authority areas are classified as prohibited places for photography further to an Order of the Secretary of State under the Official Secrets Act 1911 as amended. [238689]

**Maria Eagle:** The locations which are designated as "prohibited places" are contained in two statutory instruments—the Official Secrets (Prohibited Places) Order 1955 and the Official Secrets (Prohibited Places) Order 1994. The site designated by the 1955 Order is the works and offices of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at Dounreay in the County of Caithness. The sites designated by the 1994 Order are: the British Nuclear Fuels site at Sellafield, Seascale, Cumbria; the British Nuclear Fuels site and Urenco (Capenhurst) Limited sites at Capenhurst, near Chester, Cheshire; the UK Atomic Energy Authority site at Harwell, Didcot, Oxfordshire; and the UK Atomic Energy Authority site at Windscale, Seascale, Cumbria.

## Political Parties: Finance

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 751W, on political parties: finance, whether expenditure incurred by an hon. Member outside a general election period funded by party funds which disparages an individual who is *(a)* an untriggered prospective parliamentary candidate and *(b)* a triggered parliamentary candidate for the same constituency would trigger the election expenses of the hon. Member for the purposes of the new rules; [239571]

(2) with reference to the memorandum submitted by the Electoral Commission to the Public Bill Committee on the Political Parties and Elections Bill of 2007-08, in relation to the proposed new trigger rules, whether spending by an individual in relation to a campaign on local issues, but not in relation to their candidacy in a future election, would count as a trigger; [239572]

(3) in what circumstances hon. Members will trigger their own candidate spending limits prior to the calling of a general election under the proposed new trigger rules; [239573]

(4) with reference to the impact assessment produced for the new trigger rules for election spending, what estimate has been made of the *(a)* change in the number of candidates in general elections and the likely number of *(b)(i)* pre-trigger prospective candidates and *(ii)* triggered candidates that would be regulated by the new rules; [239701]

(5) whether it is his policy that spending by hon. Members on promoting themselves using funds other than the public purse, outside a general election period, should be considered to be promoting or initiating their candidature for the purposes of the new trigger rules on election spending; [239702]

(6) pursuant to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 751W, on political parties: finance, whether money spent before a person becomes a triggered candidate will count against the aggregate candidate spending limit if the goods or services purchased are used after the person becomes a triggered candidate. [239711]

**Mr. Wills:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the memorandum submitted by the Electoral Commission to the Public Bill Committee on the Political Parties and Elections Bill of 2007-08, in relation to the proposed new trigger rules, whether being selected as a prospective parliamentary candidate but not being formally adopted as a parliamentary candidate would trigger the individual's election expenses. [239574]

**Mr. Wills:** Clause 11 (election expenses incurred for a person not yet a candidate) of the Political Parties and Elections Bill amends the definition of election expenses in section 90ZA of the Representation of the People Act 1983. Under the amended section all expenditure incurred by or on behalf of the candidate on matters listed in Part 1 of schedule 4A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, which is used for the purposes of the candidate's election, will be regulated, regardless of when that expenditure is incurred.

Therefore whether or not an individual has been formally adopted by a party does not determine whether any expenditure counts towards the candidate's spending limit. The purpose for which the expenditure is used is the decisive factor—any expenditure which falls within the definition in 90ZA will be regulated by the candidate's spending limit, and subsequent expenditure captured by the definition should be aggregated and reported in line with the statutory requirements.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the proposed new guidance on trigger rules from the Electoral Commission will be subject to the negative or affirmative procedure for statutory instruments. [239705]

**Mr. Wills:** The Electoral Commission may prepare a code of practice on the meaning of election expenses under the power in paragraph 14 of Schedule 4A (guidance by the Commission) of the Representation of the People Act 1983. The commission has been empowered to produce such a code of practice since the Electoral Administration Act 2006 inserted schedule 4A into the 1983 Act. Clause 12 (election expenses: guidance by Commission) of the Political Parties and Elections Bill amends paragraph 14 of Schedule 4A (guidance by the Commission) to expand the matters that can be covered by a code of practice issued under that paragraph.

A code of practice prepared by the commission under Schedule 4A must be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval. It must then be laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State (unmodified, or with his explanation of the modifications he has made to it). Parliament then has 40 days to annul the draft if it chooses to do so, and if no such resolution is made, the code shall be published by the Commission to take effect on a date appointed by the Secretary of State.

The Electoral Commission has published guidance on candidate expenditure since the introduction of paragraph 14 of schedule 4A, but it has opted to produce such guidance as part of its more general function to provide guidance and advice in respect of those matters on which it has skill and experience, rather than in the form of a code of practice under schedule 4A. The Commission has indicated that it intends to produce guidance on the new system that would be introduced by clause 11 (election expenses incurred for a person not yet a candidate). Officials from the Ministry of Justice are in discussion with the commission on the form that guidance might take.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans that the provisions in the Political Parties and Elections Bill on European Parliamentary elections are to be commenced in time to apply to the 2009 European elections. [239706]

**Mr. Wills:** As I explained when this issue was raised during the Committee stage of the Political Parties and Elections Bill on 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 281, we cannot be certain at this stage that the Bill will receive Royal Assent in time for the provisions in clause 13 of the Bill on boundaries at European

parliamentary elections to be implemented in time for the European parliamentary elections in June 2009. I assured the Committee that we would not seek to commence these provisions for those elections in the event that the Bill did receive Royal Assent before the poll.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to consult on extending local candidate expense limits for parliamentary elections following the proposals to introduce the new trigger rules in the Political Parties and Elections Bill. [239707]

**Mr. Wills:** As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor said during the first public evidence session of the Political Parties and Elections Bill's Committee stages, the proposal to reintroduce triggering in relation to candidate expenditure at parliamentary general elections was announced in the White Paper, "Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom (CM7329)", which was published and debated by both Houses of Parliament on 16 June 2008. The Political Parties and Elections Bill containing the measure was introduced on 17 July 2008. There has thus been opportunity for scrutiny and discussion of the Bill prior to its detailed consideration by Parliament and further consultation is not proposed.

The Government have no current plans to consult on raising the level of the limit.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether contracts entered into before, but discharged after Royal Assent is received to the Political Parties and Elections Bill, will be considered as expenditure that could trigger a candidature. [239708]

**Mr. Wills:** Clause 11 (election expenses incurred for a person not yet a candidate) of the Political Parties and Elections Bill amends the definition of election expenses in section 90ZA of the Representation of the People Act 1983. Under the amended section, all expenditure incurred by or on behalf of the candidate on matters listed in part 1 of schedule 4A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, which is used for the purposes of the candidate's election, will be regulated, regardless of when that expenditure is incurred.

There is express provision in the Political Parties and Elections Bill (in clause 11(5)) to make clear that the amendments made by that section do not apply to any expenses incurred before the commencement of that section. While each expense incurred would need to be considered in its own context, expenditure would normally be regarded as being incurred when the amount and the liability to pay are established i.e. at the point at which a contract is entered into. Where expenditure is incurred prior to commencement, it will not count towards a candidate's expenditure limit, unless the expenditure would be caught by the existing provisions on candidates' expenditure.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1032W, on political parties: finance, whether a candidate who withdraws their candidature and then after a period of time is subsequently re-adopted, will be deemed not to have triggered when they are re-adopted. [239710]

**Mr. Wills:** At present, under section 90ZA of the Representation of the People Act 1983, the candidate expenditure limit regulates all expenses incurred 'at any time' and used after an individual becomes a candidate at the election.

Clause 11 of the Political Parties and Elections Bill amends the definition of election expenses in section 90ZA of the Representation of the People Act 1983. Under the amended section, all expenditure incurred by or on behalf of the candidate on matters listed in part 1 of schedule 4A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, which is used for the purposes of the candidate's election, will be regulated, regardless of when that expenditure is used.

Therefore whether or not an individual has been formally adopted by a party does not determine whether any expenditure counts towards the candidate's spending limit. The purpose for which the expenditure is used is the decisive factor—any expenditure which falls within the definition in 90ZA will be regulated by the candidate's spending limit, and subsequent expenditure captured by the definition should be aggregated and reported in line with the statutory requirements.

It would not be possible to incur expenses, resign one's 'candidacy' and then relaunch one's 'candidacy' at a later point in order to evade the spending restrictions. In this respect, the position is not affected by the amendments in clause 11 of the Political Parties and Elections Bill (Bill 165).

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether a website promoting a candidate that was paid for before the commencement of the trigger provisions would be deemed not to trigger that candidature provided no money was spent on the website under the proposed new trigger rules. [239712]

**Mr. Wills:** Clause 11(5) of the Political Parties and Elections Bill states that expenses incurred before commencement would not be subject to the amendments made by the clause. Therefore, expense on a website (or other material) would only trigger the expenditure limit if incurred after commencement, unless the expenses would be caught by the existing definition of election expenses.

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 752-53W, on political parties: finance, what types of expense used by or on behalf of the candidate would be deemed to be promoting a candidate's election. [239713]

**Mr. Wills:** The types of spending which the candidate spending limit regulates are set out in Part 1 of Schedule 4A to the Representation of the People Act 1983. Where expenditure is used on these matters for the purposes of the candidate's election, that expenditure would be regulated by the candidate expenditure limit.

Clause 12 (Election expenses: guidance by Commission) of the Political Parties and Elections Bill amends paragraph 14 of Schedule 4A to the 1983 Act and

provides that the Electoral Commission may prepare guidance, in the form of a code of practice, as to the cases or circumstances in which expenses are, or are not, to be regarded as falling within Part 1 of Schedule 4A. Officials from the Ministry of Justice are in discussion with the commission on the form that guidance might take.

### Prison Sentences

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving sentences in HM prisons are beyond their original or adjusted tariff; how many of those maintain innocence of the crime of which they were convicted; what the *(a)* original and *(b)* adjusted tariff is in each case; and how long each such prisoner has been detained to date. [239566]

**Mr. Hanson:** On 24 November 2008, there were 3,949 indeterminate sentenced prisoners in custody recorded as being beyond their original or adjusted tariff.

These figures are taken from the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD) within the National Offender Management Service. As with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing.

No central record of prisoners maintaining their innocence is maintained. To establish how many post-tariff indeterminate sentenced prisoners continued to maintain their innocence and how long each such prisoner had been detained to date would require a manual checking of individual records, which could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

### Prison Service: Uniforms

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is given to prison officers on the wearing of political or religious badges or insignia. [238629]

**Mr. Malik:** Guidance is given to prison officers in regards to wearing political or religious badges or insignia through Prison Service Order (PSO) 8800 that governs corporate image and uniform policy.

Badges that are issued by the Prison Service may be worn (e.g. Butler Trust Award pins, Long Service pin). Other badges or tie pins of this nature may be approved at the Governor's discretion.

The PSO recommends that the following type of badges are not worn:

- badges denoting a particular interest not directly related to the work of the Prison Service;
- membership badges of clubs and societies etc. (apart from one badge from an officially recognised trade union or a recognised network);
- political badges; and
- badges or symbols denoting particular religious or other beliefs.

### Prisoners Release

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were released having served in prison less than half their sentence in each of the last three years; what guidance his Department gives on the proportion of a sentence which shall be served in prison; and if he will make a statement. [238265]

**Mr. Hanson:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation. I will write to the hon. Member once the information is available and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

### Prisoners: Employment

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons run a social enterprise programme similar to that established at HMP Coldingley. [237295]

**Mr. Hanson:** No other prison runs a workshop similar to the Howard League workshop at Coldingley. The workshop was established by the Howard League to explore a particular model of prisoner employment. Constructive and meaningful employment and training for prisoners is found in a large number of prisons.

### Prisons: Drugs

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison guards have been *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed for bringing drugs into prisons in each of the last three years; and how many have been prosecuted for offences related to bringing drugs into prisons in each year. [238044]

**Mr. Hanson:** The requested information is not held centrally in a format that would enable us to answer the specific questions that have been asked. The National Offender Management Service are in the process of gathering this information and I will write to the hon. Gentleman as soon as it is available and place a copy of the letter in the House Library.

### Prisons: Education

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average amount of time each week a prisoner spent on *(a)* education and *(b)* working was in each of the last five years. [239896]

**Mr. Malik:** The following table includes purposeful activity data extracted from National Offender Management Service information systems for each of the last five years for all prisoners in public and contracted sector establishments in England and Wales.

| *Financial year* | *Average number of hours spent in work activities per prisoner per week* | *Average number of hours spent in educational activities per prisoner per week* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 9.9 | 4.5 |
| 2004-05 | 9.8 | 4.7 |
| 2005-06 | 10.0 | 5.1 |
| 2006-07 | 9.9 | 5.2 |
| 2007-08 | 12.5 | 5.2 |

### Prisons: Governing Bodies

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison governors currently in post held the same post *(a)* one year ago, *(b)* two years ago and *(c)* more than two years ago. [238454]

**Mr. Malik:** On 31 October 2008, the latest date for which figures are available, prison governors had been in post for the following periods:

Governors who were in their current post November 2007—86
Governors who were in their current post November 2006—54
Governors who were in their current post November 2005—23

There are 125 in charge governors of prisons and young offender institutions within the public sector Prison Service.

### Prisons: Mental Health Services

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made in forming a Joint Policy Board to oversee the links between mental health *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* provision and the needs of users involved with the police, courts, prisons and secure hospitals in Wales. [237166]

**Mr. Hanson:** The Welsh Assembly Government has responsibility for commissioning arrangements and provision of mental health services in Wales. I understand that the establishment of a Joint Policy Board for mental health commissioning along the lines indicated was put forward as a proposal in the paper, "A Well Being and Mental Health Service Fit for Wales", which was published for consultation in April 2008. Following the consultation, the Welsh Assembly Government's Minister for Health and Social Services issued a written statement on 29 September, which has given the Welsh Assembly view on this issue.

### Prisons: Screening

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many body orifice security scanners have been *(a)* purchased and *(b)* installed in prisons in England and Wales since July 2008. [238450]

**Mr. Malik:** Two Body Orifice Security Scanners (BOSS Chairs) have been delivered to prisons since July 2008, and three establishments are currently awaiting delivery. A further 22 BOSS Chairs were already in operation. The National Offender Management Service is currently part-way through a procurement exercise to purchase BOSS Chairs for the remainder of the prison estate, for delivery early next year.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons operate body orifice security scanners. [238451]

**Mr. Malik:** The following prisons currently use one or more Body Orifice Security Scanner:

HMP Belmarsh
HMP Brixton
HMP/YOI Chelmsford
HMP/YOI Doncaster
HMP Dovegate
HMP Frankland
HMP Full Sutton
HMP Lowdham Grange
HMP Long Lartin
HMP Manchester
HMP/YOI Pare
HMP Wakefield
HMP Wandsworth
HMP Whitemoor
HMP Woodhill

The National Offender Management Service is currently conducting a procurement exercise to purchase BOSS Chairs for the remainder of the prison estate, for delivery early next year.

### Probation: Leicestershire

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the level of funding for the Leicestershire probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 compared with the most recently announced projections. [239814]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. As is the case across Government, the national probation service will need to make efficiency savings, in this case around 2.5 per cent. in the next financial year.

The National Offender Management Service is working to determine how the saving can be achieved in ways that protect front-line services. The aim is to remove overhead and administration and drive improvement in underperforming or expensive services.

Ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

### Probation: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the flat cash grant allocation for the Humberside probation area is for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [239993]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of probation service staff expected to leave Humberside probation area as a result of *(a)* natural wastage, *(b)* retirement and *(c)* redundancy in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12; [239994]

(3) what the estimated share of national savings from the probation service's budget is which falls to the Humberside probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [239995]

(4) what estimate he has made of the reduction in future planned spending for the Humberside probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [239996]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08.

Funding plans for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed. As is the case across Government, the national probation service will need to make efficiency savings, in this case around 2.5 per cent. in the next financial year.

The National Offender Management Service is working to determine how the saving can be achieved in ways that protect front-line services. The aim is to remove overhead and administration and drive improvement in underperforming or expensive services.

Ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

### Prostitution: Sentencing

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women were serving prison sentences for offences in connection with prostitution at the latest date for which figures are available. [240010]

**Maria Eagle:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Re-offenders: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persistent offenders there were in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [240008]

**Mr. Hanson:** A persistent young offender (PYO) is a young person aged 10 to 17 who has been sentenced guilty of recordable offences on three or more separate occasions, and within three years of the last of these is arrested by the police for a further recordable offence.

Statistics relating to PYOs are designed to measure the speed and efficiency of the youth justice system through monitoring the pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for dealing with PYOs in England and Wales from 142 days in 1996 to 71 days. They are not designed to measure overall trends in youth crime, and will give a misleading picture of the true trend if used for this purpose.

The following table shows the number of individual PYOs in the Suffolk police force area and England and Wales from 2003 to 2007.

| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Suffolk | 176 | 216 | 239 | 213 | 230 |
| England and Wales | 14,244 | 14,492 | 14,827 | 15,528 | 16,512 |

Further information on PYOs can be found on the Ministry of Justice website:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/averagetimearresttosentencepyo.htm.

### Royal Park Agency: Fixed Penalty Notices

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what powers he has given the Royal Parks Agency to issue fixed penalty notices; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the representations his Department has received on the issue from the agency. [239028]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government are reviewing the list of offences for which a Penalty Notice for Disorder can be issued. If there is a formal consultation process, responses will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

### Sexual Offences: Drugs

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted sex offenders have volunteered for antilibidinal drug treatment in prison since the programme's introduction. [239392]

**Mr. Hanson:** In 2007, a Department of Health funded service was established in the Prison Service to facilitate improvements in access to assessment and treatment by the small number of offenders in contact with the criminal justice system who may benefit from appropriate medical treatment of sex offenders in the form of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors or anti-libidinal medication.

Since the service began, 11 prisoners have been referred for initial assessment. The outcome of referrals is subject to the rules of medical confidentiality. This service is complementary to current local mental health referral procedures for people in contact with the criminal justice system.

### Theft: Libraries

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been imprisoned since 1987 for the theft of books, manuscripts, maps and other materials held in the national collections; and if he will make a statement. [239939]

**Maria Eagle:** Data held by the Ministry of Justice do not separately classify the offences of theft of books, manuscripts, maps or other materials held in the national collections. Offences of this nature would be charged under the Theft Act 1968 but it is not possible to separately identify document thefts from national collections from other document thefts.

### Tribunals Service

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many hearing centres *(a)* have closed in the last 12 months and *(b)* are scheduled for closure in the next 12 months; [239456]

(2) what proportion of invoices to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were paid late in the last 12 months; [239457]

(3) how many courts *(a)* have closed in the last 12 months and *(b)* are scheduled for closure in the next 12 months. [239342]

**Bridget Prentice:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Voting Methods

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 795W, on voting methods, what evaluation reports were produced following the May 2000 pilot schemes. [238695]

**Mr. Wills:** The Local Government Association published a research report, 'Elections—the 21st century model: an evaluation of the May 2000 local electoral pilots', in November 2000. Each local authority also produced a report on their individual pilot.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to hold further weekend voting pilots; and if he will make a statement. [238811]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government have no plans at present to conduct further weekend voting pilots at this stage. The "Election Day: Weekend Voting" consultation ended

on 26 September. Analysis of the responses received is now under way. The evidence garnered will be used to inform the debate on the merits of moving polling day to the weekend.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to encourage greater use of remote electronic voting; and if he will make a statement. [238812]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government are considering what the appropriate next steps are in relation to remote electronic voting, taking account of the valuable learning gained in earlier pilots, reports published by the Electoral Commission and the recent consultation on Election Day which sought views on other forms of voting.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any election pilot schemes will be adopted in the 2009 local elections. [238813]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government will not be holding any electoral pilot schemes in local elections in 2009.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate has been made of the *(a)* setup and *(b)* average annual costs of enabling voters to use remote electronic voting in all elections across the United Kingdom. [238849]

**Mr. Wills:** No estimate has been made of the *(a)* setup and *(b)* average annual costs of offering remote electronic voting at this stage. The electoral piloting process seeks to identify systems and establish costs for remote electronic voting. The Government are considering the next steps in relation to electronic voting, taking into account the valuable lessons learnt from earlier pilots, including reports published by the electoral Commission, and the recent consultation on election day which sought views on other forms of voting.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has allocated funding to support the costs of weekend voting. [238850]

**Mr. Wills:** No provision has yet been made to support the costs of weekend voting at this stage. The Election Day: Weekend Voting consultation closed on 26 September. Analysis of the responses received is now under way and a report will be published as soon as practicable. The evidence gathered will be used to inform the debate on the merits of moving polling day to the weekend.

### Young Offender Institutions

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been detained in young offender institutions in the last 12 months. [239442]

**Mr. Hanson:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Young Offenders

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what representations he has received in *(a)* person and *(b)* writing from children detained in a (i) young offender institution and (ii) secure training centre in the last 12 months; [239694]

(2) what the function is of the Youth Justice Board monitors placed in each secure training centre; what qualifications are required of Youth Justice Board monitors; and how many times a Youth Justice Board monitor has raised a concern in writing relating to the safety or well-being of a child in a secure training centre in each of the last five years; [239695]

**Mr. Hanson:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Young Offenders: Drugs

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates of young offender institutions were treated for drug addiction in each year since 1997. [235954]

**Mr. Hanson:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation. I will write to the hon. Member once the information is available and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

### Young Offenders: Restraint Techniques

**Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times restraint techniques have been used in *(a)* young offender institutions and *(b)* secure children's homes in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [239440]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table sets out the number of occasions on which Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) was used at young offender institutions (YOIs) and secure children's homes (SCHs) between 1 October 2007 and 30 September 2008.

The use of restraint is governed by the YJB Code of Behaviour Management. Recorded incidents of restraint (using the YJB's definition of "Restrictive Physical Intervention") include minor interventions such as leading a person away by the elbow.

| | *RPIs* |
|---|---|
| YOIs | 3,908 |
| SCHs | 1,704 |

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Adult Education: Finance

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* the UK received (i) adult learning grants and (ii) career development loans in the last period for which figures are available; and what the total monetary value was of such grants and loans. [238105]

**Mr. Simon:** The issues raised are matters for the Learning and Skills Council who administer Career Development Loans and the Adult Learning Grant for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and who have responsibility for the contract with the helpline, assessment and payment body who deliver the

Adult Learning Grant. Mark Haysom, the Council's chief executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average cost of an adult education course was in *(a)* England, *(b)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(c)* the City of Sunderland in the latest period for which figures are available. [239697]

**Mr. Simon:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Adult Education: Hertfordshire

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average cost of an adult education course was in (a) Hemel Hempstead and (b) Hertfordshire in the most recent period for which figures are available. [239948]

**Mr. Lammy:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Apprentices

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress he is making towards meeting the target of having 500,000 high quality apprenticeships in the UK by 2020; and if he will make a statement. [232018]

**Mr. Simon:** We are making good progress towards my Department's contribution to meeting the nation's skills challenge. We estimate that by 2020 we will need to provide 250,000 apprenticeship starts and 190,000 successful completions in England to deliver Lord Leitch's ambition. Last year (2006-07) we delivered 184,000 apprenticeship starts and 112,000 successful completions. Completion rates have improved from 24 per cent. in 2001-02 to 63 per cent. in 2006-07. Data on the number of starts in 2007-08 are due to be published in December. World-class Apprenticeships, published earlier this year, confirmed our commitment to making apprenticeships a high quality option for both young people and adults and set out steps to increase the numbers of people successfully completing an apprenticeship. In the summer, we published a draft Apprenticeships Bill to drive and help sustain improvements in the quality of the programme. This focus on continuous improvement will be complemented by an increase in apprenticeships funding to over £1 billion by 2010-11.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department and each of its predecessors spent on advertising and marketing apprenticeship schemes in each year since 1997. [232020]

**Mr. Simon:** The Learning and Skills Council has been responsible for promoting apprenticeships since it came into existence in April 2001. The Council's Chief Executive, Mark Haysom, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy will be place in the Library. Before April 2001 promotion of apprenticeships was the responsibility of the Department for Education and Employment and the Training and Enterprise Councils. It is not possible to estimate the total amount spent on promotional activities in this period.

### Apprentices: Enfield

**Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people were in apprenticeships in Enfield, North constituency in each year since 1997. [235450]

**Mr. Simon:** Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts and completions for learners living in the parliamentary constituency of Enfield, North. Figures are presented from 2002/03 to 2006/07, the latest year for which fully audited data are available. Comparable information is not available prior to the formation of the Learning and Skills Council in 2001.

*Table 1: Apprenticeship starts and completions in Enfield, North*

| *Academic year* | *Apprenticeship starts* | *Apprenticeship completions* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002/03 | 190 | 20 |
| 2003/04 | 210 | 20 |
| 2004/05 | 200 | 60 |
| 2005/06 | 200 | 80 |
| 2006/07 | 190 | 100 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. Parliamentary constituency is based on learner's home postcode.

*Source:*
Work Based Learning ILR data.

### Apprentices: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in Suffolk were on *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships in each of the last five years. [240007]

**Mr. Simon:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Brussels

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on visits by its staff to Brussels in 2007-08; and how many such visits were made by *(a)* air and *(b)* rail. [239495]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department does not maintain records of expenditure on air fares and rail fares by destination or the number of journeys to individual destinations. Therefore the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All travel by Civil Servants is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code and departmental staff handbooks.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (a) cards, (b) parties and (c) decorations in the last 12 months. [237484]

**Mr. Simon:** In 2007 DIUS held a competition for further education college students to design an electronic Christmas card for the Department. The competition was won by Matthew Boulton college. This incurred no significant cost to the Department as colleges were individually invited to participate. The prize—a trip to a design centre or space centre—was donated by our partners. The DIUS Christmas card was distributed electronically through existing e-mail routes and therefore incurred no significant costs.

In 2008 DIUS held another electronic Christmas card competition. The result of that competition will be made known shortly.

In 2007-08 the Secretary of State hosted one official Christmas function for 50 people which cost £665. Departmental divisions do hold Christmas parties for staff to attend, for which staff must pay themselves.

DIUS did not purchase any Christmas decorations in 2007-08.

Details of expenditure by the Department's agencies—National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) and UK Intellectual Property Office (UK-IPO)—in 2007-08 are as follows:

£

| | *NWML* | *UK-IPO* |
|---|---|---|
| Christmas cards | 0 | 0 |
| Christmas parties | 530 | 0 |
| Christmas decorations | 72 | 353 |

## Copyright Tribunal

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Government's response to the Second Report of the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee on the Work and Operation of the Copyright Tribunal HC 637, what plans his Department has to reform the Copyright Tribunal; what steps he has taken in this respect; what timescale he has established for reform; and what plans he has to consult on granting collecting societies the right to make reference to the Tribunal. [234893]

**Mr. Lammy:** As I said before the House during the Adjournment debate on 12 November, I am pleased to announce that the Intellectual Property Office is implementing a series of reforms.

Specifically, the IPO is undertaking reforms in three areas:

*(i) Resources and staffing*

The IPO has established the Registry of the Tribunal in London, and increased staff resources. Furthermore, the IPO is in the process of recruiting eight new lay members to the tribunal, and the Secretary of State will announce these appointments in April 2009. Finally, the IPO has agreed a timetable with the Judicial Appointments Commission to recruit a Deputy Chairperson. The Lord Chancellor will announce the appointment in early April 2009.

*(ii) Rules of Procedure*

The Rules of Procedure are currently under revision, with a view to bringing them into line with the Civil Procedure Rules.

*(iii) Jurisdiction*

The IPO is analysing a number of issues in relation to the jurisdiction of the Copyright Tribunal. I expect this work to have been completed, and to be in a position to bring forward proposals, in 2009.

## Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since its inception; what the target rates set for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [239149]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department was created on 28 June 2007. Sickness absence figures for the period July 2007 to June 2008 are available on its website:

www.dius.gov.uk/press/civil_sickness.html.

The figures include the Department's two agencies, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) and the UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO), but they do not include the non-departmental public bodies as the information for them is not held centrally.

The Department is committed to managing sickness absence effectively and is developing its absence management policies, including targets to reduce sickness absence.

## Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether food and drink on sale to staff of (a) his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237420]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) is located across sites in London, Runcorn, Darlington and Sheffield. In London, the catering contract is let on a commercial basis. DIUS does not subsidise food or drink here. At the other locations, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is the major occupier. Neither Department subsidises, from public funds, the food and drink that is on sale to staff.

The National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) does not subsidise food and drink on sale to staff at its premises.

The United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO) does subsidise food and drink. This small subsidy will be eliminated by 2010-11.

## Departmental Civil Servants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many civil servants have been employed by each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [239146]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department's executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) are non-Crown bodies and employees are not civil servants—although

civil servants can be seconded or loaned to NDPBs. Information on the number of employees in executive NDPBs is published in the annual Cabinet Office 'Public Bodies' publication. Copies are available from the Libraries of the House.

Advisory NDPBs do not usually employ staff. They are typically supported by civil servants from the sponsoring Department.

**Departmental Consultants**

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many external consultants work for his Department. [235314]

**Mr. Simon:** In keeping with good procurement practice most consultancy contracts placed by Department are based on a requirement for the delivery of outcomes or outputs, and not for a number of consultancy days or hours. We are, therefore, unable to answer the question in the way it has been asked. However, the total number of live consultancy contracts in former Department for Education and Skills; Higher Education Group and Further Education Group, at the end of August 2008 was 17. Work is progressing to harmonise policies within the former Department for Trade and Industry Groups, Government Science, Innovation, Science and Research, to capture group portfolio information on external based resource, and therefore is not currently collected in the form requested and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [239148]

**Mr. Simon:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Departmental Early Retirement**

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many employees in his Department have taken early retirement since its inception; and at what total cost. [238969]

**Mr. Simon:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Departmental Electronic Equipment**

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment since its creation; and how much his Department's agency spent on such equipment in each of the last three years. [237440]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. Information on expenditure prior to 2007-08 is not held in this Department.

Details of expenditure on the following items by DIUS and its agencies, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) and the United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office (UK-IPO), are:

| | *Flat screen TVs* | *DVD Players* | *Stereo equipment* |
|---|---|---|---|
| DIUS | [1]31,257 | 0 | 0 |
| NWML | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| UK-IPO | | | |
| 2006-07 | 6,038 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| 2008-09 | 660 | 0 | 0 |

[1] Leased for over five years.

**Departmental Internet**

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of maintaining his Department's website *(a)* was in 2007-08 and *(b)* is projected to be in 2008-09. [235323]

**Mr. Simon:** The cost of maintaining the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills website in 2007-08 was £104,336.96 inclusive of VAT.

The Department was set up with an interim site and most of its information content continued to be hosted in DCSF and BERR sites. The Department is currently in the process of changing web suppliers and completely redoing the corporate website to enable migration of all content currently hosted by legacy Departments. Therefore the projected costs for 2008-09 can be broken down into two parts.

(1) The ongoing hosting and maintenance costs with the incumbent suppliers will be in the region of £120,000.

(2) The projected total costs for redeveloping the corporate site which is broken down into initial set up costs that will only be required in 2008-09 and ongoing maintenance and service is as follows.

*Setup*

Design: Following a competitive tender the website redesign, including research, scoping, design and production of templates and user testing is approximately £100,000.

Hosting and infrastructure: Using a shared service with the Department for Children, Schools and Families the Department is developing a new web hosting infrastructure and content management system. This cost also includes scoping, hardware and full content migration of over 20,000 pages of content from DCSF and BERR. The cost for this is approximately £240,000.

*Ongoing*

There is also a projected annual maintenance and service cost which may be in the region of £85,000.

**Departmental Manpower**

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by his Department in each year since its inception; and at what cost in each year. [239087]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established in June 2007. The Department employed one special adviser initially, rising to two from September 2007. A new special advisor was appointed on 1 September 2008, with one of the existing special advisors having a handover period agreed with Cabinet Office before leaving.

The Department's full complement of press officers has been 13 throughout that time, though in the earlier months of the Department's existence there were a number of vacancies.

The total cost of the press office to date is £267,095.52. Costs of DIUS special advisers salaries are included in the annual Ministerial Statement on special advisers' paybands.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [239147]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established in June 2007.

In 2007-08 the Department spent £2,523,721 on publicity, and advertising. For 2008-09 £740,496 has been spent.

For much of its business the Department operates through a number of arms length bodies including non-departmental public bodies and other agencies. The Department does not hold the information requested centrally and there would be a disproportionate cost to gather the information.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff has been since his Department was established. [237505]

**Mr. Denham:** Three civil servants support the Secretary of State's special advisers. They provide support of a non-political nature in accordance with the code of conduct for special advisers.

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [238171]

**Mr. Simon:** None. Special adviser have no entitlement to an allocated Government car. During their employment within the Department special advisers are civil servants and their travel arrangements are made in accordance with the rules and guidance setM4 in the Civil Service Management Code, and departmental staff handbooks.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [239657]

**Mr. Simon:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many press releases have been issued by his Department in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [239648]

**Mr. Simon:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract since the inception of his Department. [239689]

**Mr. Simon:** Information on whether there has been any abortive cost to the Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract is not collected centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since its inception; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239649]

**Mr. Simon:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established in June 2007. Since that date the Department has spent £42,075 on focus groups. For the remainder of 2008-09 we estimate spending £8,645.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many citizens' juries his Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227469]

**Mr. Simon:** DIUS has run three citizens' juries: one on informal adult learning, and two on English for Speakers of Other Languages. The total cost was £189,965. The events involved 143 members of the public and three Ministers also attended.

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure applications for education maintenance allowance are dealt with as quickly as possible. [225198]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about applications made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average time taken to complete applications for education maintenance allowance was from receipt of application to confirmation of award in the latest period for which figures are available. [225132]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about applications made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

### Education: Prisons

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent per prisoner on providing education in prisons in each of the last five years; and what the total cost was. [219694]

**Mr. Simon:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average cost was of providing an hour's education to a prisoner in each of the last five years. [219695]

**Mr. Simon:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

The Learning and Skills Council assumed responsibility for planning and funding the new integrated Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) across England with effect from 31 July 2008, putting in place a series of contracts to deliver learning and skills in public sector prisons across England. We do not have detailed information on the learning hours delivered through the predecessor contracts.

On the basis of the Learning and Skills Council's total spend on learning delivery in public sector prisons in England, the total number of teaching hours delivered and assuming an average class size of eight prisoners, the average cost per prisoner of providing an hour's education was £8.19 in academic year 2006-07 and £7.30 in academic year 2007-08.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 103-4W, on admissions to higher education, if he will provide a breakdown of the figures for expenditure on student support in each year in accordance with the categories in footnote 4 of the table. [232279]

**Mr. Lammy:** Detailed breakdown of expenditure on student support in financial years 1997-98 to 2010-11 is as follows:

*£million*

| | *1997-98 Outturn* | *1998-99 Outturn* | *1999-2000 Outturn* | *2000-01 Outturn* | *2001-02 Outturn* | *2002-03 Outturn* | *2003-04 Outturn* | *2004-05 Outturn* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Student Maintenance Loans RAB Charge | 319 | 410 | 604 | 773 | 578 | 457 | 448 | 718 |
| Fee Loans RAB Charge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Student Support Grants | 1,982 | 1,877 | 1,875 | 647 | 551 | 541 | 547 | 614 |
| Access Funds & bursaries | 22 | 39 | 82 | 87 | 88 | 97 | 95 | 78 |
| Total | 2,363 | 2,326 | 1,761 | 1,507 | 1,213 | 1,095 | 1,084 | 1,410 |

| | *2005-06 Outturn* | *2006-07 Outturn* | *2007-08 Estimated outturn* | *2008-09 Plans*[1] | *2009-10 Plans*[1] | *2010-11 Plans*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Student Maintenance Loans RAB Charge | 581 | 587 | 960 | 571 | 584 | 606 |
| Fee Loans RAB Charge | 0 | 128 | 341 | 946 | 752 | 762 |
| Student Support Grants | 758 | 660 | 1,005 | 1,033 | 1,105 | 1,160 |
| Access Funds & bursaries | 72 | 64 | 96 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Total | 1,411 | 1,638 | 1,962 | 2,592 | 2,461 | 2,908 |

[1] As set out in our Departmental Annual Report 2008. The grant expenditure plans will be revised in the future to reflect the greater than expected demand for higher education grants and the adjusted eligibility for grants from 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Note:
The student loans RAB charge represents the future cost to Government of subsidising and writing off the student loans issued in that year. It does not represent the amount of cash lent to students, which has risen each year since the introduction of student loans.

**Mr. Bob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 32-3WS, on Education (Student Support) Regulations, when the Higher Education Council for England advised his Department of the likely number of additional student numbers that would be allocated in 2009-10; and how many additional student numbers they expect to allocate in 2009-10. [233707]

**Mr. Lammy:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State indicated, in the annual grant letter of 18 January 2008 to the Higher Education Funding Council for England which set out the Government's strategic priorities for institutional funding, that planned student numbers should increase by 35,000 by 2009/10 compared with 2007/08. In his written ministerial statement of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 32-33WS this was revised to 30,000 students over the same period, including growth of 10,000 students between 2008/09 and 2009/10.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many additional student places have been created in each year since 1992. [235329]

**Mr. Lammy:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Stephen Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what data he holds on the parental household income of the cohort of undergraduates entering higher education in October 2008; [236249]

(2) what information his Department holds on the proportion of undergraduates studying for first degrees who have a parental household income of between *(a)* £25,000 and £30,000, *(b)* £30,001 and £40,000, *(c)* £40,001 and £50,000, *(d)* £50,001 and £60,000, *(e)* £60,001 and £70,000 and *(f)* £70,001 and over. [236250]

**Mr. Lammy:** Complete information on household incomes of students is not available centrally.

During November the Student Loans Company will publish the Statistical First Release Student Support for Higher Education in England, Academic Year 2008-09 (Provisional). This will include early provisional information on grants in 2008-09 and complete information on grants in academic year 2007-08.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many 16 to 24 year olds were in post-16 education in (a) Hertfordshire and (b) Hemel Hempstead in each year since 1997. [238188]

**Mr. Simon:** Table 1 shows the number of 16 to 18-year-old Learning and Skills Council funded learners living in Hertfordshire local authority, and separately for learners living in the Parliamentary Constituency of Hemel Hempstead. Figures are presented from 2004-05 to 2006-07, the latest year for which fully audited data are available. Comparable information is not available prior to the formation of the Learning and Skills Council in 2001.

*Table 1: Number of learners funded by the Learning and Skills Council for Hertfordshire local authority and the parliamentary constituency of Hemel Hempstead by funding stream, 2004-07*

| | *Adult and community learning* | *Further education colleges* | *University for industry* | *Work based learning* | *Train to gain* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Hertfordshire* | | | | | | |
| 2004-05 | 630 | 15,570 | 940 | 2,970 | | 20,090 |
| 2005-06 | 780 | 15,080 | 730 | 2,990 | | 19,580 |
| 2006-07 | 770 | 14,800 | 340 | 2,890 | 2,600 | 21,490 |
| *Hemel Hempstead* | | | | | | |
| 2004-05 | 90 | 1,370 | 70 | 280 | | 1,800 |
| 2005-06 | 90 | 1,320 | 50 | 310 | | 1,780 |
| 2006-07 | 120 | 1,410 | 20 | 340 | 420 | 2,300 |

Notes:
1. Figures are taken from the Individualised Learner Record final 105 data freezes.
2. Robust figures prior to 2004-05 are not currently available at local authority and parliamentary constituency level.
3. Local authority and parliamentary constituency are based on home postcode of the learner. Parliamentary Constituency is based on the 2006-07 boundaries for all years.
4. For Train to Gain and Work Based Learning, participation is counted as the number of starters.
5. There may be an element of double counting in the figures as some learners will participate in more than one funding area.
6. Totals may not equal the sum of their components due to rounding.
7. Train to Gain was created in April 2006. Standard reporting practice is to include the months of April to July 2006 in the 2006-07 academic year.

*General Notes*

1. Between 2004-05 and 2006-07, there was a significant shift in the types of further education provision that attracted public funding. Realignment of funding towards longer courses offering adults the greatest opportunity to gain the skills to enter and progress in sustained employment has necessarily led to a decrease in the overall number of LSC funded learners.

2. However, it cannot be assumed that these courses and learners no longer exist—for example, in 2006-07, there were more than 550,000 adult learners in FE colleges who received no LSC funding for their course, either

because they or their employer paid the full fee, or because they were funded through a different funding stream.

3. Where a course no longer attracts public funding, we expect colleges and providers to continue to offer those courses, at full cost, in response to demand. We are also working with colleges to ensure they are more efficient in the way they collect fee income from those learners, and employers who are expected to contribute towards fees to enable them to support those who need it most.

**Mr. Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of students were admitted to *(a)* Oxford University, *(b)* Cambridge University and *(c)* one of the Russell Group of universities from each local education authority in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [238192]

**Mr. Lammy:** The information is shown in the table, copies of which have been placed in the Library. The latest period for which figures are available is the 2006/07 academic year. Figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in late January 2009.

This Government remain totally committed to widening participation in higher education (HE), for those from poorer and other under-represented backgrounds. This includes those young people who overcome the greatest challenges, not just to go to university at all, but to one of the most selective universities or courses. We, together with the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the universities themselves, are working to raise both aspirations of young people and attainment to unlock the talent of each student so that they can progress to a university that will help them realise their full potential.

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of *(a)* state school and *(b)* private school students in (i) England, (ii) the City of Sunderland and (iii) Houghton and Washington East constituency were admitted to higher education in each year since 1997. [239696]

**Mr. Lammy:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of *(a)* state and *(b)* private school students in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire were admitted to higher education in each year since 1997. [239947]

**Mr. Lammy:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Higher Education: Cultural Heritage

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many higher education institutions offered courses in building conservation and related subjects in each year since 1997; and what percentage of the total number of institutions this represents. [238013]

**Mr. Lammy:** Information taken from the UCAS website shows that, for the 2009 year of entry, there are seven institutions offering full-time undergraduate courses in building conservation.

This represents 2.25 per cent. of all 311 institutions held on the UCAS website. Earlier information on the number of courses offered is not available.

### Higher Education: Finance

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which *(a)* universities and *(b)* further education colleges in England have operating deficits; and if he will make a statement. [233713]

**Mr. Simon:** Information on the operating deficits of individual universities and further education (FE) colleges is not held at Departmental level. The financial performance of universities and FE colleges is a matter for the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Learning and Skills Council respectively. The chief executives of both organisations, Professor David Eastwood and Mark Haysom, have written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of their replies has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 13 November 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 233713 that asked:

"Which (a) universities and (b) further education colleges in England have operating deficits".

Of the 363 Further Education Colleges in England, 120 have reported in-year operating deficits for the year ended 31st July 2008, according to the latest available information which is taken from the 2008 College Financial Plans (annual returns which are due each 31st July). This data included in these plans is unaudited. Audited figures for the year ended 31st July 2008 are due to be received at the LSC by 31st December 2008.

A list of the 120 colleges is attached.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will consider introducing a national bursary scheme for higher education students to distribute financial support on the basis of need. [237944]

**Mr. Lammy:** Under the current arrangements, institutions are required to pay a minimum bursary to all students receiving the maximum grant. Beyond this, it is for institutions themselves, subject to approval from OFFA, to decide how to support their students. The latest figures show that acceptances to universities for England are at an all time high, with the proportion of applicants from lower socio-economic groups also up. How the bursary system has operated will be looked at in the independent review of the way in which the fee system operates. We are reluctant at this stage to say that we should go from a system of locally determined bursaries to a national bursary system, which would simply be an extension of student financial support. Sir Martin Harris has judged that there is far more money in the bursary system as a result of local decisions than would have been the case had we imposed a bursary target as part of the fees legislation.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many university places were co-funded with employers in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09; and how many he expects to be so funded in 2009-10. [238885]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) allocated funding to higher education institutions to support 911 and 3,840 employer co-funded places (on a headcount basis) in 2006/07 and 2007/08 academic years, respectively. To date, HEFCE has allocated funding to support a target of 9,712 places (headcount) for 2008/09.

HEFCE expect to support at least 10,000 employer co-funded places (headcount) in 2009/10, in line with the target set out in the 2008 HEFCE grant letter.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much public funding was provided for the teaching costs of each place for first-time UK and EU undergraduates for courses *(a)* co-funded and *(b)* not co-funded with employers on average in the latest period for which figures are available. [238921]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) allocated an average rate of teaching grant per employer co-funded UK and EU student in 2008/09 of £2,961 per year (full time equivalent) and £4,194 for fully funded students. Whilst the average employer co-funding rate is less than 50 per cent., HEFCE have asked institutions receiving development funding for ECF projects to achieve 50 per cent. by the end of 2010/11.

### Higher Education: Lancashire

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on *(a)* higher education and *(b)* further education in West Lancashire constituency since 1997. [225759]

**Mr. Lammy:** Expenditure incurred by HEFCE, the Student Loans Company and the Learning and Skills Council is not collected by the Department at the level of detail requested. We will, however, work with HEFCE and the Student Loans Company to try to gain a detailed breakdown of the higher education expenditure and will write to my hon. Friend with further relevant detail. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive will write to my hon. Friend with additional information on further education expenditure.

### Higher Education: Research

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much quality-related research funding was allocated to each university in the most recent research assessment exercise, broken down by region. [236593]

**Mr. Lammy:** The following table gives QR funding for each institution in 2008/09, grouped by region.

Figures include late grant adjustments, and reflect mergers. Figures exclude Research Capability funds.

*Quality-related research (QR) funding for 2008-09, by region*

| *Region* | *Institution name* | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | De Montfort University | 4.1 |
| | University of Derby | 0.0 |
| | University of Leicester | 18.8 |
| | University of Lincoln | 0.0 |
| | Loughborough University | 16.2 |
| | University of Northampton | 0.3 |
| | University of Nottingham | 40.7 |
| | Nottingham Trent University | 2.3 |
| East Midlands total | | 82.4 |
| East of England | Anglia Ruskin University | 0.3 |
| | University of Bedfordshire | 0.2 |
| | University of Cambridge | 111.6 |
| | Cranfield University | 9.8 |
| | University of East Anglia | 15.3 |
| | University of Essex | 11.3 |
| | University of Hertfordshire | 2.5 |
| | Norwich University College of the Arts | 0.0 |
| | Writtle College | 0.0 |
| East of England total | | 151.1 |
| London | Birkbeck College | 9.8 |
| | Brunel University | 8.1 |
| | Institute of Cancer Research | 19.4 |
| | Central School of Speech and Drama | 0.0 |
| | City University, London | 6.4 |
| | Courtauld Institute of Art | 1.3 |
| | University of East London | 1.5 |
| | Institute of Education | 8.7 |
| | Goldsmiths College | 8.6 |
| | University of Greenwich | 1.3 |
| | Imperial College | 97.7 |
| | King's College London | 60.0 |
| | Kingston University | 0.9 |
| | University of the Arts London | 9.7 |
| | University of London | 0.1 |
| | London Business School | 4.7 |
| | London School of Economics and Political Science | 18.3 |
| | London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine | 10.7 |
| | London Metropolitan University | 0.1 |
| | London South Bank University | 1.3 |
| | Middlesex University | 1.2 |
| | School of Oriental and African Studies | 7.6 |
| | School of Pharmacy | 3.3 |
| | Queen Mary, University of London | 24.8 |
| | RCN Institute | 0.0 |
| | Roehampton University | 0.9 |

*Quality-related research (QR) funding for 2008-09, by region*

| Region | Institution name | £ million |
|---|---|---|
| | Rose Bruford College | 0.0 |
| | Royal Academy of Music | 0.3 |
| | Royal College of Art | 2.9 |
| | Royal College of Music | 0.0 |
| | Royal Veterinary College | 4.9 |
| | St. George's Hospital Medical School | 7.5 |
| | St. Mary's University College | 0.1 |
| | Thames Valley University | 0.0 |
| | University College London | 104.1 |
| | University of Westminster | 2.0 |
| London total | | 428.7 |
| North East | University of Durham | 23.9 |
| | University of Newcastle | 34.0 |
| | Northumbria University | 1.2 |
| | University of Sunderland | 0.9 |
| | University of Teesside | 0.2 |
| North East total | | 60.2 |
| North West | University of Bolton | 0.3 |
| | University of Central Lancashire | 0.8 |
| | University of Chester | 0.0 |
| | University of Cumbria | 0.0 |
| | Edge Hill University | 0.0 |
| | Lancaster University | 17.7 |
| | University of Liverpool | 32.5 |
| | Liverpool Hope University | 0.1 |
| | Liverpool John Moores University | 2.2 |
| | University of Manchester | 82.2 |
| | Manchester Metropolitan University | 3.1 |
| | Royal Northern College of Music | 0.2 |
| | University of Salford | 7.6 |
| North West total | | 146.8 |
| Open University | Open University | 7.4 |
| Open University total | | 7.4 |
| South East | University of Brighton | 4.7 |
| | Buckinghamshire New University | 0.0 |
| | Canterbury Christ Church University | 0.0 |
| | University of Chichester | 0.0 |
| | University for the Creative Arts | 0.0 |
| | University of Kent | 8.1 |
| | University of Oxford | 110.1 |
| | Oxford Brookes University | 2.5 |
| | University of Portsmouth | 4.3 |
| | University of Reading | 22.3 |



*Quality-related research (QR) funding for 2008-09, by region*

| Region | Institution name | £ million |
|---|---|---|
| | Royal Holloway, University of London | 14.5 |
| | University of Southampton | 46.7 |
| | Southampton Solent University | 0.0 |
| | University of Surrey | 18.0 |
| | University of Sussex | 17.3 |
| | University of Winchester | 0.2 |
| South East total | | 248.7 |
| South West | University of Bath | 18.7 |
| | Bath Spa University | 0.2 |
| | Bournemouth University | 0.4 |
| | University of Bristol | 44.6 |
| | Dartington College of Arts | 0.1 |
| | University of Exeter | 14.6 |
| | University College Falmouth | 0.0 |
| | University of Gloucestershire | 0.4 |
| | University of Plymouth | 3.4 |
| | University College Plymouth | 0.0 |
| | Royal Agricultural College | 0.0 |
| | University of West of England, Bristol | 1.8 |
| South West total | | 84.2 |
| West Midlands | Aston University | 6.8 |
| | University of Birmingham | 44.1 |
| | BCU | 0.8 |
| | Coventry University | 0.6 |
| | Harper Adams University College | 0.0 |
| | Keele University | 6.8 |
| | Newman University College | 0.0 |
| | Staffordshire University | 0.6 |
| | University of Warwick | 30.5 |
| | University of Wolverhampton | 0.2 |
| | University of Worcester | 0.0 |
| West Midlands total | | 90.5 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | University of Bradford | 7.0 |
| | University of Huddersfield | 1.5 |
| | University of Hull | 6.3 |
| | University of Leeds | 48.5 |
| | Leeds Metropolitan University | 0.2 |
| | Leeds Trinity and All Saints | 0.0 |
| | University of Sheffield | 44.6 |
| | Sheffield Hallam University | 3.8 |
| | University of York | 24.0 |
| | York St. John University | 0.0 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber total | | 135.9 |
| England total | | 1,436.0 |

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of quality-related research funding for universities in the most recent research assessment exercise was allocated to university departments in each star rating category. [236594]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 691-92W, to the hon. Member for Northampton, South (Mr. Binley).

### Literacy

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what action the Government have taken to improve the reading and writing skills of parents. [239449]

**Beverley Hughes:** Parents improving their reading and writing skills remains an important priority for the Government. The Department for Children Schools and Families and the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills commit over £47 million per year to family learning programmes.

The Family Literacy Language and Numeracy programme (FLLN) targets approximately 60,000 parents per year in the most deprived local authorities in England. The aim of the programme is to raise the literacy, language and numeracy skills of parents and/or carers; improve parents' and/or carers' ability to help their children and to improve children's acquisition of literacy language and numeracy skills. FLLN has been successful in encouraging parents to re-enter education, training and work.

The Family Learning Impact Funding (FLIF) announced in the Department for Children Schools and Families' Children's Plan in December 2007 is designed to expand and further develop existing family learning provision to extend the reach of the programme, meet individual needs more effectively, improve the quality of provision for parents and increase the number of disadvantaged parents achieving qualifications and progressing.

### Mature Students

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to promote opportunities for those over 30 years old to study at university both as full-time and part-time students. [239438]

**Mr. Lammy:** We are providing more opportunities for those over 30 with generous support arrangements to help with costs of study for both full and part-time learners; innovative forms of higher education that are particularly attractive to adults already in the workforce; and opportunities for progression through Access courses.

Numbers of part-time and mature students have increased significantly under this Government. Some 300,000 more students are in higher education now than 10 years ago and that trend will continue.

### National Vocational Qualifications

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will estimate the cost to an individual of obtaining an NVQ level II qualification. [236946]

**Mr. Simon:** Where a learner is aged under 19 at the start of their programme they will not be required to contribute towards the costs of their course. This also applies where a learner is aged 19 or over and studying for their first full level 2 qualification and / or on income-related benefits.

Where a learner is aged 19 or over, and not eligible for full fee remission, it is assumed within the funding methodology that a contribution of 42.5 per cent. (in 2008-09) is made towards the cost of the course.

The funding rate for a NVQ level 2 qualification (excluding uplifts to take into account the subject of the course or the location of the college/provider), and therefore the assumed fee contribution from the individual, is based on the amount of hours required to deliver the course.

On this basis a full time NVQ level 2 qualification would attract a funding rate of just over £3,200. The assumed fee contribution (at 42.5 per cent. would therefore be £1363 - this is for the entire length of the programme (not per year). However, while this would represent the assumed fee contribution it is for the college or provider to determine the actual level of fee charged to a learner.

### Part-Time Education

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1398W, on students: fees and charges, how many and what proportion of *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate students studied part-time in each year between 1992-93 and 2001-02. [238799]

**Mr. Lammy:** Figures are shown in the following table. The break in the time series represents a change in the source of the figures. Figures for 1992/93 and 1993/94 include FE colleges, whereas figures from 1994/95 onwards do not, so figures across the time series are not directly comparable.

*Number and proportion of part-time undergraduate and postgraduate enrolments[1] — English higher education institutions academic years 1992/93 to 2001/02*

| | | of which: part-time | | | of which: part-time | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Academic year* | *Total undergraduates* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Total postgraduates* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| 1992/93[2] | 909,200 | 231,000 | 25.4 | 174,255 | 90,160 | 51.7 |
| 1993/94[2] | 996,180 | 240,430 | 24.1 | 194,405 | 101,370 | 52.1 |
| 1994/95 | 1,023,575 | 259,215 | 25.3 | 253,595 | 147,485 | 58.2 |

*Number and proportion of part-time undergraduate and postgraduate enrolments[1] English higher education institutions academic years 1992/93 to 2001/02*

| Academic year | Total undergraduates[2] | of which: part-time | | Total postgraduates | of which: part-time | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number | Percentage | | Number | Percentage |
| 1995/96 | 1,129,830 | 340,690 | 30.2 | 279,870 | 168,980 | 60.4 |
| 1996/97 | 1,159,215 | 352,060 | 30.4 | 272,545 | 156,810 | 57.5 |
| 1997/98 | 1,172,865 | 346,475 | 29.5 | 292,915 | 175,335 | 59.9 |
| 1998/99 | 1,195,620 | 360,095 | 30.1 | 307,965 | 186,825 | 60.7 |
| 1999/2000 | 1,198,005 | 367,575 | 30.7 | 312,545 | 187,060 | 59.9 |
| 2000/01 | 1,229,550 | 392,120 | 31.9 | 323,150 | 190,380 | 58.9 |
| 2001/02 | 1,263,500 | 403,165 | 31.9 | 330,870 | 187,970 | 56.8 |

[1] Figures cover enrolments of all domiciles.
[2] Figures for 1992/93 and 1993/94 include FE colleges, whereas later years do not.

*Sources:*
For 1992/93 and 1993/94:
Universities Statistical Record (covering students in former UFC funded universities as at 31 December) and the Further Education Statistical Record (covering students in former polytechnic colleges, HE and FE colleges as at 1 November). Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
For 1994/95 onwards:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Figures are on a DIUS Snapshot basis as at the 1 December to maintain a consistent time series across all years and are rounded to the nearest five. Figures exclude those on writing up, sabbatical or dormant modes of study. Percentages are based on un-rounded figures.

### Redundancy

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (Y) his Department and its predecessor (Z) each of his Department's agencies. [237349]

**Mr. Simon:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since it was established received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [239157]

**Mr. Simon:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Science: Museums and Galleries

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether he has received the report from Ecsite-uk on science and discovery centres; and if he will make a statement. [239283]

**Mr. Lammy:** As recommended by the Science and Technology Select Committee in October 2007, DIUS has commissioned independent research on science and discovery centres—both Ecsite-uk members and others. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, received a copy of the project specification from my hon. Friend, the then Minister of State for Science and Innovation, on 12 June. Frontier Economics were commissioned in July 2008 to conduct the study, which focuses on science centres' contribution to science and society goals, compared with other DIUS-funded providers of enrichment activities. Their report is expected in January 2009.

Ecsite-uk completed a small-scale joint DIUS/DCSF-funded study of the value of their own science centres; this was published on their website in April 2008.

### Science: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assistance the Government have provided to York as a science city since 1998. [237058]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Government have not provided any direct national funding to York as a Science City since the role of Science Cities is to bring together existing public investment in science and urban regeneration, and any addditional funding is at the discretion of the Science City partners.

However, Yorkshire Forward has made the following investments to support York as a science city since 2001:

| Programme | Amount invested (£) |
|---|---|
| To support York and North Yorkshire as a leading centre of enterprise in science, technology and the creative industries. Funding used to develop networks across ICT, bioscience and creative sectors and knowledge transfer from the University | 2,210,986 |
| To support Science City York enterprise and business advice across a range of sectors: ICT, creative and bioscience | 199,999 |
| To support York Bio-Incubator that provides managed workspace and incubation for York-based bioscience companies | 1,449,853 |

| Programme | Amount invested (£) |
|---|---|
| To support Science City York Business Hub and Spoke enterprise project | 2,615,187 |
| Total | 6,476,025 |

The University of York, one of the two Science City York principle shareholders, has received nearly £69 million funding between 2002-08 from DIUS and the Higher Education Funding Council through the three rounds of the Science, Research and Investment Fund (SRIF). SRIF's replacement Research Capital Investment Fund (RCIF), which was established in July 2008, will be investing a further £21 m in the University of York during the three years 2008-11.

The University of York has also received over £6 million in funding from the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) to boost its knowledge transfer capacity since 2001.

## Skills Pledge

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many companies have signed the Skills Pledge since its launch; [238883]

(2) how much his Department has spent on promoting the Skills Pledge. [238884]

**Mr. Simon:** The Skills Pledge is a voluntary, public commitment by employers to support their employees to develop their basic skills, including literacy and numeracy, and work towards relevant, valuable qualifications to at least Level 2 (equivalent to five good GCSEs). It is not a product or service but a philosophy which signals an employers' understanding of the value of skills to their business and to their employees. We have made excellent progress since the launch of the Skills Pledge in June 2007 and, to date, 7,628 employers in England have made the Skills Pledge.

The Department has spent £1,154,000 on promoting the Skills Pledge since its inception, funded through the Learning and Skills Council.

## Students: Finance

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many UK-domiciled students with a household income of between £50,020 and £60,000 the Higher Education Funding Council for England estimates will enter higher education in 2009-10. [233708]

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 32-3WS, on the Education (Student Support) Regulations, what estimate he has made of the number (1) of students who would otherwise have expected to receive *(a)* a full grant and *(b)* a partial grant for their higher education studies had they commenced in 2008-09 who will receive no grant as a consequence of the reduction of the income threshold; [233594]

(2) of prospective students who left school in 2008 and plan to enter university in 2009 and who did not receive the level of higher education grant they would have received had they entered university in 2008 as a consequence of the reduction in the income threshold. [233595]

**Mr. Lammy:** On 29 October 2008, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, announced that the Government are making extra money available, totalling £100 million in steady state, to meet the higher than expected demand for student support in 2009/10 and beyond. This will enable the Government to maintain their intention that two-thirds of eligible students should receive either the full grant of £2,906 or a partial grant in 2009/10. We also expect that our commitment for one-third of eligible students to receive a full grant will be exceeded—under the new package, we anticipate that 40 per cent. of students may be eligible for a full grant.

All 2009/10 entrants will be eligible for the same or higher levels of grant than they would have received in 2007/08. Eligible new students in 2009/10 from households with incomes from £18,000 to £50,000 will receive more grant that they would have done in 2007/08. New students in 2009/10 with incomes up to £57,000 will be eligible for more total support than in 2007/08.

In 2009/10, low income entrants will receive £2,906 of maintenance grant and £3,497 of maintenance loan. In real terms, the maintenance grant will be over 20 per cent. higher than in 1997/98 and the maintenance loan over 50 per cent. more generous.

I refer the hon. Members to the evidence given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to the Innovation, Universities and Skills Select Committee on 29 October 2008.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many late payments to students at each university of *(a)* loans and *(b)* grants there were in each of the last five years. [237224]

**Mr. Lammy:** The first payments of income-contingent student loans and grants are made after the university or college confirms that the student is in attendance. On current performance, the Student Loans Company (SLC) then initiates payment within one working day of receipt of the confirmation in all cases. Payments are made through an automated system into bank accounts, which takes three working days from initiation.

A payment may be made after the start of the course if the student's application has been received late and did not allow sufficient time for processing. A change in student's circumstances can also affect payment where re-assessment is required. If the reassessment is for a higher amount than the original and/or includes a new product such as a means tested grant then the system works out what the further term 1 payment should be and pays it immediately.

SLC monitors payment performance for loans against a target set in a Service Level Agreement with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and reported in the SLC Annual Report. The target is for 95 per cent. or more of payments to be initiated

within one working day of confirmation of attendance, and 99 per cent. within two days. In 2007-08 100 per cent. were initiated within one working day.

The following table shows performance relating to loans given in the annual reports. The target has changed over the years. (The SLC do not keep performance related data specifically for grants.)

| | Measure | Target (percentage) | Actual performance (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Year* | | | |
| 2007-08 | Initiated in 1 working day | 95 | 100 |
| | Initiated in 2 working days | 99 | 100 |
| 2006-07 | Initiated in 1 working day | 95 | 98.2 |
| | Initiated in 2 working days | 99 | 100 |
| 2005-06 | Initiated within month | 99 | 99.4 |
| *Academic year* | | | |
| 2004/05 | Loans paid 1-14 days | 90 | 94.9 |
| | Loans paid 1-17 days | 100 | 95.4 |
| 2003/04 | Loans paid 1-14 days | 90 | 91.9 |
| | Loans paid 1-17 days | 100 | 94.7 |

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the taper rates for the withdrawal of maintenance grants from 2009-10 will be, broken down by household income band. [235316]

**Mr. Lammy:** On 29 October 2008 my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, announced that the Government are making extra money available, totalling £100 million in steady state, to meet the higher than expected demand for student support in 2009/10 and beyond. This will enable the Government to maintain their intention that two-thirds of eligible students should receive either the full grant of £2,906 or a partial grant in 2009/10. We also expect that our commitment for one-third of eligible students to receive a full grant will be exceeded—under the new package, we anticipate that 40 per cent. of students may be eligible for a full grant.

Further details will be included within the Education (Student Support) (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations 2008, which have been laid before Parliament.

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of levels of error and fraud within the maintenance grant system for undergraduate students; and what measures are in place to ensure accurate payment. [238882]

**Mr. Lammy:** The responsibility for assessing student support applications in England generally rests with local authorities and therefore complete information is not centrally available about the levels of error and fraud within the student support system. From 2009/10 the SLC will assess all new applications for student support, and records will be held centrally.

The NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service has carried out a study which estimated the rate of identity related fraud at around 0.6 per cent. of student support applications in 2005/06. Several measures have been taken to further tighten procedures since the study was conducted.

We constantly review procedures to ensure we can prevent and detect fraud, while making it straightforward for genuine students to obtain the funds they need to pursue their studies. Evidence in support of applications is always thoroughly checked before payment is authorised. Where local authorities suspect fraud, they will not process the application until they are completely satisfied with the documentary evidence. The Student Loans Company (SLC) run a range of checks using industry-standard software systems which picks up potential fraudulent applications before payments are made.

## Students: Loans

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Student Loans Company on the relationship between interest rates on student loans and the Bank of England base rate in light of the current economic situation; and if he will make a statement. [238190]

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether interest rates on student loans will be reduced in line with the recent reduction in base rates by the Bank of England. [239787]

**Mr. Lammy:** Government student loans are not like commercial loans and are provided on generous terms with significant Government subsidy. The interest rate is linked to the rate of inflation (RPI) rather than to base rates. The borrower pays back the same amount in real terms as they borrowed.

Unlike a typical commercial loan, the rate of interest on an income contingent loan does not affect borrowers' monthly repayments, which are made at 9 per cent. of their earnings above a repayment threshold, currently £15,000. If earnings fall below this amount, repayments are suspended. The Student Loans Company update borrowers' accounts annually after the end of each tax year, once they receive details from HMRC of the payments made through the tax system. Interest is then calculated on a daily basis, and borrowers are sent an annual statement of their loan account. The statement notifies borrowers of the current interest rate, which is also publicised on the SLC's website and through advertisements in the national press.

The current interest rate is 3.8 per cent. This rate applied from September 2008, and was set at the rate of RPI for the year to March 2008. The interest rate has

been set annually each September, using the same methodology, since student loans were first introduced in 1990. The interest rate for income contingent student loans, which were introduced in 1998, is also subject to an additional statutory limit: it cannot at any time exceed a rate of 1 per cent. above the highest of the base rates of a specified list of banks. The interest rate is set in accordance with regulations, and the SLC do not have any discretion in setting or altering the rate.

### Young People: Unemployment

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 181W, on young people: unemployment, if he will break down the figures contained in the table by the smallest geographical area for which they are available. [235311]

**Mr. Simon:** The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Breast Cancer

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many cases of breast cancer were *(a)* diagnosed and *(b)* successfully treated in (i) Hertfordshire and (ii) the UK in each of the last 10 years. [239346]

**Kevin Brennan:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Cancer: Greater London

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the number of patients diagnosed with cancer in each London borough in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007, broken down by cancer type. [238831]

**Kevin Brennan:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the survival rate for patients diagnosed with cancer in each London borough in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007, broken down by cancer type. [238832]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the survival rate for patients diagnosed with cancer in each London borough in (a) 2005, (b) 2006 and (c) 2007, broken down by cancer type. [238832]

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not produce survival rates by London borough. ONS regularly publishes one- and five-year survival rates for patients resident in government office regions and strategic health authorities. The latest figures are survival rates for eight cancers (bladder, breast, cervix, colon, lung, oesophagus, prostate and stomach) which are available on the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=11991

The one- and five-year relative survival rates for patients resident in the London government office region and London strategic health authorities, diagnosed during 1997-99 and followed for survival up to the end of 2004, are given in Table 1.

*One- and five-year age-standardised[1] relative survival[2] (percentage) for adult[3] patients diagnosed during 1997-99 and followed up to the end of 2004,8 common cancers by sex: strategic health authorities within the London government office region*

| | | Men | | | | | Women | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | One-year | | Five-year | | | One-year | | Five-year | |
| Cancer[4] | | No. of patients | Survival (%) | (95% CI)[5] | Survival (%) | (95% CI) | No. of patients | Survival (%) | (95% CI) | Survival (%) | (95% CI) |
| Bladder[6] | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | London | 1,883 | 78.4 | (74.9-81.9) | 59.5 | (54.4-64.6) | 795 | 74.8 | (69.4-80.2) | 56.7 | (49.6-63.9) |
| | North West London | 480 | 83 | (76-89) | 63 | (53-73) | 186 | 79 | (68-90) | 61 | (46-77) |
| | North Central London | 321 | 79 | (71-88) | 62 | (50-75) | 131 | 71 | (58-85) | 53 | (35-71) |
| | North East London | 395 | 77 | (69-85) | 63 | (52-73) | 168 | 73 | (61-85) | 46 | (31-61) |
| | South East London | 333 | 72 | (63-81) | 49 | (37-60) | 152 | 70 | (57-82) | 53 | (38-68) |
| | South West London | 354 | 79 | (71-87) | 58 | (46-70) | 158 | 78 | (67-90) | 64 | (48-79) |
| Breast | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | London | | | | | | 11,375 | 93.3 | (92.2-94.5) | 78.5 | (76.3-80.7) |
| | North West London | | | | | | 2,717 | 94 | (92-96) | 81 | (77-86) |

*One- and five-year age-standardised[d] relative survival[e] (percentage) for adult[f] patients diagnosed during 1997-99 and followed up to the end of 2004,8 common cancers by sex, strategic health authorities within the London government office region*

| | | Men | | | | | Women | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | One-year | | Five-year | | | One-year | | Five-year | |
| Cancer[a] | | No. of patients | Survival (%) | (95% CI)[b] | Survival (%) | (95% CI) | No. of patients | Survival (%) | (95% CI) | Survival (%) | (95% CI) |
| | North Central London | | | | | | 1,856 | 94 | (91-97) | 78 | (73-84) |
| | North East London | | | | | | 2,154 | 93 | (90-95) | 76 | (71-81) |
| | South East London | | | | | | 2,279 | 93 | (91-96) | 78 | (73-82) |
| | South West London | | | | | | 2,369 | 93 | (90-95) | 78 | (74-83) |
| *Cervix* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | London | | | | | | 866 | 82.9 | (77.3-88.5) | 63.6 | (56.3-70.9) |
| | North West London | | | | | | 201 | 81 | (69-93) | *70 | (62-77) |
| | North Central London | | | | | | 126 | 87 | (75-99) | 67 | (50-84) |
| | North East London | | | | | | 178 | 82 | (70-94) | 66 | (49-82) |
| | South East London | | | | | | 203 | 86 | (75-97) | 59 | (43-74) |
| | South West London | | | | | | 158 | 76 | (61-91) | *66 | (58-74) |
| *Colon* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | London | 2,377 | 67.1 | (63.1-71.1) | 45.1 | (39.9-50.2) | 2,458 | 67.3 | (63.6-71.0) | 47.3 | (42.6-52.0) |
| | North West London | 536 | 72 | (64-80) | 48 | (37-58) | 555 | 67 | (59-74) | 48 | (39-58) |
| | North Central London | 359 | 62 | (52-73) | 41 | (28-54) | 370 | 71 | (62-81) | 45 | (34-57) |
| | North East London | 483 | 66 | (57-75) | 42 | (31-54) | 493 | 66 | (57-74) | 42 | (32-52) |
| | South East London | 489 | 66 | (58-75) | 44 | (32-55) | 490 | 65 | (57-74) | 48 | (37-58) |
| | South West London | 510 | 66 | (58-75) | 49 | (38-60) | 550 | 69 | (61-77) | 51 | (41-61) |
| *Lung* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | London | 5,761 | 26.1 | (24.1-28.1) | 6.3 | (5.1-7.5) | 3,624 | 28.0 | (25.4-30.6) | 7.2 | (5.6-8.8) |
| | North West London | 1,152 | 27 | (23-32) | 7.1 | (4.3-9.8) | 786 | 29 | (24-35) | 7.5 | (4.1-10.9) |
| | North Central London | 900 | 26 | (21-31) | 7.8 | (4.5-11.0) | 561 | 29 | (22-36) | 6.7 | (2.9-10.5) |
| | North East London | 1,380 | 26 | (22-30) | 5.2 | (3.0-7.4) | 780 | 28 | (22-33) | 6.3 | (3.1-9.5) |
| | South East London | 1,375 | 25 | (21-29) | 5.5 | (3.2-7.7) | 837 | 27 | (22-32) | 7.5 | (4.3-10.8) |
| | South West London | 954 | 27 | (22-32) | 6.8 | (3.8-9.8) | 660 | 27 | (21-33) | 7.4 | (3.7-11.2) |
| *Oesophagus* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | London | 978 | 33.6 | (28.6-38.7) | 7.5 | (4.5-10.6) | 594 | 32.4 | (25.4-39.3) | 10.2 | (5.3-15.0) |
| | North West London | 234 | 38 | (27-48) | 7.6 | (1.4-13.7) | 129 | 35 | (21-49) | *10.9 | (5.9-17.7) |
| | North Central London | 123 | 33 | (19-47) | *7.3 | (3.1-13.9) | 95 | 20 | (9-32) | *2.1 | (0.3-7.8) |
| | North East London | 191 | 24 | (14-35) | *5.6 | (2.7-9.9) | 127 | 32 | (17-47) | 8.2 | (0.0-17.2) |
| | South East London | 245 | 34 | (24-44) | *6.8 | (3.9-10.8) | 126 | 30 | (15-44) | 14.1 | (1.7-26.4) |
| | South West London | 185 | 39 | (28-51) | 13.1 | (3.7-22.4) | 117 | 39 | (22-56) | *12.6 | (6.9-20.1) |

*One- and five-year age-standardised[1] relative survival[2] (percentage) for adult[3] patients diagnosed during 1997-99 and followed up to the end of 2004,[4] common cancers by sex[5] strategic health authorities within the London government office region*

| | | Men | | | | | Women | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | One-year | | Five-year | | | One-year | | Five-year | |
| Cancer[4] | | No. of patients | Survival (%) | (95% CI)[6] | Survival (%) | (95% CI) | No. of patients | Survival (%) | (95% CI) | Survival (%) | (95% CI) |
| *Prostate* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | London | 6,874 | 90.2 | (88.6-91.8) | 71.0 | (68.0-74.0) | | | | | |
| | North West London | 1,540 | 91 | (88-94) | 73 | (66-79) | | | | | |
| | North Central London | 1,107 | 90 | (86-94) | 73 | (65-80) | | | | | |
| | North East London | 1,536 | 89 | (86-93) | 70 | (63-76) | | | | | |
| | South East London | 1,371 | 89 | (85-93) | 68 | (61-75) | | | | | |
| | South West London | 1,320 | 91 | (88-95) | 72 | (65-79) | | | | | |
| *Stomach* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | London | 1,407 | 36.4 | (32.1-40.7) | 14.6 | (11.0-18.1) | 847 | 34.7 | (29.1-40.4) | 15.1 | (10.5-19.8) |
| | North West London | 281 | 37 | (27-47) | *16.9 | (12.1-22.4) | 166 | 36 | (23-48) | 18.0 | (7.0-29.0) |
| | North Central London | 223 | 40 | (29-51) | 14.0 | (5.9-22.1) | 130 | 36 | (22-50) | 13.8 | (2.7-24.9) |
| | North East London | 382 | 32 | (24-40) | 12.8 | (6.9-18.7) | 217 | 34 | (22-45) | 13.8 | (4.9-22.7) |
| | South East London | 329 | 35 | (25-44) | 14.6 | (7.7-21.4) | 189 | 27 | (16-38) | 13.1 | (4.5-21.7) |
| | South West London | 212 | 42 | (31-54) | *16.4 | (11.2-22.5) | 145 | 43 | (29-57) | 16.3 | (4.6-28.0) |

* All ages '15-99' survival rate not age-standardised. For some SHAs, the small numbers of cases and deaths for some of these cancers lead to wide random fluctuations in the relative survival rates and this is reflected in the wide confidence intervals. For some cancers, the numbers of deaths within a SHA were too small for reliable estimation of all of the age-specific survival rates. In such cases, the overall survival rates have not been age-standardised; in the table such rates are marked with an asterisk (*).

[1] Cancer survival varies with age at diagnosis, so the survival rates for all ages (15-99 years) have been age-standardised to control for differences in the age profile of cancer patients between geographical areas. We used the standard weights given in Chapter 3 of Coleman M P et al (1999) Cancer Survival Trends in England and Wales 1971-1995: deprivation and NHS Region. Studies in Medical and Population Subjects No.61. London: The Stationery Office: 1999

[2] Relative survival takes into account that some cancer patients will die from causes other than their cancer. It is the ratio of the crude survival to the survival in a corresponding (age and sex) group in the general population.

[3] Aged 15-99 years at diagnosis.

[4] Cancers registered in 1997-99 are defined by codes in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Therefore, bladder cancer is defined by code C67, breast cancer by code C50, cervical cancer by code C53, colon cancer by code C18, lung cancer by code C34, oesophageal cancer by code C15, prostate cancer by

[5] There are well-recognised differences in the classification and registration of some bladder tumours, which are recorded as malignant by some cancer registries and as non-malignant by others. This contributes to some of the apparent geographical variation in the survival rate for bladder cancer. Survival rates for transitional cell papillomas are very high, so where cancer registries define these as malignant, this results in an apparently higher overall survival rate for bladder cancer.

[6] On repeated sampling, 95 times out of 100 the true value would be within the calculated confidence interval range and 5 times the true value would be either higher or lower than the range.

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

## Capacitybuilders: Grants

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of a table listing each grant given by Capacitybuilders to individual voluntary groups and organisations since its establishment. [238784]

**Kevin Brennan:** Capacitybuilders funds a wide range of grant holders to provide support services to third sector organisations. Lists of grant awards per programme are available from the following website links.

Capacitybuilders Improving Reach 2008 to 2011:

http://capacitybuilders.org.uk/downloadfile.aspx?ID=203

Consortia Development Grants funding allocation 2008 to 11:

http://capacitybuilders.org.uk/downloadfile.aspx?ID=218

Consortia Modernisation Projects funding allocation 2008 to 2011:

http://capacitybuilders.org.uk/downloadfile.aspx?ID=219

National Support Services funding allocation 2008 to 2011:

http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/downloadfile.aspx?ID=226

National Hubs funding allocation 2006 to 2008:

http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/downloadfile.aspx?ID=114

Consortia Projects Programme—funding allocation 2006 to 2008:

http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/downloadfile.aspx?ID=113

Improving Reach Programme—funding allocation 2006 to 2007:

http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/downloadfile.aspx?ID=112

This information has been placed in the Libraries in the House.

The grants given out under the different programmes by Capacitybuilders as aforementioned can also be found in their Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07 and 2007-08.

## Census

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) for which ethnic groups not included in the current Census 2011 Test questionnaire consultation on ethnic group, national identity, religion, and language there were the most requests for inclusion in the Census 2011; [221519]

(2) how many of the Sikh organisations which responded to the Census 2011 Test questionnaire consultation on ethnic group, national identity, religion, and language were (a) in favour of and (b) against the inclusion of Sikhs as a separate ethnic group on the Census 2011 itself; [221520]

(3) how many responses to the consultation on the Census 2011 questionnaire the Office for National Statistics received from *(a)* organisations representing Sikhs and *(b)* all organisations on possible questions in the 2011 Census on (i) ethnic group, (ii) national identity, (iii) religion and (iv) language. [221521]

**Mr. Watson:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking 1) for which ethnic groups not included in the current Census 2011 Test questionnaire consultation on ethnic group, national identity, religion and language there were the most requests for inclusion in the Census 2011, 2) how many of the Sikh organisations which responded to the consultation on ethnic group, national identity, religion, and language were (a) in favour of and (b) against the inclusion of Sikhs as a separate ethnic group on the Census itself, 3) how many responses to the consultation on the Census 2011 questionnaire the Office for National Statistics received from (a) organisations representing Sikhs and (b) all organisations on possible questions in the 2011 Census on i) ethnic group, ii) national identity, iii) religion and iv) language. (221519, 221520,221521)

1) The ONS Ethnicity Identity, Language and Religion (EILR) consultation carried out between 2006 and 2007 invited comments and response from any organisation or individual with an interest in the topics, and did not exclude any ethnic groups. The most numerous requests to include ethnic group response categories not specifically covered in the 2007 Test question related to Cornish, Sikh and Kashmiri.

Some community organisations and special interest groups organised for copies of their response to be sent in by individuals as well, resulting in some duplication. This occurred particularly among organisations representing Sikh, Kashmiri and Cornish interests. As the main purpose of the consultation was to identify the range *of* views held and to understand user needs, the number of responses presented in our consultation reports[1] are based on the unique responses received, without the duplicates. The reports revealed a need amongst some Sikh Groups for a Sikh ethnic group tick box but not as strong a need for this amongst local and central government and service provider users.

ONS received requests for the inclusion of new response categories from a number of sources and not just consultation exercises. Many more requests for tick-boxes have been received than could possibly be included on the Census form, and so we developed a set of principles by which tick-box categories for ethnic groups could be prioritised. These principles were based on the following criteria (in no particular order):

strength of need for information on the particular ethnic group;

lack of alternative sources of information;

clarity and quality of the information collected;

acceptability to respondents,

comparability with ethnicity data derived from the 2001 Census; and

operational considerations such as length of questions), speed and cost-effectiveness of processing, and ability to collect comparable information in surveys.

It should be noted that proposals for the question content for the 2011 Census have also taken account of an extensive programme of user consultation and question research, testing and development carried out over the period 2005-2007 wider than the recent EIRL consultation. The prioritising of questions and response categories therefore not only takes account of the volume of argument but also has had to ensure that there has been no disadvantage among those groups not able to mobilise themselves in large numbers.

However, ONS has considered all requests seriously and is sensitive to the strength of feeling within communities that have requested tick boxes. We are continuing to work to find alternative ways to provide information where specific tick boxes are not available, using other Census questions and write-in responses.

You will know as Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for UK Sikhs that ONS is aware of the concerns raised by the Sikh community, and over the past years we have engaged with their representatives through a variety of events and public consultations on the content of the 2011 Census. These include:

1) A major consultation on 2011 Census content held in 2005

2) Specific consultation on Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion (EILR) – 2006/2007

3) 2011 Census Open Meetings - March 2007

4) Meeting between ONS and British Sikh organisations, 24 April 2007

5) Correspondence

In addition, the 2011 Census Diversity Advisory Group which covers the interests of a range of special and minority groups includes the British Sikh Federation and the Inter Faith Network (the Network of Sikh Organisations is a member body).

2) There were some 154 responses from 'Sikh' organisations to the 2006/7 EILR consultation, which included responses from 'Gurdwara' and other related organisations supporting the inclusion of a specific 'Sikh' response category in the question. No Sikh organisations responding to the consultation opposed the inclusion of a Sikh tick box in the ethnic group question.

The consultation on the topic content for the 2011 Census has encompassed a wider scope than the recent EILR consultation, and the wording of the currently proposed question also takes account of a programme of small scale testing, cognitive research, focus groups and discussions with the several formal Census Advisory Groups over the period 2005-2007.

3 a) All of the 154 Sikh organisations noted in answer to (2) above, that replied to the EILR consultation, i) all asked for the inclusion of a Sikh tick box in the ethnic group question using the same standard wording. All these organisations also commented on each of the possible questions on ii) national identity, iii) religion and iv) language.

b) Of the 297 responses (excluding those that were repetitions and responses not related to topics), i) 283 commented on the ethnic group question, ii) 257 commented on the national identity question, iii) 266 commented on the religion question and iv) 271 commented on the language question.

[1] Published on 31 October 2007. Available from

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/consultations/eth-group-nat-iden/index.html

### Central Office of Information

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many full-time equivalent members of staff were employed by the Central Office of Information (COI) in each year since 1997; what the staffing costs of the COI were over that period; and what budget the COI has been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [237607]

**Mr. Watson** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The number of full-time equivalent staff (FTE's) employed by the Central Office of Information (COI) and their cost since 1997 can be found in COI's Annual Report.

A budget is not set for future years because the number of staff employed is directly related to the demand for services. If demand increases, staff numbers will increase and vice versa.

### Central Office of Information: Advertising

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* name, *(b)* cost and *(c)* purpose was of each advertising campaign carried out by the Central Office of Information in 2005-06. [239580]

**Mr. Watson:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1138-44W, on Central Office of Information: advertising, what the *(a)* name, *(b)* cost and *(c)* purpose was of each advertising campaign carried out by the Central Office of Information. [239599]

**Mr. Watson:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Central Office of Information: Iris London

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was paid by the Central Office of Information (COI) to Iris London in each financial year since 2001; which contracts were awarded by the COI to Iris London in each year since 2000-01; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost of each contract was; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether each contract was advertised; how many companies applied for each contract; how many companies were short-listed in each case; what criteria were used for selecting the successful tender in each case; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if he will make a statement. [225739]

**Mr. Watson:** The Central Office of Information (COI) contracts with either Iris Nation (sponsorship) or Iris Direct (Direct Marketing), not the holding group (Iris London).

With regards to the penalties for default imposed in contract provisions, our terms and conditions do not include standard penalty clauses. However, if a contract is terminated through a supplier being in default, COI shall be entitled to recover from the contractor the cost of making other arrangements and any additional expenditure incurred by COI throughout the remainder of the contract period.

Regarding the advertising of each contract, as a Government Department, COI is subject to the EU Public Procurement Directive embodied in UK law by the Public Contract Regulations 2006. The regulations govern the way in which Government contracts are advertised and awarded. For contracts over a threshold value it is a requirement for them to be advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU), which imposes strict timescales that cannot be shortened. To assist our clients in appointing a supplier in the shortest possible time, we have a number of framework agreements in place. Frameworks are themselves advertised in the OJEU therefore contracts awarded under the terms and conditions of the framework do not need to be re-advertised or apply the strict timescales—as long as timescales are reasonable to allow the suppliers time to provide an adequate response. The majority of COI's spend with external suppliers is via our frameworks. We rarely procure off-framework and when we do and it is over the threshold value we advertise in the OJEU.

Contracts can be renewed without re-tender. Each contract awarded is for a specific term usually relating to the client's allocated budget for that current financial year. Where appropriate, contracts will include the following option for an extension.

"COI reserves the right to extend the contract beyond the period stated above. Payment for any extension shall be based upon the Contract Price subject to fair and reasonable adjustment, to be agreed between COI and the Contractor"

The other information requested by the hon. Member, including the agency pitch selection criteria, has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Civil Servants: Pensions

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of active members in the civil service pension scheme joined on or after 30 July 2007; and what projections he has made of changes to this figure over time. [231120]

**Mr. Watson:** Active members of the civil service pension scheme joining on or after 30 July 2007 participate in the nuvos section. For the proportion of active members of the scheme who are in the nuvos section, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott) and the hon. Member for Rochdale (Paul Rowen) today to PQs 229520 and 236303.

No projections have been made of the changes over time to the proportion of active members who joined on or after 30 July 2007.

Projections of how the proportion of members who join after April 2006 would increase over time were made in the context of the Public Services Forum agreement in October 2005. I refer the hon. Member to the answer the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury gave to the hon. Member for Havant (Mr. Willetts) on

9 November 2005, *Official Report*, columns 330W, which indicated the staff turnover assumed across the pension schemes for teachers, the NHS and civil servants.

### Death: Anorexia

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths there have been from anorexia in *(a)* Norwich, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* the UK in each of the last five years. [238304]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there have been from anorexia in (a) Norwich, (b) Norfolk and (c) the UK in each of the last five years. (238304)

The attached table provides the number of deaths for which anorexia nervosa was the underlying cause of death in the United Kingdom, registered in the years 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available). There were no deaths of people resident in Norwich local authority from anorexia nervosa registered in these years, and one death in Norfolk county, in 2005. Deaths are not all registered in the year they happen. For example, deaths subject to inquest are not normally registered until the inquest is completed, after which the coroner sends a certificate to the registrar.

*Table 1: Number of deaths from anorexia nervosa[1], United Kingdom[2], 2003 to 2007[3, 4]*

| | *Deaths (persons)* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 21 |
| 2004 | 17 |
| 2005 | 18 |
| 2006 | 20 |
| 2007 | 18 |

[1] International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes for deaths with an underlying cause of anorexia nervosa are F50.0 Anorexia nervosa, F50.1 Atypical anorexia nervosa, or F50.2 Bulimia nervosa where the death certificate specified anorexia nervosa in combination with bulimia.

[2] Figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland have been provided by the Registrar Generals for those countries.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year. Where a death is referred to a Coroner and an inquest is held, the death can usually be registered only after the inquest has been concluded.

[4] The figure for Northern Ireland for 2007 is provisional.

### Death: Children

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many children in local authority care died in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* local authority and *(b)* cause of death. [239007]

**Kevin Brennan:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the rate of staff *(a)* absenteeism and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each of its non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997-98; what the target rates for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement; [238518]

(2) what the rate of staff (a) absence and (b) sickness absence was in the Prime Minister's Office in each year since 1997; what the target rates set for his Office are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [238933]

**Mr. Watson:** The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes) on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1258W.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department has spent on external consultants in each year since 1997. [239008]

**Mr. Watson:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much *(a)* his Department and its agencies and *(b)* the Prime Minister's office have spent on (i) flat screen televisions, (ii) DVD players and (iii) stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237439]

**Mr. Watson:** The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Information

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what types of data have been sold by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [221993]

**Mr. Watson:** Core information produced by the Cabinet Office can be re-used free of charge under the terms of the PSI Click-Use Licence which is administered by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) in accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations.

The Cabinet Office has three types of value added information, where a fee has been levied or royalty payment received over the last year: the Civil Service Year Book, Official Histories and photographs. Licenses for the re-use of this material have been granted by way of the Click-Use licensing system operated by OPSI.

### Departmental Internet

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many page hits from how many visitors the departmental website received in 2007-08. [231509]

**Mr. Watson:** From the data we hold we have ascertained that during the 2007-08 financial year the departmental website

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

received a total of 8,976,021 page hits from a total of 2,794,509 site visits.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost of maintaining the departmental website was in 2007-08; and what the forecast is for maintaining websites within his responsibility for 2008-09 financial year. [231501]

**Mr. Watson:** The cost of maintaining the departmental website for the financial year 2007-08 was £279,377.70 and the forecast for the financial year 2008-09 is £183,201.00.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much surplus land *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies own; and what the (i) area and (ii) estimated monetary value of each site is. [236434]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Cabinet Office does not have any sites on the Register of Surplus Public Sector sites.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers were employed by his Department in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08; and at what cost in each of those years; [238449]

(2) how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by the Prime Minister's Office in each year since 1997-98; and at what cost in each year. [239084]

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on employing press and communications officers in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies in each of the last three years. [239677]

**Mr. Watson:** The Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office.

The Prime Minister publishes on an annual basis, a list of the numbers and cost of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-101WS.

Regarding the number and cost of press officers I refer the hon. Members to the answers that were given on 8 September 2004, *Official Report*, column 1245W; 10 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1837W; 6 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 849W and 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1570W. The cost to the Department of press officers for 2006-07 and 2007-08 were:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 669,780 |
| 2007-08 | 959,614 |

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [237460]

**Mr. Watson:** The Cabinet Office does not employ any staff specifically on branding activity. Any time spent by members of staff on branding activity has been part of their overall role and it is not possible to identify the proportion of their time and therefore the cost to the Department.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in each year since 1997-98; how much each plans to spend on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement; [238516]

(2) how much the Prime Minister's Office spent on *(a)* publicity and *(b)* advertising in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238950]

**Mr. Watson:** The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Pensions

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes; and what information he holds on the numbers and proportion of all civil servants who are members of each scheme. [229520]

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people belong to each type of civil service pension scheme. [236303]

**Mr. Watson:** The number and proportion of Cabinet Office staff in the scheme options are set out in the following table:

| *Scheme option* | *Number of staff* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Classic | 756 | 44.9 |
| Classic Plus | 37 | 2.2 |
| Nuvos | 120 | 7.1 |
| Premium | 441 | 26.2 |
| Partnership | 7 | 0.4 |
| Not in civil service scheme | 326 | 19.2 |
| Total | 1,684 | |

The above table includes ex HMSO staff with reserved rights. These members are not Cabinet Office staff but are listed within the pension administrator's Cabinet Office database.

At 31 March 2008 there were approximately 577,000 active members of the civil service pension scheme. This figure includes non-civil servants eligible to participate in the scheme by virtue of being in an employment listed in schedule 1 to the Superannuation Act 1972. The approximate split of the active membership was:

| *Scheme option* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Classic | 58.0 |
| Classic Plus | 3.0 |
| Nuvos | 3.0 |
| Premium | 36.0 |

The mean pension payment made to civil service pensioners in 2006-07 (the last year for which Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation Resource Accounts have been published) was £5,293.09. This information corrects the earlier answer given to the hon. Member for Rochdale (Paul Rowen) on 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 495-97W. I apologise for the error.

## Departmental Personnel

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many permanent staff in *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* its agencies are classified as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [233368]

**Mr. Watson:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 335W.

Further to that answer an error has been identified: the correct date referenced for the number of employees without a permanent role should have been 30 September 2008.

## Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many press releases were issued by his Department in each year from 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238230]

**Mr. Watson:** The Central Office of Information's News Distribution Service distributes press releases on behalf of the Department and maintains a record of Cabinet Office press releases since 1997 at

http://nds.coi.gov.uk/search/default.asp

## Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [239649]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

## Disabled: Income

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average monthly income was for disabled adults between the ages of *(a)* 20 and 29, *(b)* 30 and 39, *(c)* 40 and 49 and *(d)* 50 and 60 years in the latest period for which figures are available. [238260]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have been asked to reply.

The available data is provided in the following table.

| *Age* | *Median monthly income for disabled adults (£)* |
|---|---|
| 20 to 29 | 727 |
| 30 to 39 | 892 |
| 40 to 49 | 890 |
| 50 to 60 | 754 |

*Notes:*

1. The table presents median monthly income, net of tax and national insurance contributions, for disabled adults in the UK. This is consistent with our standard approach used when presenting household incomes in the Households Below Average Incomes.
2. Disability is defined as having any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity that leads to a significant difficulty with one or more areas of the individual's life. Everyone classified as disabled under this definition would also be classified as disabled under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). However, some individuals classified as disabled under the DDA would not be captured by this definition.
3. The Family Resources Survey (FRS) collects information on the incomes and circumstances of private households in the United Kingdom. The FRS is a nationally representative sample, covering approximately 26,000 households in 2006-07, the latest survey year.
4. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the FRS to Government Office Region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
5. Evidence suggests that some items of income may be under reported in the survey, particularly self-employment and investment income.
6. Income data on the FRS have not been adjusted to account for variation in household size and composition, or economic status.
7. Most benefits are claimed on a benefit unit basis. Where the benefit unit consists of more than one adult, the benefit income is assigned to the lead claimant. Looking at the income of a subgroup of individuals may not therefore be an accurate reflection of income as it may exclude benefit income paid on behalf of the benefit unit where the individual is not the lead claimant.

*Source:*

Family Resources Survey, 2006-07

## Economic Activity

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what economic activity levels were in each of the last 17 years. [234489]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

*Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated November 2008:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question requesting details of economic activity levels for each of the past seventeen years. I am replying in her absence. (234489)

The level of economic activity is generally equated to levels of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which is the measure of the production of goods and services in the UK.

Table A provides the latest GDP figures in both current price and real terms together with the annual growth rates for each year since 1991.

*Table A*

| | *GDP at current prices* | *GDP in real terms* | *Annual growth rate* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1991 | 598,664 | 813,610 | -1.4 |
| 1992 | 622,080 | 814,803 | 0.1 |
| 1993 | 654,196 | 832,910 | 2.2 |
| 1994 | 692,987 | 868,560 | 4.3 |
| 1995 | 733,266 | 894,988 | 3.0 |
| 1996 | 781,726 | 920,757 | 2.9 |
| 1997 | 830,094 | 951,208 | 3.3 |
| 1998 | 879,102 | 985,506 | 3.6 |
| 1999 | 928,730 | 1,019,735 | 3.5 |
| 2000 | 976,533 | 1,059,658 | 3.9 |
| 2001 | 1,021,828 | 1,085,745 | 2.5 |
| 2002 | 1,075,564 | 1,108,508 | 2.1 |
| 2003 | 1,139,746 | 1,139,746 | 2.8 |
| 2004 | 1,200,595 | 1,171,178 | 2.8 |
| 2005 | 1,252,505 | 1,195,276 | 2.1 |
| 2006 | 1,321,860 | 1,229,196 | 2.8 |
| 2007 | 1,401,042 | 1,266,397 | 3.0 |

*Note:*
Figures are in £ million and are based on data published on 30 September 2008.

### Electronic Government

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many of the 1,499 Government websites identified for closure in the Varney review have been closed to date. [223370]

**Mr. Watson** *[holding answer 10 September 2008]*: Of the 1,561 Government websites that have been identified by the Department Website Review, 549 had been closed by 30 September 2008.

### Futurebuilders England: Catz Club

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) on which dates each financial payment was made to Catz Club by Futurebuilders; [238783]

(2) how much funding Futurebuilders has written off in total in relation to the charity Catz Club; [238785]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 16W, on Catz Club, for what reasons Futurebuilders decided to terminate its relationship with Catz Club; [238909]

(4) pursuant to the Answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 16W, on Catz Club, what other press releases have been removed from the Futurebuilders website on the basis that they are no longer an investee of Futurebuilders. [238910]

**Mr. Byrne:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Government Departments: Public Relations

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 759, on public relations, how much was spent on Government advertising, marketing and public relations in each year since 1997, according to records held by the Central Office of Information. [237598]

**Mr. Watson** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]*: The amount spent on Government advertising, marketing and public relations since 1997, according to records held by the Central Office of Information is shown in the following table.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 81.2 |
| 1997-98 | 68.6 |
| 1998-99 | 126.7 |
| 1999-2000 | 148.6 |
| 2000-01 | 227.1 |
| 2001-02 | 196.7 |
| 2002-03 | 189.8 |
| 2003-04 | 233.6 |
| 2004-05 | 251 |
| 2005-06 | 280.9 |
| 2006-07 | 229.8 |
| 2007-08 | 265.8 |

### Immigration

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 408W, on immigration, what the level is of net immigration at which the population of the UK would remain below 70 million on unchanged assumptions about birth rates, mortality and emigration levels on the basis of the most recent population projections. [239721]

**Kevin Brennan:** It has not proved possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

### Lone Parents

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his latest estimate is of the number of lone parents with children under 16 years old in *(a)* the City of Sunderland, *(b)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(c)* the UK. [239698]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request asking what the latest estimate is of the number of lone parents with children under 16 years old in (a) the City of Sunderland, (b) Houghton and Washington East constituency and (c) the UK. (239698)

The number of lone parent families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). The table below shows 2007 estimates of lone parent families with children under 16 years old for the City of Sunderland, the Parliamentary Constituency of Houghton and Washington East, and the UK.

*Number of lone parent families with children under 16*

| | *Thousand* |
|---|---|
| City of Sunderland | 9 |
| Houghton and Washington East | 3 |
| UK | 1,651 |

*Source:*
APS

**Lone Parents: Hertfordshire**

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his most recent estimate is of the number of lone parents who have a child or children under 16 years old in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [239944]

**Kevin Brennan:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Manpower**

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff worked at 10 Downing Street other than in the Prime Minister's office in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [236664]

**Mr. Watson:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Prime Minister gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W.

**Racial Harassment**

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236887]

**Mr. Watson:** The Cabinet Office has a policy of zero tolerance to all forms of abuse. During the last 12 months the Cabinet Office has not received any official complaints of racial abuse.

**Redundancy**

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (Y) his Department and (Z) its agency; [237346]

(2) how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [239151]

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many employees in his Department took early retirement in each of the last five financial years; and at what cost; [238519]

(2) how many employees in the Prime Minister's Office took early retirement in each of the last five financial years; and at what total cost. [238966]

**Mr. Watson:** The Cabinet Office, which includes the Prime Minister's Office, has not held involuntary exit schemes during the financial years specified.

For information on voluntary exit schemes for the financial year between 2003-04 and 2006-07, I refer the hon. Members to the answer given by the then Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 538W. Information for approved departures under voluntary exit schemes in 2007-08 is set out in the following table:

| | *Number of employees* |
|---|---|
| 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 | 10 |

The Cabinet Office aims to ensure that it has a diverse and skilled workforce to meet its business needs. The criteria for voluntary departure schemes are governed by the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. A copy of the scheme has been placed in the Library.

Information on costs of the voluntary departure scheme is available only at disproportionate cost.

**Telephone Services**

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Contact Council plans to take on replacing revenue sharing phone numbers with 03 numbers; and if he will make a statement. [236197]

**Mr. Watson:** The use of non-geographic numbers is a matter for individual Departments. It is their responsibility to balance costs and the needs of their users and customers.

The Cabinet Office is working with Government Departments, local authorities and Ofcom, through the Contact Council, to develop guidelines for numbering policy in public sector delivery organisations, including the use of 03 numbers. These guidelines will be published in 2009.

**Tourism: Coastal Areas**

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were employed in the tourism sector in each principal seaside town in *(a)* 1978, *(b)* 1988, *(c)* 1998 and *(d)* the latest year for which figures are available. [238298]

**Barbara Follett:** I have been asked to reply.

This information is not centrally held. The most recently available figure for the number of people employed in the tourism sector in the UK is 1.4 million people in 2007. This information is based on labour force and work force surveys.

### V: Burston-Marsteller

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what monetary payments v *(a)* has made and *(b)* is contracted to make to Burston-Marsteller; and for what purposes. [238780]

**Kevin Brennan:** v is an independent charity funded by the Office of the Third Sector through its strategic grant programme. Details of individual payments are a matter between v and the commercial supplier.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he plans to answer Question 231272 tabled on 23 October 2008, on assistant regional Ministers; and what the reasons are for the time taken to respond. [235634]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* A reply was sent to my hon. Friend on 24 November 2008.

### Young People: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many 16 to 18-year-olds there were in Suffolk in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and what proportion were *(a)* in full-time work and *(b)* not in education, employment or training. [240005]

**Kevin Brennan:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Academic Technology Approval Scheme

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's employees are assigned to issue academic technology approval scheme certificates. [238128]

**Gillian Merron:** Three members of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Counter Proliferation Department work in the academic technology approval scheme team and are able to issue certificates.

### Afghanistan: Detainees

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to Baroness Williams of Crosby of 28 April 2003, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column WA58, on Afghanistan: witness protection, for what reasons the assurances from the US Administration referred to in the answer were not included in his Department's response to the Freedom of Information request from the hon. Member for Chichester of 25 September 2008. [236480]

**Bill Rammell:** The assurances from the US included in the response to the hon. Member's Freedom of Information request were identified during the searches undertaken in pursuance of that request, and in particular were drawn from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's extensive work since February on the details and implications of the two cases of rendition through Diego Garcia in 2002. Unfortunately the PQ answer from 28 April 2003 the hon. Member refers to was not discovered during that process. Had it been, it would certainly have been disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act as part of the extensive list of assurances included in our letter of 2 September.

Since the Intelligence and Security Committee Report on Rendition in 2007, we have implemented a more robust system of record keeping.

### Afghanistan: Elections

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government *(a)* have provided and *(b)* plan to provide with preparations for the 2009 elections in Afghanistan. [237241]

**Bill Rammell:** The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan is already playing a key role in preparing for the elections. Through the United Nations Development Programme it is co-ordinating the international community's efforts to support the Afghan Independent Electoral Commission, which has lead responsibility for conducting voter registration and the elections in 2009 and 2010.

We are working with international partners and the Afghan Government to support upcoming Afghan elections and are determined that they will be a success. We have already contributed £6 million, as an initial contribution, to support voter registration, which began on 6 October 2008 and will finish early February 2009. So far, voter registration is progressing well. We continue to lobby other countries to provide financial support for the elections.

The security situation will present a considerable challenge and we are working closely through the international security assistance force to support Afghan-led security for the electoral process.

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 877W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the detailed periodic assessment due to be completed by the end of 2008 when it has been completed; [236133]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent periodic assessment; [236150]

(3) when the formal review mechanism was introduced; and how many detailed periodic assessments have been completed under it. [236151]

**Bill Rammell:** The Government's Afghanistan Strategy was set out by the Prime Minister in December 2007. A formal review mechanism was initiated this year; the first detailed periodic assessment covering the preceding 12 month period will be completed by the end of 2008.

The nature of the material it contains may preclude the full assessment from being made public but the House will be informed of the implications of the assessment.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 878W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what arrangements have been made to include formal consultations with the Government of Afghanistan within the review of strategy in the region. [236521]

**Bill Rammell:** The US-led Central Command (CENTCOM) Assessment Team (CAT) will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the CENTCOM area of operations, drawing on US interagency and international partner expertise. The US has invited the UK and other nations to participate. The assessment will include visits by members of the CAT, including UK team members, to Afghanistan for consultation with the Government of Afghanistan and its officials.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many quick impact projects of each type have been *(a)* appraised, *(b)* authorised and (c) completed in Helmand Province in each month of the last five years. [237306]

**Bill Rammell:** Quick impact projects (QIPs) began in Helmand in 2006. QIPs provide a visible impact allowing the Government of Afghanistan and the Civilian Military Mission in Helmand (CMMH) to deliver on promises to the people of Afghanistan, and create the environment for stabilisation development to follow. The CMMH has a robust system in place to identify, authorise and conduct QIPs. Potential QIPs can be identified by a range of actors such as the Afghan Government and local community, through surveys conducted by local or international non-governmental organisations, or by the CMMH.

We do not hold records of QIPs broken down by month. But in financial year 2006-07 there were 128 QIPs projects. In financial year 2007-08 there were 102 QIPs projects. In financial year 2008-09 to date, there have been 38 completed projects and 87 are still underway. Records are not kept of projects considered but not undertaken.

Completed UK QIPs in Helmand include: humanitarian assistance to drought victims, permanent vehicle checkpoints constructed to improve security, uniforms and IDs for the Afghan National Police, the provision of vehicles, infrastructure and training for the Governor's office, the reinforcement of river bank walls and flood defences in Lashkar Gah, and a new 20-bed hostel for midwifery students. QIPS have also started and had a positive impact in Gereshk and Sangin.

### Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his oral answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 627 to the hon. Member for North East Hertfordshire, on Afghanistan, what *(a)* political, *(b)* economic and *(c)* other initiatives following on from military action the Government have engaged upon in Afghanistan. [237122]

**Bill Rammell:** The international community and the UK's strategy for Afghanistan is to support its Government to deliver security, political, social and economic development. This is in line with the strategy set out by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the House of Commons on 12 December 2007. We currently have over 150 staff in our embassy in Kabul and over 70 civilian experts in Helmand working alongside our military and inpartnership with the Afghans. More information on UK political initiatives in Afghanistan is given on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/fco-in-action/uk-in-afghanistan/

The UK is the second largest bilateral donor in Afghanistan. Since 2001, the UK has committed £1.65 billion to support reconstruction and development. Our development approach is nationwide and Afghan-led, supporting the Afghan National Development Strategy which was launched at the International Conference in Support of Afghanistan in Paris on 12 June 2008. Programmes focus on building effective state institutions and better governance; improving economic management; and improving livelihoods (particularly in rural areas). More information on development and economic initiatives can be found on the Department for International Development website

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/countries/asia/afghanistan-programme_asp

The UK is working with the Afghans and international partners to help establish democratically controlled Afghan security institutions. In particular we have provided a number of UK training teams to support development of the Afghan National Army (7 Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams currently 1st Battalion The Rifles), supported Non Commissioned Officer training in Kabul, trained Afghan cadets at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, provided two Ministry Of Defence civil servants to work on building the capacity of the Afghan Ministry of Defence; and we are supporting an Officer Candidate School, providing junior officer training in Kabul (based on the Sandhurst model). More information on other initiatives can be found at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/fco-in-action/uk-in-afghanistan/afghanistan-reconstruction/helmand/

### Airports: Official Hospitality

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's arrangements are for receiving visiting VIPs at UK airports; and if he will make a statement. [225600]

**David Miliband:** On State Visits VIPs are greeted by a representative of Her Majesty The Queen. VIPs coming to the UK on an official visit as a guest of Her Majesty's Government are greeted by a representative of the Foreign Secretary. The Government meet the costs of these visits, including transport and VIP suites.

Arrangements for the many VIPs visiting the UK in other circumstances are handled by the relevant Embassy or High Commission.

### Al Qaeda

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will enter into political dialogue with Al Qaeda; and if he will make a statement. [236469]

**Bill Rammell:** The UK is willing in principle to support efforts to engage with groups who renounce violence. However, we have no intention of entering into political dialogue with Al Qaeda (AQ). They remain actively engaged in extreme violence. Any form of political dialogue would lend completely unwarranted credibility to their claims that they represent in any way the interests of the world's Muslims.

### Austria: Embassies

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the running cost of the British embassy in Vienna was in each of the last five years. [239364]

**Caroline Flint:** The total cost of our embassy in Vienna for each of the last five years have been:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 5,928,658 |
| 2006-07 | 5,154,578 |
| 2005-06 | 7,091,979 |
| 2004-05 | 7,901,171 |
| 2003-04 | 6,209,295 |

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on alcoholic drinks for receptions at the British embassy in Vienna in each of the last five years. [239365]

**Caroline Flint:** Our embassy in Vienna does not have records of how much was spent on alcoholic drinks for events before 1 April 2007. The embassy spent £5,760 on alcoholic drinks for events during 2007-08 and £1,750 in the current financial year to 31 October 2008.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the current monetary value of the *(a)* wine and *(b)* other alcohol held in storage by the British embassy in Vienna is. [239366]

**Caroline Flint:** The current monetary value of the wine and other alcohol held in storage by our embassy in Vienna on 24 November is £3,605 and £499 respectively.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many receptions were held at the British embassy in Vienna in each of the last five years; and how many of these were organised and funded by *(a)* trades unions, *(b)* charities, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* other types of organisation; and what income the embassy received from charges for the use of facilities for receptions in each of the last five years. [239367]

**Caroline Flint:** 673 events (lunches, dinners, teas and receptions) were held at the British embassy in Vienna between 1 January 2003 and 31 October 2008. 71 of these were funded by businesses. None were funded by trade unions, charities or other organisations. The charges received from businesses for the use of facilities for receptions are recovered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in Vienna and by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) in London. Neither the FCO nor UKTI hold consolidated figures that show the total amounts recovered from businesses for their use of facilities for receptions over the past five years.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the British embassy in Vienna spent on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each of the last five years. [239368]

**Caroline Flint:** We do not have the figures specifically for our embassy in Vienna. The combined spend of our embassy, the UK Delegation to the OSCE and the UK Mission to the United Nations on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in the last five years was:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | [1]7,723 |
| 2007-08 | 15,222 |
| 2006-07 | 15,146 |
| 2005-06 | 16,257 |
| 2004-05 | 25,018 |

[1] To 31 October 2008

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the British embassy in Vienna spent on stationery in each of the last five years. [239369]

**Caroline Flint:** Our embassy in Vienna spent the following amounts on stationery in each of the last five years:

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 15,961 |
| 2006-07 | 11,818 |
| 2005-06 | 25,991 |
| 2004-05 | 12,575 |
| 2003-04 | 12,592 |

The marked increase in stationery expenditure for 2005-06 was a result of the UK's EU Presidency from July to December 2005.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of staff at the British embassy in Vienna are employed to work on correspondence; and what the average response time to written correspondence was in the latest period for which figures are available. [239370]

**Caroline Flint:** No members of staff at our embassy in Vienna are employed to work specifically on correspondence. The appropriate member of staff replies to the correspondence depending on the subject matter. There are no records available for the average response time to written correspondence, but the Foreign and Commonwealth Office expects all correspondence to receive a response within 20 days.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial monitoring the British embassy in Vienna carries out to avoid waste and promote the efficient use of resources. [239371]

**Caroline Flint:** Effective financial monitoring and efficient use of resources is a high priority at the British embassy in Vienna, as it is in all posts in Europe and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). Given the importance of effective financial monitoring, the Head of Mission is accountable at each post for the sign off of expenditure and receipts and the day-to-day management of post budgets being overseen by a management officer. The network of posts in Europe is at the forefront of FCO efficiency programmes with a savings target of £15,000,000 by the end of FY 2010-11. These efficiencies, which are under regular review, will be realised by reprioritising the use of posts' budgets and redeployment of frontline staff.

### British Embassy: Moscow

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many receptions were held at the British embassy in Moscow in each of the last five years. [239373]

**Caroline Flint:** The number of receptions held at the embassy are:

| | *Number of receptions* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 64 |
| 2005 | 77 |
| 2006 | 110 |
| 2007 | 73 |
| 2008 | 70 |

### Belarus: Children

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the agreement signed by Italian and Belarusian Government, to allow Belarusian orphan children to travel to and from Italy and guarantee their safe return; and if he will make it his policy to enter into an analogous agreement with the Government of Belarus. [236827]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government have received a copy of the agreement between the Italian and Belarusian Governments. Belarus has sought a similar bilateral agreement with the UK. The Government already facilitates the safe travel of Belarusian children to the UK. The UK Border Agency has written to the Belarusian Ambassador offering further discussions in order to maintain those arrangements.

### Bosnia: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent six monthly report of the EU High Representative on Operation Althea. [237811]

**Caroline Flint:** We are not able to place a copy of the six-monthly report on Operation Althea by the EU High Representative Javier Solana in the Library. The document is owned by the EU High Representative and is not in the public domain.

### Bosnia: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* political and *(b)* security situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and what his policy is on each. [236386]

**David Miliband:** EU Foreign Ministers discussed Bosnia and Herzegovina at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) on 10 November and expressed their deep concern regarding the political situation in the country, including ongoing ethnic nationalist rhetoric from political leaders and actions which challenge the structure of the state. I agree with this assessment.

Following this discussion, I visited Sarajevo, where I relayed the European Union's concern at the pace of reform and the political climate. I urged Bosnian politicians to focus on making the reforms necessary to allow for transition of the Office of the High Representative and further EU integration. I also met with High Representative/Special Representative Lajcak. The UK Government strongly support his efforts to facilitate reform and uphold the Dayton Peace Agreement.

The security situation in Bosnia remains stable. The UK Government continue to support the work of the EU Peacekeeping Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR) in maintaining this stable security situation. While our concern over the current political situation does not give rise to concern over the security situation, we believe that any decisions on EUFOR draw-down should only be taken once there is clarity on the future of the international presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### British Council: Fraud

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost has been to the British Council of fraud over the last three years, in relation to its operations in Africa; and if he will make a statement. [230864]

**Caroline Flint:** Incidents of theft or fraud are rare across the British Council's global operations. Over the last three years, the British Council's Africa operations suffered losses from theft, fraud and other misappropriations of approximately £248,000 (out of a total regional income for sub-Saharan Africa of around £124 million). Three individual incidents accounted for £230,000:

*Sierra Leone—£182,000:*

An investigation established that, dating back to April 2005, a number of fraudulent transactions had been made by staff and bookkeeping exchange rates has been manipulated. 10 locally appointed staff were dismissed and the Country Director recalled to the UK. The British Council is following due legal process in order to recover the losses in full.

*Nigeria—£29,000:*

Resulting from the theft of a vehicle stolen at gunpoint from the British Council staff workers. During the incident the driver was shot. The theft was reported to the Chief Security Police Officer at the BDHC, Lagos.

*Morocco—£19,000:*

British Council's internal procedures identified a fraud in country in 2005. The responsible staff member resigned. Procedures were changed to mitigate risk of recurrences.

The remaining eight incidents of fraud total £18,000 over three years, comprising five internal and three external cases. The internal frauds involved the theft of cash. The external frauds comprised two cash thefts and the use of a counterfeit cheque.

As well as implementing lessons learnt from individual cases, the British Council has been introducing a new global finance and business system, which significantly strengthens financial controls and fraud prevention and detection capabilities.

### Burma: Christianity

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the status and safety of Christian communities in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [238748]

**Bill Rammell:** We condemn the marginalisation or persecution of any community based on their religious beliefs, and remain concerned about reports that the mainly Buddhist Burmese authorities restrict freedom of religion. There are Christians among a variety of ethnic groups in Burma, though their persecution by the authorities appears to be based largely on their ethnicity rather than their faith. The plight of the Karen and Chin Christians is particularly apparent.

We emphasise regularly to the Burmese regime, and to countries in the region, the need for the full and fair participation of ethnic nationalities in the political process as key to a durable solution to Burma's problems. There can be little prospect of national reconciliation without genuine recognition of their political, economic and social rights.

### Burma: Human Rights

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken in the United Nations Security Council to prosecute the human rights abuses of the Burmese Government. [238710]

**Bill Rammell:** The UK has consistently supported firm action in all UN bodies on the human rights abuses perpetrated by the Burmese regime. The UN General Assembly Third Committee passed a further Resolution on Burma on 21 November 2008, which strongly condemns the ongoing, systematic violations of civil, political, economic and social rights of the people of Burma. The Human Rights Council passed its strongest ever resolution on Burma, with active UK support, on 18 June 2008.

In the UN Security Council, the UK helped to secure unprecedented action on Burma in the form of a strongly worded Presidential Statement passed unanimously on 11 October 2007. The Security Council called on the Burmese regime to release all political prisoners including Aung San Suu Kyi; start a genuine and inclusive dialogue with the Opposition and ethnic groups; give its full co-operation to the UN; and take all necessary steps to meet the political, economic and human rights aspirations of its people. These demands were reaffirmed by a further Presidential Statement in May this year. Work will continue to keep Burma as a focus for discussion in the Security Council.

### Burma: Political Prisoners

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Burma on the recent decision to sentence 14 political dissidents to 65 years each in prison in that country; and if he will make a statement. [237242]

**David Miliband:** As my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs said on 11 November, we are deeply concerned by the regime's decision to sentence members of '1988 Generation' and other pro-democracy activists to up to 65 years in jail. Reports that many are being sent to remote prisons far from the support of family and friends increases our concern. Those detained did nothing more than call for a better future for Burma's people. Our ambassador in Burma has made clear to the Burmese Foreign Minister that we consider the harsh sentences imposed to be completely unacceptable, and that all political prisoners must be released in line with Security Council demands. We welcome the strong statements from the EU, US and UN Secretary-General condemning the regime's actions.

As EU Foreign Ministers underlined on 10 November, only an inclusive political process involving all Opposition and ethnic groups will begin to solve Burma's many problems.

### Burma: Politics and Government

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* leadership and *(b)* political objectives of the Burmese Government. [238711]

**Bill Rammell:** The military have held power in Burma since 1962. Under their current guise of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), power is concentrated in the hands of General Than Shwe and a handful of senior generals. In spite of recent internal challenges, such as mass protests last September, the SPDC has retained a firm grip over the country and continues to preside over gross economic mismanagement and systematic human rights abuses.

Following a flawed constitutional referendum in May, the regime appears intent on pressing ahead with elections in 2010 designed to entrench military rule in all but name. The recent sentencing of around one hundred monks and political activists to long prison terms underlines the regime's determination to snuff out dissent in advance of the poll. Unless elections are conducted in an atmosphere free from political repression, with the full participation of all Burma's political and ethnic groups, they will lack all credibility and perpetuate the country's many problems.

### Chile: Overseas Students

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial commitment the UK will make to the UK-Chile Scholarship Agreement signed on 14th November 2008; and what estimate he has made of the number of Chilean students who will participate in the next 12 months. [237955]

**David Miliband:** The Agreement, negotiated by the British Council, will be funded by the Chilean government's "Fondo Bicentenario de Capital Humano" (Bicentennial Fund for the Development of Human Capital), which was announced by the President of Chile earlier this year. It is estimated that, as a result of this Agreement, approximately 300 Chilean postgraduate students will study in the UK in the coming year.

### China: Tibet

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what short-term objectives he has set for progress that can be achieved to improve the position in Tibet. [237783]

**Bill Rammell:** In his written ministerial statement of 29 October, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear our interest in various aspects of the Tibetan issue. These include the need for respect for Tibetan culture, language and religion. We believe that the talks on Tibet between the Chinese authorities and representatives of the Dalai Lama offer the opportunity to make progress in all of these areas, as well as on wider issues of human rights, including the right to freedom of peaceful expression. We are disappointed that to date the dialogue has failed to make progress on any of this, and urge both parties to redouble efforts and engage on the substance of the issues.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in the last 12 months. [237487]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold dedicated accounts for official expenditure of this nature. The required information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

All Foreign and Commonwealth Office expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruits to be served by his Department at Christmas functions which will be sourced from British producers. [239725]

**Gillian Merron:** The information requested is not collected.

The Government will shortly be publishing a report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and National Offender Management Service (previously HM Prison Service) between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008.

This report will be available on the PSFPI web site at http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate has been made of the number of rebel troops involved in the advance upon Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [233068]

**David Miliband:** The UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) puts the total strength of the National Council for the Defence of the People (CNDP) at around 4,000 soldiers. Of these, MONUC estimates that 600-700 are located around the Kibat-Kibumba area of north Kivu. Exact numbers of those involved in the advance are very difficult to obtain.

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the possibility of sending an EU force to the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [235685]

**David Miliband:** The matter was raised during discussion of the situation in the eastern DRC at the GAERC on Monday 10 November. EU Foreign Ministers agreed that it was unlikely that a rapid deployment of forces from the EU or elsewhere could produce a significant increase to the capability that already exists in the region. They agreed that the best way forward was continued support for a political solution under the framework provided by the Nairobi communiqué and the Goma accord and to ensure that the 17,000 strong force in the UN mission to DR Congo are correctly deployed and effectively mandated to provide security in the east of the country.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of Angolan, Zimbabwean and Rwandan troops being drawn into the fighting in Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [237311]

**Gillian Merron:** We have received no confirmed reports from any source, including the UN, of formed units of Angolan troops operating in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We note that the UN Peacekeeping Force's (MONUC) official spokesman has denied rumours allegedly from UN officials that there are Angolan troops in eastern DRC. The Angolan ambassador to DRC has also denied that there are Angolan troops present in the country.

There have been allegations of Rwandan forces in North Kivu. But we have seen no evidence to confirm these. During the recent fighting, UN observers reported that shots had been fired across the border between DRC and Rwanda. We understand from MONUC that the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) accidentally fired several mortars into Rwanda after which Rwandan military responded with fire from three T55 tanks. However, this was an isolated incident and did not escalate any further. We continue to work with both Governments of Rwanda and DRC to encourage them to establish full diplomatic relations.

We have no confirmed reports of troops from Zimbabwe operating in DRC.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the recruitment of child soldiers in Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [237313]

**Gillian Merron:** The recruitment and conscription of children as fighters in contravention of international humanitarian law by many of the armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), including the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), is of serious concern. The UK is providing £17 million to the Multi-Country Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme, a significant proportion of which is spent on special projects for children associated with armed groups. We also gave £3 million to the 2007 International Committee of the Red Cross appeal for the DRC, which includes programmes for protection and reintegration of children.

During an open debate on Children and Armed Conflict at the UN in February, the UK called for further efforts to be made by the Government of the DRC to stop the use of child soldiers. We also raised concerns about children affected by armed conflict in the DRC in a subsequent debate at the UN in July and in the Human Rights Council in September.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Peace Negotiations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in the Amani programme for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and what discussions he has had with the co-ordinator. [233062]

**David Miliband:** Despite the current blockage, there has been some progress in the Amani programme since its inception in January 2008. The mixed technical committee on peace and security has been established. With our partners we have been pressing the co-ordinator for the Amani process to appoint a special advisor on human rights.

Our embassy in Kinshasa has had regular contact with Malu Malu, national co-ordinator for the Amani programme, both in Kinshasa and in Goma as part of the international facilitation effort. Our ambassador in Kinshasa has also been accepted as a member of the steering committee, overseeing the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo peace processes.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions troops of the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have reporting coming under direct attack during the current crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and what assessment has been made of responsibility for those attacks. [233065]

**David Miliband:** The situation on the ground in North Kivu remains volatile. We expect the UN to report on all attacks on MONUC fully once the situation has stabilised. The [illegible] condemns all attacks on UN peacekeepers [illegible] parties to allow MONUC full and free access to fulfil its mandate. We commend the commitment of UN peacekeepers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo who are serving in difficult and dangerous circumstances.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the time needed to mobilise additional African Union troops to support MONUC in Democratic Republic of Congo. [237312]

**Gillian Merron:** There is currently no proposal under consideration at the African Union (AU) to deploy peacekeeping forces to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Based on past precedent, the time needed for an AU military deployment would depend on various factors, including AU political agreement to deploy a mission; finding willing troop contributing countries; raising funds to finance a mission; and the logistics of moving troops to theatre.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; what the target rates set for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [238931]

**Gillian Merron:** The average number of days sick leave taken by staff in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in each of the last five years is set out in the following table:

| | *Days* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 3.8 |
| 2006 | 3.5 |
| 2005 | 4.2 |
| 2004 | 4.8 |
| 2003 | 3.9 |

Sickness absence figures for staff at Wilton Park, an Executive Agency of the FCO, and at FCO Services, which became a Trading Fund on 1 April 2008, are included in the FCO total.

Records for staff sickness absence prior to 2003, and sickness absence records of non-departmental bodies are not available.

Information is not held centrally for staff absences for reasons other than sickness and annual leave. Such absences are monitored locally by line-managers.

The FCO does not have fixed departmental targets for absence and sickness absence.

The FCO has effective policies for monitoring sickness absence, issuing warnings and reducing or withdrawing pay at certain trigger points for long absentees.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to his Department of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers (i) was in the last 12 months and (ii) has been since 1997-98. [233192]

**Gillian Merron:** The Press Office and special adviser's offices are all located in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) main building on King Charles Street (KCS). The FCO holds the freehold to this property and pays a capital and depreciation charge based on the value of the asset.

Since June 2007, special adviser's offices have taken up 63.73m² of the KCS building. Before June 2007 special adviser's officers took up 91.76m². The capital and depreciation costs of this are as follows (per financial year):

| | Amount (£) |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 9,267 |
| 2006-07 | 9,910 |
| 2005-06 | 8,441 |
| 2004-05 | 7,066 |

The Press Office occupies 346.73m². The capital and depreciation costs of this are as follows:

| | Amount (£) |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 45,422 |
| 2006-07 | 37,447 |
| 2005-06 | 31,899 |
| 2004-05 | 26,698 |

Other costs associated with office facilities are not itemised. Producing figures for an individual office or section would incur a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237417]

**Gillian Merron:** Food and drink on sale to staff of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services in the UK, via its contract caterers, is currently subsidised from public funds. On the commencement of a new contact, from 1 December 2008, food and drink on sale to staff will no longer be subsidised.

Wilton Park, and executive agency of the FCO, currently subsidises food and drink on sale to its staff.

Information relating to catering contracts overseas is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Civil Servants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil servants have been employed by each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [239108]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has had two executive agencies, Wilton Park and FCO Services, during this period.

The number of UK civil servants employed by Wilton Park is:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1 April 2004 | 71 |
| 1 April 2005 | 71 |
| 1 April 2006 | 72 |
| 1 April 2007 | 75 |
| 1 April 2008 | 74 |

The number of UK civil servants employed by FCO Services is:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1 April 2006 | 1,080 |
| 1 April 2007 | 1,048 |
| 1 April 2008 | 857 |

We do not hold records centrally of staff numbers before 1 April 2004. Nor do we hold records of staffing for the FCO's non-departmental public bodies. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of employees in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours per week. [238129]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to helping its staff maintain a work/life balance. All FCO staff can ask to work flexibly. We encourage managers to respond sympathetically and creatively to such requests.

Data are not held centrally on the numbers of staff who do work flexibly as this is a matter for arrangement between individuals and their line manager.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [239066]

**Gillian Merron:** Responsibility for procuring external consultants has been devolved to individual directorates, Departments and overseas posts within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) with the provision of central advice and guidance. Each directorate, Department and post would need to be contacted to obtain these details. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

The FCO provides an annual expenditure figure on external consultants which is published in the Department's annual report. Copies of this are available in the Library of the House.

In order to provide information on this category in the future, the FCO's Corporate Procurement Group has been tasked with creating a central database that will contain complete information about consultants employed across the FCO. We expect the database to be fully functional within the next three months. We are

working closely with the Office of Government Commerce in to align our strategy on the future procurement of consultants with their Consultancy Value Programme.

### Departmental Early Retirement

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many employees in his Department took early retirement in each of the last five financial years; and at what total cost. [23896]

**Gillian Merron:** The following table sets out the number of UK civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) who have left on early retirement or severance terms and the total cost to the Department.

| | *Number of employees* | *Total cost to FCO (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 (provisional) | 79 | 9,372,159.00 |
| 2007-08 | 103 | 18,918,138.00 |
| 2006-07 | 84 | 11,269,250.00 |
| 2005-06 | 172 | 18,158,682.00 |
| 2004-05 | 68 | 7,692,646.00 |

All payments to staff leaving on early exit schemes have been calculated and paid in strict accordance with the terms of the standard Civil Service Compensation Schemes. The total costs listed above include compensation payments, early payment of pension sums, some of which would have been payable to these staff whenever they retired, and administrative costs.

### Departmental Gifts

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received in each case. [23963]

**Gillian Merron:** The recording of gifts is devolved to individual Foreign and Commonwealth Office departments and overseas posts and provision of this information would incur disproportionate cost.

### Departmental ICT

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each year since 1997. [23408]

**Gillian Merron:** This information is not held centrally in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). To collate the information from the FCO in UK and our missions across the world would incur disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much surplus land *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies own; and what the (i) area and (ii) estimated monetary value of each site is. [23642]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and its agencies have no surplus sites in the UK.

### Departmental Languages

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* Hebrew, *(b)* Arabic, *(c)* Mandarin, *(d)* Cantonese, *(e)* Urdu, *(f)* Farsi and *(g)* Dari speakers are employed by his Department. [23956]

**Gillian Merron:** I will write to the right hon. and learned Member separately and arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how *many (a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and at what cost in each year. [23980]

**David Miliband:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently employs two part-time special advisers to the Foreign Secretary.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister publishes on an annual basis a list of the numbers and cost of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-101WS.

The number of London based press officers employed by Foreign and Commonwealth Office and their associated costs are shown in the following table. Total costs include the administration costs of the press office and the cost of staff, which includes basic pay, National Insurance, superannuation and the London Location Allowance. Only figures for complete financial years can be provided.

| | *Number of press officers* | *Total Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | [1]24 | 2,220,131.00 |
| 2006-07 | 36 | 2,493,112.00 |
| 2005-06 | 30 | 1,997,807.00 |
| 2004-05 | [2]20.5 | 1,744,974.00 |
| 2003-04 | 41 | 1,860,206.00 |

[1] 23 plus one job share.
[2] 26 full-time plus one part-time.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [23747]

**Gillian Merron:** During the 2007-8 financial year, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) had no staff specifically employed on branding activity, although some parts of the FCO (for example, Consular Directorate) undertake some in-house branding activity as part of their promotional campaigns. The FCO now employs one person temporarily to advise on branding activities. This consultancy work has cost £40,000 so far and was procured through the Central Office of Information under normal Government procurement rules.

## Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237316]

**David Miliband:** Between November 2005 and July 2006 one full-time civil servant worked in support of special advisers to the Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Between July 2006 and June 2007, two full-time civil servants were employed to assist special advisers. Since June 2007 there has been one full-time civil servant assisting Special Advisers.

These civil servants have provided administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers. Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned.

## Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding has been agreed with each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies for the period 2008 to 2011. [225656]

**Gillian Merron:** The remit of each of the non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) sponsored by the Department can be found at the following link:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/what-we-do/building-strong-relationships-ol/stakeholder-groups/non-dept-public-bodies

The budget of our Executive NDPBs are:

| NDPB | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|---|---|---|---|
| British Council (£million) | 196 | 201 | 197 |
| Great Britain-China Centre (£000) | 300,000 | 300,000 | 300,000 |
| Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission (£million) | 2.2 | 2.2 | - |
| Westminster Foundation for Democracy (£million) | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 |

[1] Not finalised

The Advisory/Tribunal NDPBs sponsored by the Department incur little or no expenditure and are resourced from within the Department. As a result, information on budgets for 2008-11 is not available.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department, and what budget each has been set for (*a*) 2008-09, (*b*) 2009-10 and (*c*) 2010-11. [236925]

**Gillian Merron:** The remit of each of the non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) sponsored by the Department can be found at the following link:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/what-we-do/building-strong-relationships-ol/stakeholder-groups/non-dept-public-bodies

The budget of our Executive NDPBs are:

| NDPB | FY 2008-09 | FY 2009-10 | FY 2010-11 |
|---|---|---|---|
| British Council | £196,000,000 | £201,000,000 | £197,000,000 |
| Great Britain-China Centre | £300,000 | £300,000 | £300,000 |
| Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission | £2,200,000 | £2,200,000 | - |
| Westminster Foundation for Democracy | £4,100,000 | £4,100,000 | £4,100,000 |

[1] Not finalised

The advisory/tribunal NDPBs sponsored by the Department incur little or no expenditure and are resourced from within the Department. As a result, information on budgets for 2008-11 is not available.

## Departmental Pay

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08, to which members of staff, and for what purposes. [239664]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) uses non-consolidated, non-pensionable bonuses to encourage high performance. Annual bonuses are paid to staff in the delegated grades (all except senior managers) based on appraisal evidence of annual performance. The highest rating and bonus award is given only where performance has significantly exceeded challenging objectives and may have radically transformed delivery of policy and/or services.

The value of bonuses paid for performance in 2007-08, by grade and appraisal marking, were:

| Grade | Exceptional | Effective (1) | Effective (2) |
|---|---|---|---|
| A1 (AA+) | £ 915 | 700 | 525 |
| A2 (AD+) | 1,500 | 900 | 600 |
| B3 (EO+) | 1,715 | 1,030 | 688 |
| C4 (HEO+) | 1,925 | 1,155 | 770 |
| C5 (SEO+) | 2,115 | 1,270 | 845 |
| D6 (G7+) | 2,315 | 1,390 | 925 |
| D7 (G6+) | 2,500 | 1,500 | 1,000 |

A small additional bonus fund allows managers to reward staff in the delegated grades for exceptional contributions in year beyond their normal responsibilities. The average award from this fund is £350.

Variable pay (bonus) arrangements for staff in the senior management structure/senior civil service (SMS/SCS) of the FCO follow a framework set centrally for Whitehall Departments by the Cabinet Office. We use variable pay for SMS/SCS staff to reward excellent individual performance and achievement during the year. Variable pay decisions are based on a judgement by pay committees of what an individual has achieved in comparison with peers. Those who have delivered the best results, and shown real leadership in doing so, receive the biggest bonuses. Those who have delivered least receive nothing. 28 per cent. of eligible staff received no bonus this year.

Departments were authorised to spend a sum equivalent to 8.6 per cent. of their SCS pay budget on bonuses to reward performance in 2007-08. The FCO made bonus payments to SMS/SCS staff ranging from £5,000 to £17,000.

### Departmental Postal Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department uses Royal Mail as the primary company for sending its post, parcels and packages. [238326]

**Gillian Merron:** In each of the last three years, the postal service provider that carried the most letters and parcels for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the UK was the Royal Mail.

Letters and parcels for overseas posts are delivered through the diplomatic bag service.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many press releases have been issued by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238983]

**Gillian Merron:** The number of press releases issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Press Office in London in each year for which data are available is:

| | *Press releases* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 394 |
| 2006 | 413 |
| 2005 | 402 |
| 2004 | 400 |
| 2003 | 401 |
| 2002 | 371 |

These figures do not include press releases issued by our posts overseas. That information is not held centrally and would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether there has been any statutory cost to his Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [239641]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold information on aborted tenders centrally. As budgets are devolved to each individual FCO Department and Mission overseas, the information requested could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1407W, on departmental reorganisation, what the projected net operating costs in support of his Department's four strategic priorities are for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2009-10. [237740]

**David Miliband:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) eight departmental strategic objectives were only adopted for the present comprehensive spending review period. The net operating costs for the FCO's 10 SR04 strategic priorities in 2007-08 were published in the 'Consolidated Statements of Operating Costs by Aim and Objectives (Strategic Priorities)' schedule to the 2007-08 Resource Accounts (HC 614), which has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The nature of the FCO business means that funding is allocated geographically rather than by departmental strategic objectives. Therefore it is not possible to provide a full answer on the basis requested. Nevertheless the following strategic programme funding has been agreed for 2008-09 and 2009-10.

| *Strategic programme funding* | *2008-09* | *£ million 2009-10* |
|---|---|---|
| Counter terrorism/counter proliferation | 35.3 | 41.0 |
| Low carbon/high growth economy | 13.2 | 19.0 |
| Strong international system | 8.7 | 9.2 |
| Conflict prevention and resolution | 19.3 | 19.3 |

### Departmental Redundancy

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's staff were made redundant as a result of the closure of his Department's language school. [225596]

**David Miliband:** There were 94 language teaching staff working in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) language centre, of which 47 were contract staff not directly employed by the FCO. Four were made compulsorily redundant because they were not British citizens at the time the language school closed and received compulsory early severance/retirement (depending on age).

Ninety were offered redeployment. Of these, 70 chose not to apply for redeployment and agreed to take a severance package. Twenty were redeployed in a generalist capacity. Following a trial period, 10 of these took the severance package; 10 remain in the FCO.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Questions for written answer were tabled to his Department in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235394]

**Gillian Merron:** Figures for earlier sessions, and for those numbers of questions not answered substantively or not answered on the grounds of disproportionate cost, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Diego Garcia: Rendition

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has sought legal advice as to whether the use of Diego Garcia by

the US for rendition flights in 2002 contravened the terms of the Exchanges of Notes that govern the United States' usage of the island. [228464]

**David Miliband:** FCO legal advisers advised on this issue after we were informed by the US of the 2002 flights in February 2008. We consider that the US Government should have sought permission from the UK before undertaking rendition operations through Diego Garcia.

Secretary Rice has subsequently underlined the firm US understanding that there will be no rendition through the UK, UK airspace or overseas territories without express British Government permission. The US have also stated that, should there be any doubt as to whether an operation falls outside the Exchange of Notes that govern the use of Diego Garcia, then the US Government would consult the UK Government.

I made a written ministerial statement on rendition through Diego Garcia on 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 58WS.

### Diplomatic Service

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK diplomats in overseas posts have been (a) expelled from a host country and (b) recalled following representations from the host country in each of the last five years; and what the reason for the action was in each case. [237585]

**Gillian Merron:** Four UK diplomats based at our Embassy in Moscow were expelled by the Russian authorities in July 2007. In announcing this decision on 18 July 2007, the Russian Foreign Ministry made it clear that this step was taken in retaliation for the Government's decision to expel four Russian diplomats from the Russian Embassy in London earlier the same week. No other UK diplomats in overseas posts have been expelled from a host country in the past five years.

No UK diplomats have been recalled following representations from the host country in the past five years.

### Diplomatic Service: Public Appointments

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 192-3W, on diplomatic service: education, if he will bring forward proposals to make the membership of the three selection boards which appoint ambassadors and high commissioners more reflective of the UK population as a whole in their educational background. [238496]

**Gillian Merron:** Appointments at all levels of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), including for positions represented on the board making the most senior appointments, are made on the basis of merit. Candidates' educational background is not taken into account. More broadly, the FCO aspires to represent modern Britain. A range of outreach activities aimed at broadening the diversity of our work force in terms of social, ethnic and educational background are an important part of this process.

### EC Action: Discrimination

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking in response to the publication of the draft European Framework Convention on Promoting Tolerance and Combating Intolerance on 10 November 2008. [236256]

**Mr. Khan:** The Government have noted the document produced by the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation (ECTR) to which the hon. Member refers. The Council of Europe already has a range of mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness of member states in tackling racism, discrimination and intolerance, including anti-Semitism. These include the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

### EC Common Foreign and Security Policy

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the comments made by the President of the European Council at the EU-Russia Summit in Nice on the contribution to European security of the development of a missile defence system in Europe; what his policy is on the proposal by the President of the European Council for a meeting on European security in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [238305]

**Caroline Flint:** The UK supports US plans to expand Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) assets in Europe to provide defensive coverage against the potential threat from ballistic missiles. The planned BMD system is not intended for, or capable of, countering Russian strategic nuclear forces. It is designed to counter limited ballistic missile threats from a small number of states of concern.

The UK is always open to discussions on how we can continue to enhance European security. In the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), NATO and the EU we have tried and tested mechanisms that are delivering security in Europe. We must not undermine them. The UK is interested in President Sarkozy's suggestion of convening an OSCE summit to discuss European security, when the conditions are right. It is important that all transatlantic partners take part in any such talks and that they also take into account our broader common values: democracy, human rights and rule of law, as well as our existing commitments.

### Embassies

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the current estimated value is of the *(a)* wine and *(b)* other alcoholic drinks held in storage by the British Embassy in (i) Paris, (ii) Berlin, (iii) Madrid, (iv) Brussels, (v) Rome and (vi) Dublin. [238676]

**Caroline Flint:** The value of wine and other alcoholic drinks held in storage at our embassies in Paris, Berlin, Madrid, Brussels, Rome and Dublin is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the running costs of the British Embassy in *(a)* Paris, *(b)* Berlin, *(c)* Madrid, *(d)* Brussels, *(e)* Rome and *(f)* Dublin were in each of the last five years. [238677]

**Caroline Flint:** The total cost of the British embassy in Paris for each of the last five years has been:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 16,086,714 |
| 2006-07 | 18,575,183 |
| 2005-06 | 18,452,947 |
| 2004-05 | 26,849,816 |
| 2003-04 | 20,270,541 |

The total cost of the British embassy in Berlin for each of the last five years has been:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 15,675,405 |
| 2006-07 | 16,826,684 |
| 2005-06 | 15,132,207 |
| 2004-05 | 38,957,543 |
| 2003-04 | 12,641,292 |

The total cost of the British embassy in Madrid for each of the last five years has been:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 7,471,356 |
| 2006-07 | 8,102,549 |
| 2005-06 | 9,854,582 |
| 2004-05 | 14,900,850 |
| 2003-04 | 10,773,854 |

The total cost of the British embassy in Brussels for each of the last five years has been:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 4,144,313 |
| 2006-07 | 4,182,219 |
| 2005-06 | [1] |
| 2004-05 | 8,795,892 |
| 2003-04 | 6,641,446 |

[1] The cost of the British embassy is not separately identifiable from the cost of other UK missions in Brussels.

The total cost of the British embassy in Rome for each of the last five years has been:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 9,601,594 |
| 2006-07 | 9,590,323 |
| 2005-06 | 9,492,627 |
| 2004-05 | 14,516,880 |
| 2003-04 | 10,166,167 |

The total cost of the British embassy in Dublin for each of the last five years has been:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 3,717,417 |
| 2006-07 | 4,245,726 |
| 2005-06 | 2,787,854 |
| 2004-05 | 4,889,585 |
| 2003-04 | 4,748,141 |

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many receptions were held at the British Embassy in *(a)* Paris, *(b)* Berlin, *(c)* Madrid, *(d)* Brussels, *(e)* Rome and *(f)* Dublin in each of the last five years; and how much was spent on alcoholic drinks for such receptions in each of those years. [238678]

**Caroline Flint:** The number of receptions held at our embassies in Paris, Berlin, Madrid, Brussels, Rome and Dublin in each of the last five years, and the amount that was spent on alcoholic drinks for such receptions in each of those years, is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many receptions held at the British embassy in *(a)* Paris, *(b)* Berlin, *(c)* Madrid, *(d)* Brussels, *(e)* Rome and *(f)* Dublin in each of the last five years were organised and funded by (i) trade unions, (ii) charities, (iii) businesses and (iv) other types of organisations; and what income each embassy received from charges for the use of facilities for such receptions in each of those years. [238679]

**Caroline Flint:** The number of receptions held at our embassies in Paris, Berlin, Madrid, Brussels, Rome and Dublin in each of the last five years that were organised and funded by trade unions, charities, businesses and other types of organisations, and the income each embassy received from charges for the use of facilities for these receptions in each of those years, is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by the British Embassy in *(a)* Paris, *(b)* Berlin, *(c)* Madrid, *(d)* Brussels, *(e)* Rome and *(f)* Dublin on (i) newspapers, magazines and periodicals and (ii) stationery in each of the last five years. [238680]

**Caroline Flint:** The amount that was spent on newspapers, magazines and periodicals at our embassies in Paris, Berlin, Madrid, Brussels, Rome and Dublin in each of the last five years is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of staff are employed at the British Embassy in *(a)* Paris, *(b)* Berlin, *(c)* Madrid, *(d)* Brussels, *(e)* Rome and *(f)* Dublin to work on correspondence; and what the average response time to written correspondence was in the latest period for which figures are available. [238681]

**Caroline Flint:** The number of staff employed at our embassies in Paris, Berlin, Madrid, Brussels, Rome and Dublin to work on correspondence, and the average

response time to written correspondence is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial monitoring is carried out at the British Embassy in *(a)* Paris, *(b)* Berlin, *(c)* Madrid, *(d)* Brussels, *(e)* Rome and *(f)* Dublin to avoid waste and promote efficient use of resources. [238682]

**Caroline Flint:** Effective financial monitoring and efficient use of resources is a high priority in our embassies in Paris, Berlin, Madrid, Brussels, Rome and Dublin, as it is in all posts in Europe and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). Given the importance of effective financial monitoring the Head of Mission is accountable at each post for the sign off of expenditure and receipts and the day-to-day management of post budgets being overseen by a management officer. The network of posts in Europe is at the forefront of FCO efficiency programmes with a savings target of £15,000,000 by the end of FY 2010-11. These efficiencies, which are under regular review, will be realised by reprioritising the use of posts budgets and redeployment of frontline staff.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the British Embassy in *(a)* Tel Aviv and *(b)* Moscow takes to avoid unnecessary waste and promote efficient use of resources; and how his Department monitors the effectiveness of such steps. [238619]

**Bill Rammell:** Budgets are allocated to posts after rigorous scrutiny in the resource allocation round. The ambassadors in Tel Aviv and Moscow are responsible for ensuring the proper use of these funds and for reporting to their geographical Director and Director Finance in London. There is also a robust monthly monitoring process for all posts, with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Board monitoring overall expenditure each month.

**Embassies: Foreign Workers**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17th November 2008, Official Report, column 196W, on embassies: foreign workers, what additional positions in UK overseas posts have been identified for localisation in the financial years (a) 2007-08 and (b) 2008-09, broken down by (i) country, (ii) mission, (iii) title of position and (iv) payband. [238229]

**David Miliband:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to question 238243 on 26 November 2008.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 196W, on embassies: foreign workers, which posts have been localised since January 2007, broken down by *(a)* country, *(b)* mission, *(c)* title of position and *(d)* pay band. [238243]

**David Miliband:** A detailed breakdown of jobs localised since January 2007 by country, mission, title of position and pay band is as follows:

| *Country* | *Post* | *Job title* | *Grade/pay band* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Argentina | Buenos Aires | Personal Assistant | A2 |
| Australia | Canberra | Political Officer | B3 |
| Austria | Vienna | Deputy Management Officer | B3 |
| Bangladesh | Dhaka | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| Barbados | Bridgetown | Senior Management Officer | C5 |
| Belgium | Brussels | Personal Assistant | B3 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Sarajevo | Personal Assistant | A2 |
| Botswana | Gaborone | Personal Assistant | A2 |
| Brazil | Sao Paulo | Management Officer | B3 |
| Cameroon | Yaounde | Personal Assistant | A2 |
| Chile | Santiago | Personal Assistant | A2 |
| China | Beijing | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | Guangzhou | Entry Clearance Manage | C4 |
| Colombia | Bogota | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| Croatia | Zagreb | Political Officer | B3 |
| Cyprus | Nicosia | PA | A2 |
| | | Senior Management Officer | C4 |
| | | UK Trade Officer | C5 |
| Czech Republic | Prague | Deputy Management Officer | B3 |
| | | UK Trade Officer | C4 |
| Denmark | Copenhagen | Personal Assistant | A2 |
| | | Deputy Management Officer | B3 |
| | | UK Trade Officer | D6 |

| *Country* | *Post* | *Job title* | *Grade/pay band* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Finland | Helsinki | Deputy Management Officer | B3 |
| France | Paris | Personal Assistant | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Deputy Management Officer | B3 |
| Germany | Berlin | Press Officer | C5 |
| | Dusseldorf | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | UK Trade Officer | B3 |
| Ghana | Accra | Personal Assistant | A2 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| Guatemala | Guatemala City | Political Officer | C4 |
| Guyana | Georgetown | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| Hungary | Budapest | Personal Assistant | A2 |
| | | Deputy Management Officer | B3 |
| India | Chennai | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | New Delhi | Management Officer | C4 |
| Ireland | Dublin | Deputy Management Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Manager | C4 |
| Italy | Milan | Senior Management Officer | C5 |
| | Rome | Personal Assistant | A2 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| Jamaica | Kingston | Support Officer | A2 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| Kenya | Nairobi | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| Kosovo | Pristina | Deputy Management Officer | B3 |
| Malawi | Lilongwe | Personal Assistant | A2 |
| Malaysia | Kuala Lumpur | Communications Officer | A2 |
| Moldova | Chisinau | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| Mongolia | Ulaanbaatar | Communications Officer | A2 |
| Mozambique | Maputo | Deputy Management Officer | A2 |
| Myanmar | Rangoon | Political Officer | B3 |
| Netherlands | The Hague | UK Trade Officer | C5 |
| Nigeria | Abuja | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Manager | C4 |
| | Lagos | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| Norway | Oslo | Deputy Management Officer | B3 |
| Pakistan | Islamabad | Visa Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Deputy Management Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Manager | C4 |
| | | Entry Clearance Manager | C4 |
| | Karachi | Management Officer | B3 |
| Philippines | Manila | Communications Officer | A2 |

| Country | Post | Job title | Gradelpay band |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| Portugal | Lisbon | Deputy Management Officer | B3 |
| | | Consul | C5 |
| | | UK Trade Officer | D6 |
| Romania | Bucharest | Deputy Management Officer | B3 |
| Russia | Moscow | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | St. Petersburg | Management Officer | C4 |
| | | Deputy Head of Mission | C4 |
| Saudi Arabia | Jeddah | Senior Management Officer | C4 |
| | Riyadh | Deputy Management Officer | A2 |
| Serbia | Belgrade | Communications Officer | A2 |
| | | Deputy Management Officer | B3 |
| Singapore | Singapore | Communications Officer | A2 |
| Slovakia | Bratislava | Personal Assistant | A2 |
| | | Political Officer | C4 |
| South Korea | Seoul | Communications Officer | A2 |
| Spain | Madrid | Management Officer | C4 |
| | | Management Officer | C4 |
| | | UK Trade Officer | C4 |
| | | Labour Officer | D6 |
| Sweden | Stockholm | UK Trade Officer | D6 |
| Switzerland | Geneva | UK Delegation Officer | C4 |
| Tanzania | Dar Es Salaam | Communications Officer | A2 |
| | | Political Officer | B3 |
| Thailand | Bangkok | Political Officer | B3 |
| Turkey | Ankara | Deputy Management Officer | B3 |
| | Istanbul | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Entry Clearance Officer | B3 |
| | | Senior Management Officer | D6 |
| Ukraine | Kiev | Deputy Management Officer | B3 |
| USA | Chicago | Entry Clearance Manager | C4 |
| Zambia | Lusaka | Personal Assistant | A2 |

### Ethiopia: Rendition

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether British officials have *(a)* met and *(b)* interviewed persons who in 2007 were rendered to Ethiopia for the purposes of interrogation; and if he will make a statement. [232518]

**Bill Rammell:** British officials spoke to a number of individuals in Ethiopian detention during this period; we are not aware that their detention was unlawful.

### FCO Services: Official Hospitality

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget for the Government Hospitality section of FCO Services *(a)* was in each of the last five financial years and *(b)* will be in financial years (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [225598]

**David Miliband:** Government Hospitality section has been part of Protocol Directorate, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, since July 2007. The Government Hospitality budget for each of the last five financial years has totalled £1.8million. This sum covers the expenditure of Government Hospitality section and the costs of Guest of Government visits to the United Kingdom. The budget for the next two financial years is expected to remain the same.

### Gaza: Borders

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Israel on the impact of the closure of Gaza upon the humanitarian situation there; and if he will make a statement. [237269]

**David Miliband:** We have serious concerns about the Israeli restrictions on Gaza and the impact they have on the lives of Gazans. It is vital that both sides seek to reinforce the ceasefire: Hamas by engaging with President Abbas and moving to non-violence and the Quartet Principles; Israel by easing restrictions on life in Gaza. The recent tightening of these restrictions on humanitarian access—as highlighted by the UN Secretary-General—is of mounting concern and while I welcome the re-opening

of the Kerem Shalom crossing on 24 November, I support his call for Israel to permit the sustained delivery of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population of Gaza.

### Georgia: BBC External Services

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the BBC World Service's policy is on broadcasting to Georgia; and if he will make a statement. [238251]

**David Miliband:** BBC World Service programming is available to audiences in Georgia on several platforms in Russian and English. The BBC's Russian service is available on short wave, and there is some limited rebroadcasting of its programmes via local FM partners. Programmes are also available online through the live stream on bbcrussian.com. The BBC has two correspondents in Georgia, one of whom reports in Russian, and an office with studio facilities in Tblisi.

### Georgia: South Ossetia

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 213-14W, on Georgia: South Ossetia, from which Human Rights Watch report his estimate of the number of Ossetians killed in the conflict was drawn; and what consideration he gave to providing figures compiled by Human Rights Watch estimating the number of Georgians killed. [231652]

**Caroline Flint:** The Human Rights Watch estimate given in the answer of 21 October was taken from the International Crisis Report No. 195 dated 22 August 2008 entitled "Russia vs. Georgia: The Fallout".

We have been unable to obtain any figures compiled by Human Rights Watch estimating the total number of Georgian nationals killed. Rachel Denber, Acting Director of Human Rights Watch Europe and Central Asia Division in her letter of 10 October to President Mikheil Saakashvili emphasized that Human Rights Watch

"do not have the capacity to make a definitive determination of civilian casualties".

He went on to say that

"this is an area that clearly requires extensive research, as new information could reasonably come to light about deaths not reported previously, people who were assumed dead but were in fact missing and resurface, people who were inadvertently counted twice, and people who die from wounds inflicted during the conflict."

However, the International Crisis Group website has quoted Human Rights Watch as having documented 419 killed in the conflict, mostly South Ossetia militia.

### Iceland: Economic Situation

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has submitted proposals to the European Commission in respect of *(a)* European Union financial help for Iceland, *(b)* support for the Icelandic króna and *(c)* compensation for EU customers of failed Icelandic banks. [233628]

**Caroline Flint:** Iceland is a member of the EEA and enjoys free trade with the European Union. It is not a full member of the European Union. The economic and financial situation was on the agenda of the last European Council. The Council expressed its resolve to act in a converted and comprehensive manner to protect the European financial system and depositors; solidarity with the efforts made by Iceland; and its expectation that Iceland would honour its international commitments. I am pleased that the IMF loan agreement for Iceland has been approved. We are continuing to work hard along with the Treasury to resolve the current situation and aim to ensure fair treatment for UK depositors and creditors.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken at EU level to assist Iceland; what support the EU has provided to date; and if he will make a statement. [233762]

**Caroline Flint:** Iceland is a member of the EEA and enjoys free trade with the European Union. It is not a full member of the European Union. The economic and financial situation was on the agenda of the last European Council. The Council expresses its resolve to act in a converted and comprehensive manner to protect the European financial system and depositors; solidarity with the efforts made by Iceland; and its expectation that Iceland would honour its international commitments. I am pleased that the IMF loan agreement for Iceland has been approved. We continue to work hard along with the Treasury to resolve the current situation and aim to ensure fair treatment for UK depositors and creditors.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of relations between the UK and Iceland; and what steps he is taking to improve relations. [233763]

**Caroline Flint:** Iceland is a European and NATO ally and bilateral relations with the UK are strong. Recent events have inevitably affected the relationship. We are working together to resolve matters in order to move forward as soon as possible.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland visited Reykjavik on 3 November and met the Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to the Icelandic Foreign Minister most recently on 14 November. I met the Icelandic ambassador to London on 27 October. Official level discussions on various aspects of the bilateral relationship are continuing.

### Iceland: Foreign Relations

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received an offer from the Government of Norway to mediate between the United Kingdom and Iceland in discussions regarding the Icelandic banking crisis. [236103]

**Caroline Flint:** On 3 November, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland held a short discussion with the visiting Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Store, at the latter's request. The Norwegian Foreign Minister offered the UK assistance in discussions regarding the Icelandic banking crisis and communication lines have remained open at all levels. The situation has now moved on and the offer has been overtaken.

**Ilois: Resettlement**

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the incoming US administration on the situation of the Chagos Islanders from the British Indian Ocean Territory with a view to seeking a resolution to the situation to the satisfaction of the Chagosian people. [235816]

**Gillian Merron:** On 22 October, the House of Lords upheld the validity of the British Indian Ocean Territory (Constitution) Order 2004. As a consequence of this ruling, the Orders of the Court of Appeal in May 2007 and of the Divisional Court in June 2006 in this regard are set aside. The two Orders in Council for the British Indian Ocean Territory therefore stand and provide that no person has a right of abode in BIOT or the right to enter the Territory unless authorised.

As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear following the judgment, given the Government's continuing need to take into account the issues of defence security of the whole of the Chagos archipelago in order to meet our Treaty obligations to the US and to serve our mutual defence interests and the fact that an independent study came down heavily against the feasibility of lasting resettlement of the outer islands of the British Indian Ocean Territory, the Government's policy will remain that no person has a right of abode in BIOT or the right to enter the Territory unless authorised.

The US authorities have in the past made clear their concerns about the possible restoration of a settled civilian population in the British Indian Ocean Territory and welcomed the judgment of the Law Lords. They have stressed the importance they attach, as we do, to our treaty obligations. The Government therefore have no plans to raise this issue with the new US Administration.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office arranged and funded a visit for a small group of Chagossians now resident in Crawley to visit Diego Garcia and the outer islands of the British Indian Ocean Territory from 15 to 22 November. As with other similar visits, this is being carried out in full consultation with, and the co-operation of the US.

**India: Human Rights**

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Indian government on the human rights of the Dalit peoples in India. [237914]

**Bill Rammell:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any recent discussions with the Indian Government on the human rights of the Dalits in India. However, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN (Lord Malloch-Brown) discussed Dalit issues with representatives of the International Dalit Solidarity Network on 22 October. Officials at our high commission in Delhi also have regular discussions on minority rights (including Dalit rights) with the Government of India at central and state levels. They have held discussions with the Indian National Commission for Minorities and with various state level authorities, drawing their attention to British parliamentary and public concerns.

The last round of the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue took place in New Delhi on 15 February. During the meeting, the EU presidency and Ministry of External Affairs officials discussed issues including minority rights, with specific reference to caste issues. It is that hoped the next EU-India Human Rights Dialogue will take place before the end of the year. We have asked for minority rights to be included on the agenda.

**Iran**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what decisions were made at the 13 November 2008 meeting of the political directors of the United States, France, Great Britain, China and Russia on *(a)* sanctions and *(b)* negotiations with Iran; and if he will make a statement. [237912]

**David Miliband:** The political directors from the E3+3(UK, France, Germany, US, China and Russia) and a representative for the EU High Representative met in Paris on 13 November to discuss the Iranian nuclear issue. This meeting followed UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1835 on 27 September which reaffirmed the importance of the dual-track approach. The meeting allowed the participants to review the current situation and to discuss both tracks. We have made clear to Iran that our offer of dialogue the demands of successive UNSCRs we will pursue further sanctions, in line with the dual-track policy.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department made of the *(a)* amount and *(b)* value of refined petroleum products sold to Iran by companies registered in the UK or with headquarters on UK territory in the three most recent financial years for which figures are available. [237913]

**Mr. Thomas:** I have been asked to reply.

Trade statistics are usually published on a calendar year basis. Data are not collected for the foreign activities of UK companies. HM Revenue and Customs "Overseas Trade Statistics" gives the following figures for exports from the United Kingdom to Iran of refined petroleum products.

*UK exports to Iran (SITC 334)*

| | *Tonnes* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 239 | 395,000 |
| 2006 | 237 | 305,000 |
| 2007 | 475 | 445,000 |

**Iran: Banks**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions since January 2007 the Government has received notification that the Central Bank of Iran and Iranian

commercial banks have requested that their names be removed from financial transactions which involved UK financial institutions; and if he will make a statement. [237451]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

Discussions with international partners have repeatedly highlighted the risk of deceptive practices by Iran in support of proliferation sensitive nuclear activities, including stripping Iranian names from transactions to hide Iran's involvement. The UK Government are aware of this threat and shares these concerns. It would not be appropriate to comment on individual notifications.

EU Regulation 1110/2008, concerning restrictive measures against Iran, which took effect throughout the EU this month applies a series of financial vigilance measures to all transactions involving Iranian financial institutions. These measures will guard against deceptive practices—including that of stripping Iranian names from transactions.

In addition, the EC Regulation on Wire Transfers (1781/2006) assists in accurately identifying the sources of such transfers by requiring that transfers of funds sent or received by a payment service provider in the EC shall be accompanied by complete information on the payer-name, address (or other identifier) and account number (or unique identifier allowing the payment to be traced back to the payer).

### Iran: EU External Relations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy was on the inclusion of Iran on the agenda of the General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting of 10 to 11 November 2008; whether any discussion of Iran took place at that meeting; and when he expects EU foreign ministers to meet to discuss Iran. [236382]

**David Miliband:** Iran was not formally discussed at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) meeting of 10 and 11 November, though Iran is regularly discussed in the margins. However, we welcomed Council Regulation (EC) No. 1110/2008 of 10 November 2008, which was agreed at the GAERC, implementing UN sanctions resolution 1803 on Iran. The next meeting of the GAERC is scheduled for 8 December though the agenda for that meeting has yet to be finalised. Going forward we will be looking to the EU to enhance measures already in place against Iran and will aim to build further consensus for coordinated measures in support of the UN as required by the Council Conclusions of 14 December 2007.

### Iran: Nuclear Power

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of Iranian engineers who have received training in nuclear sciences in Russia; and what assessment he has made of the Russian Federation's compliance with the requirement in UN Security Council Resolution 1737 on the prevention of specialised teaching or training of Iranian nationals in sensitive nuclear disciplines. [236383]

**David Miliband:** UN Security Council Resolution 1737 (2006) prohibits the transfer of materials, equipment, goods and technology to Iran if they would contribute to enrichment-related, or reprocessing, or heavy water-related activities, or to the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems. But the Resolution provides an exemption for the supply of equipment for light water reactors and for the technical support or training relating to such a reactor. Since passage of the Resolution, we understand that a substantial number of Iranians have been trained in Russia in preparation for working at the Bushehr Light Water Reactor, but we are unable to confirm a precise number.

The UN Sanctions Committee established by UNSCR 1737 oversees member states' implementation of the measures adopted. While we too continue to monitor implementation, the Committee's reports have not cited any breaches by the Russian Federation of UN sanctions against Iran.

### Iran: Sanctions

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on EU sanctions on Iran's *(a)* oil and gas and *(b)* financial sector; and when he expects new EU sanctions to be adopted. [236384]

**David Miliband:** The UK led pressure for a new EU Common Position and Regulation to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1803. The Regulation was adopted on 10 November 2008 and the provisions for increased vigilance over the activities of Iranian financial institutions are now being implemented. HMT have issued guidance on their website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/fin_sanc_iran_notice_111108.pdf.

The UK is continuing to press for additional individuals and entities to be subjected to an EU assets freeze. Following United Nations Security Council Resolution 1835 the UK is also discussing a range of possible EU measures which would go beyond the scope of Security Council resolutions should Iran continue to fail to implement its international obligations. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has signalled, this could include a ban on investment in Iranian liquefied natural gas.

### Iraq: Asylum

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many locally engaged Iraqi staff employed by his Department since March 2003 concluded their period of employment on or before 31 December 2004. [239427]

**Bill Rammell:** In total, there were four Iraqi staff employed locally by the British embassy in Baghdad and the consulate general in Basra who come into this category in the year 2004. This figure does not include any staff who may have been dismissed for misconduct, employed on short-term contracts, or who did not have Letters of Appointment from the respective Mission.

The figures are not available for 2003 because the files have been destroyed.

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many locally engaged Iraqi staff employed by his Department on or after 1 January 2005 concluded their period of employment within 12 months of the beginning of their contract. [239428]

**Bill Rammell:** 13 Iraqi staff employed locally by the embassy in Baghdad and the consulate general in Basra concluded their period of employment within 12 months of beginning work in this period. This figure does not include any staff who may have been dismissed for misconduct, employed on short-term contracts, or who did not have Letters of Appointment from the respective Mission.

### Israel: Embassies

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff at the British Embassy in Tel Aviv are employed to work on correspondence; and what the average response time to written correspondence was in the latest period for which figures are available. [239248]

**Bill Rammell:** There are two staff members at our embassy in Tel Aviv who are employed to work principally on correspondence. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is committed to ensuring that both in London and overseas it responds to all public correspondence inquiries within 20 working days.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by the British Embassy in Tel Aviv on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each of the last five years. [239249]

**Bill Rammell:** Detailed figures prior to May 2006 are not available.

Between 1 May 2006 to 24 November 2008, £30,000 was spent on newspapers, magazines and periodicals.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many receptions held at the British Embassy in Tel Aviv were organised and funded by *(a)* trade unions, *(b)* charities, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* other types of organisation in each of the last five years; and what income the Embassy received from charges for the use of facilities for receptions in each such year. [239250]

**Bill Rammell:** No receptions are held at the embassy in Tel Aviv and we do not let the premises to third parties.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on alcoholic drinks for receptions at the British Embassy in Tel Aviv in each of the last five years. [239252]

**Bill Rammell:** The total spent on alcoholic drinks at the residence in Tel Aviv is as follows:

| | *Total spent on alcoholic drinks (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2008 (to date) | 1,117 |
| 2007 | 5,508 |
| 2006 | 4,123 |
| 2005 | 5,813 |
| 2004 | 2,992 |

This includes spirits and wines, but excludes beer which is budgeted together with soft drinks. It also excludes the annual Queen's birthday party as this is funded separately.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many receptions were held at the British Embassy in Tel Aviv in each of the last five years. [239253]

**Bill Rammell:** Our records show that the British embassy in Tel Aviv has held the following receptions:

| | *Breakfast* | *Lunch* | *Tea* | *Dinner* | *Buffet* | *Reception* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008[1] | 11 | 12 | 3 | 39 | 4 | 19 |
| 2007 | 13 | 29 | 6 | 42 | 7 | 22 |
| 2006 | 4 | 21 | 22 | 33 | 9 | 23 |
| 2005 | 15 | 36 | 29 | 40 | 4 | 27 |
| 2004 | 9 | 58 | 40 | 39 | 4 | 23 |

[1] Including receptions already held and those projected until the end of the year.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse of the British Embassy in Tel Aviv was in each of the last five years. [239254]

**Bill Rammell:** The cost of operating the British embassy in Tel Aviv for each of the last five years is:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 3.9 |
| 2006-07 | 2.85 |
| 2005-06 | 3.01 |
| 2004-05 | 3.74 |
| 2003-04 | 4.72 |

### Israel: Nuclear Weapons

**Mr. Kilfoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Israeli government on its nuclear weapons. [235986]

**Bill Rammell:** The UK has consistently urged Israel to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state, and to sign a full-scope safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

### Kosovo: EU Enlargement

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with EU counterparts on the possible accession of Kosovo to the EU. [235170]

**Caroline Flint:** The European Council of 19-20 June recalled the European Union's

"willingness to assist the economic and political development of Kosovo though a clear European perspective, in line with the European perspective of the region".

In the Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2008-09 of 21 October, the European Commission states it

"will examine how best Kosovo can take its part in the progress of the region towards integration with the EU in the context of the Stabilisation and Association Process. The outcome of this analysis will be presented in a feasibility study in the autumn of 2009."

The government welcome this step.

As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said in his address to the Kosovo Assembly on 5 November, the United Kingdom looks forward to the day when Kosovo assumes its place at the European table.

**Kosovo: Politics and Government**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what progress has been made on the transition between UNMIK and the European Union's EULEX mission in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement; [236388]

(2) what progress has been made towards achieving full operational capacity for the European Union's EULEX mission in Kosovo; [236389]

(3) how many EULEX personnel are presently deployed in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [238248]

**David Miliband:** The process of the reconfiguration of the international presence in Kosovo is under way. A technical arrangement was signed between the EU mission planning team (EUPT) and United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in August allowing for the handover of UNMIK assets to EULEX, such as vehicles and accommodation. Arrangements are also in place for the handover of case files to EULEX staff, including the police and justice components.

EULEX is in the process of deploying in Kosovo and now has about 1,000 staff (of the projected total of 2,200) on the ground. EULEX's Head of Mission, General Yves de Kermabon, aims to achieve Initial Operational Capability, the point at which EULEX takes on responsibility for the full range of its mandate, including the executive functions, on 2 December. EULEX will then build up further in order to achieve full operational capability in early 2009.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the UN Secretary General's recent six-point proposal for Serb majority areas of Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [237677]

**Caroline Flint:** UN-led discussions continue on the "Six Points" outlined by the UN Secretary-General in his 12 June letters to the Presidents of Kosovo and Serbia.

The "Six Points" address transitional arrangements on six areas (policing, customs, justice, transport and infrastructure, boundaries and cultural heritage) in the context of the reconfiguration of the international presence in Kosovo announced by the UN Secretary-General in his report of 12 June. HMG welcomed the UN Secretary-General's reconfiguration proposal and strongly supports efforts to ensure timely and effective transfer of responsibilities from UNMIK to the EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) in Kosovo.

We expect the UN Secretary-General to reflect the outcome of these discussions in his forthcoming six-monthly report on the activities of the UN Mission in Kosovo.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the amended United Nations six point plan for deployment of the EULEX mission in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [238244]

**David Miliband:** The UN Secretary General published his proposals on the "Six Points" in his report to the Security Council of 24 November. The "Six Points" address transitional arrangements on policing, customs, justice, transport and infrastructure, boundaries and cultural heritage in the context of the reconfiguration of the international presence in Kosovo announced by the UN Secretary General in his report of 12 June. At the time of writing, the UN Security Council is expected to discuss the report on 26 November. The UN Secretary General stated that implementation of these temporary arrangements will be carried out on the basis of continuous co-ordination with the authorities in Pristina. A copy of the report is available in the House of Commons Library.

We welcome the UN Secretary General's reconfiguration of the international presences in Kosovo and strongly support efforts to ensure timely and effective transfer of responsibilities from UNMIK to the EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) in Kosovo.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress in the implementation of the Ahtisaari plan for Kosovo. [238245]

**David Miliband:** I welcome Kosovo's commitment in its Declaration of Independence to implementing Ahtisaari's Comprehensive Settlement Proposal (CSP). Kosovo has made progress towards implementation of the CSP, including the adoption of a package of legislation by the Kosovo Assembly, which establishes the legal framework for implementation.

Examples of the progress made include:

Entry into force of Kosovo's constitution, which includes provisions to ensure equal rights for all citizens, on 15 June.

Passage of laws to uphold the rights of all Kosovo's communities and to facilitate decentralisation of government.

Designation of Albanian and Serbian as official languages.

At the invitation of the Kosovan government, Pieter Feith was appointed as International Civilian Representative, with responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the Comprehensive Settlement Proposal. Mr. Feith is also the EU Special Representative in Kosovo.

NATO continues to provide an international security presence in Kosovo. It is also active in the field of security sector reform and has been assisting with plans to demobilise the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) and stand up the Kosovo Security Force, which will replace it.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has *(a)* received from and *(b)* made to the Government of Kosovo on implementation of the deployment of the EULEX mission in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [238247]

**David Miliband:** I discussed deployment of the European Union's Rule of Law mission, EULEX, among other matters, with Kosovo's President, Fatmir Sejdiu and Prime Minister, Hashim Thaci in Pristina on 5 November and again in London on 20 November. The Prime Minister joined the meeting in London on the 20 November and the Kosovan leadership also met the Minister for Europe.

In all these meetings, the President and Prime Minister expressed their commitment to full deployment of EULEX. Despite deep concerns about some of the UN proposed transitional arrangements, they remain committed to take account of the concerns of Kosovo's Serbian community and to building Kosovo as a multi-ethnic community. I made clear the UK's full support for the deployment of EULEX throughout Kosovo, a point which was reinforced by the Minister for Europe.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for the deployment of the EU's Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo of the recent decision by the government of Kosovo to reject the six point plan drawn up by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. [239501]

**David Miliband:** Despite deep concerns about some of the UN proposed transitional arrangements, the Kosovan government has made clear its commitment to work with the EU rule of law mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and to take into account the views of Serb and other minority communities.

The UN's latest quarterly report on UNMIK (S/2008/692) duly notes the concerns in Pristina and undertakes continuously to consult and co-ordinate with Pristina on the implementations of transitional measures. We are confident EULEX deployment should therefore proceed throughout the territory of Kosovo.

### Languages

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of the provision of language training to members of his Department was in each of the last 10 financial years. [237244]

**David Miliband:** The total cost of provision of language training to Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff in the following financial years was as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 3,101,000 |
| 2003-04 | 5,717,000 |
| 2004-05 | 4,265,000 |
| 2005-06 | 5,564,832 |
| 2006-07 | 4,512,397 |
| 2007-08 | 3,392,691 |

To obtain figures for years prior to 2002 would incur disproportionate cost.

### Madagascar

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens visited Madagascar in each of the last five years. [233968]

**Gillian Merron:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold official statistics on the number of UK citizens who have visited Madagascar for each of the last five years. Approximate figures, sourced from the Malagasy Ministry of the Environment, Forestry and Tourism website are as follows:

| | *Number of UK citizens* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 2,785 |
| 2004 | 6,864 |
| 2005 | 5,541 |
| 2006 | 9,352 |
| 2007 | 10,330 |

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Ministers have visited Madagascar in the last 12 months on official business. [233969]

**Gillian Merron:** No Ministers have visited Madagascar on official business in the last 12 months.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the possibility of re-opening a British Embassy in Madagascar. [233971]

**Gillian Merron:** My right. hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no recent discussions about the possibility of re-opening a British Embassy in Madagascar. British interests in Madagascar are managed by our non-resident Ambassador (based in Port Louis, Mauritius), supported by two Honorary Consuls in Madagascar. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will open a British Interests Section in Madagascar, based in the German Embassy, by the end of this month to help support the High Commission in Port Louis in its work.

### Middle East: Anti-Semitism

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to governments in the Middle East on anti-Semitism; what response was received in each case; and if he will make a statement. [235695]

**Bill Rammell:** The UK condemns anti-Semitism, along with any incitement to hatred and violence. We have consistently called on all parties in the Middle East to do everything possible to desist from such incitement and to curb extremism.

### Middle East: Higher Education

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has developed a strategy for promoting the presence of UK academic and cultural institutions in the middle east; and if he will make a statement. [237245]

**David Miliband:** The British Council works across the middle east to promote UK academic and cultural exchanges through strong local partnerships. The British Council's strategy focuses on the delivery of high impact programmes in English, education, social development and intercultural dialogue which meet the expectations of UK stakeholders and the needs of the region.

### Military Attaches

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to his Department was of each defence section in each *(a)* city and *(b)* country outside the UK in each year since 2000. [236449]

**Gillian Merron:** The estimated total cost for defence attachés at overseas posts in the financial year 2007-08 was £15 million including both direct and indirect costs. A breakdown of this cost is set out in a table which will be placed in the Library. As part of a transition arrangement we agreed to cap the costs recovered for defence attachés at £10.5 million for 2008-09 and £12 million for each of the subsequent two financial years.

Prior to 2007, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) tasked the defence attaché network to help deliver FCO objectives. As a consequence, the FCO did not recover the costs it spent on defence attachés and it is therefore not possible to provide the cost of each individual defence section.

### Morocco: Western Sahara

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 228W, on Morocco: Western Sahara, when he was informed that the European Parliament had obtained a legal opinion that the agreement would not be in accordance with international law; and if he will make a statement. [235577]

**Bill Rammell:** With regard to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 228W, on Morocco fisheries. The European Parliament did not communicate to the UK any legal opinion they obtained about the EU—Morocco Fisheries Agreement. As legal opinion is provided in confidence, it would be inappropriate for Her Majesty's Government to offer any comment on such opinion.

### Nepal: Human Rights

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will encourage the Nepalese authorities to give the right to settle in Nepal to those Tibetans presently resident in Nepal but without a registration card. [234209]

**Bill Rammell:** We are in contact with the Nepalese authorities and with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees to find a solution to the problems faced by Tibetan refugees in Nepal.

### Nigeria: Oil

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with UN counterparts on the international trade in stolen Nigerian oil; and what proposals the Government has put forward to reduce the trade. [232111]

**Gillian Merron:** Our High Commission in Abuja participates in a series of working groups with international partners, including the UN, to discuss possible approaches to the problem of oil bunkering in Nigeria. These possible approaches include oil-fingerprinting, metering of oil to improve production statistics and the use of electronic bills of lading. The UK also uses the forum of the Gulf of Guinea Energy Security Strategy (GGESS) to press Nigeria to improve its own capability to address the problem. The UK is currently supporting the development of Joint Maritime Security Training Centre with the Nigerian Armed Forces, which aims to improve Nigeria's capacity to patrol in-shore in the Niger Delta region and therefore enhance security.

### Piracy

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will task officials in his Department with studying lessons learned from counter-piracy operations in the Straits of Malacca in 2005 for application to the situation in the Gulf of Aden; and what discussions his Department has had with the Governments of Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand on the matter. [239498]

**David Miliband:** The regional agreement between Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore to coordinate law enforcement in the Malacca Straits established a joint mechanism for tackling piracy which is widely regarded as a success. The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) sponsored a series of conferences on Security, Safety and Environment of the Malacca Straits with the engagement of the regional states which examined the high incidence of piracy in these waters. The UK along with other principal users of the Straits (USA and Japan) offered technical assistance to the littoral states to help combat piracy. But the key to success was these states' willingness to cooperate and ability to police the waters effectively.

There are significant differences between the situation in the Gulf of Aden and the Straits of Malacca. Efforts to counter piracy are obstructed by the lack of governance in Somalia which allows piracy to grow unchecked, the vastly larger geographical area and the habit of Somali pirates to hijack ships bringing them in to port for ransom, rather than rob them at sea. But without a functioning government in Somalia, no lasting solution will be reached.

Cooperation was important in the Malacca Straits. The UK has made it clear that Operation Atalanta, the forthcoming ESDP maritime operation, needs to be closely co-ordinated with other multinational forces currently in the Gulf of Aden, notably CTF150 and NATO.

### Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239042]

**Gillian Merron:** This information is not held centrally, as there is no dedicated account for expenditure on any of these activities. Individual budgets would need to identify relevant expenditure to obtain a total for the Department, and this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236895]

**Gillian Merron:** During the last 12 months (for the period 2007 to October 2008) there have been fewer than five reported complaints of racial abuse in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). Further details cannot be given on the grounds of confidentiality.

The FCO has a Dignity at Work policy and a dedicated Bullying and Harassment policy on its internal intranet. Changes to human resources policies are notified to staff through staff circulars. The FCO regularly consults with and involves its employee groups on how we can ensure we are promoting equality of opportunity and addressing discrimination in line with both our overall diversity and inclusion strategy. Two-way meetings between employee groups and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary are held as part of a wider regular dialogue with employee groups.

### Rendition: Diego Garcia

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 688W, on rendition, whether the Customs and Daily Occurrence Logs or the General Declarations which cover the period when the two cases of rendition occurred were examined at any stage prior to their destruction for the purposes of determining the veracity of claims that Diego Garcia had been used in the US rendition programme. [236299]

**Bill Rammell:** I refer to my answer to the hon. Member's written question of 29 September 2008 (224457). We do not have the precise date on when these records were destroyed.

We have no record of the flight records having being examined for these purposes prior to their destruction. Previous records searches, for instance preceding my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary Jack Straw's statements to Parliament on rendition in 2005 focused on the question of whether the US had ever requested the use of a UK territory or airspace for the purposes of rendition. We cannot determine whether searches of specific flight records held on Diego Garcia were conducted at that time, or whether the records covering 2002 still existed at that point.

### Russia: BBC External Services

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the BBC World Service's operations in Russia; and if he will make a statement. [238249]

**David Miliband:** The BBC World Service's operations in Russia provide the Russian audience with trusted, high quality current affairs programmes and new media services. BBC Russian is a distinctive public service, and is a World Service priority language service. It is the second largest language service in the World Service both in terms of budget and radio programming. It is essential that it remains relevant and maximises its audience impact by the appropriate means (e.g. through a more focused streamlined news delivery on radio and an increased online presence). That is why the Foreign and Commonwealth Office supported the recent changes that will assist BBC Russia in its mission to be the most trusted and influential international news provider in Russia.

### Russia: Embassies

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff at the British Embassy in Moscow are employed to work on correspondence; and what the average response time to written correspondence has been in the latest period for which figures are available. [239255]

**Caroline Flint:** There are no staff at the British embassy specifically employed to handle correspondence as this is a requirement for all staff. There is a target response time of 20 working days.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by the British Embassy in Moscow on *(a)* newspapers, magazines and periodicals and *(b)* stationery in each of the last five years. [239256]

**Caroline Flint:** The British embassy holds records of expenditure for the financial year 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09.

*(a)* The figures on expenditure relating to newspapers and periodicals are as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 56,785.13 |
| 2007-08 | 44,183.75 |
| 2008-09 | [1]40,028.94 |

[1] To date

*(b)* The following is the expenditure on stationery:

| *Financial year* | *Expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 22,755 |
| 2007-08 | 29,000 |
| 2008-09 | [1]22,225 |

[1] To date

The increase in the last two financial years reflects costs incurred by UK Border Agency for visa processing.

Figures for both stationery and newspaper/periodicals include costs incurred on behalf of other Government Departments and recovered under Service Level Agreements.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many receptions held at the British embassy in Moscow were organised and funded by *(a)* trade unions, *(b)* charities, *(c)* businesses

and *(d)* other types of organisation in each of the last five years; and what income the embassy received from charges for the use of facilities for receptions in each such year. [239257]

**Caroline Flint:** On average, one or two receptions per week are held at the British embassy in Moscow. Some are official events but others are partly or fully sponsored by external organisations. These receptions include, but are not limited to:

(a) Trade missions to promote and strengthen UK/Russia trade links;

(b) Project launches for non-governmental organisations, press events;

(c) Receptions for visiting Ministers and officials, graduation ceremonies; and

(d) The annual Queen's Birthday Party.

There is a flat fee of £100 which is charged for the use of the embassy facilities by outside organisations. All other costs relating to an event sponsored by an external organisation are met by the organiser. The embassy does not have access to figures on these costs.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the monetary value is of the *(a)* wine and *(b)* other alcohol held in storage by the British Embassy in Moscow. [239258]

**Caroline Flint:** The value of alcohol stocks held at the British embassy in Moscow can be broken down as follows:

(a) Wine: £5,857;

(b) Spirits: £1,549.

In addition a stock of soft drinks is held, which has a total value of £1,066.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on alcoholic drinks for receptions at the British Embassy in Moscow in each of the last five years. [239259]

**Caroline Flint:** The British embassy in Moscow is not accounted by accounting rules to break down its entertainment expenditure into component parts. These figures cannot be compiled except at disproportionate cost.

In addition, much of the alcoholic drink served at functions at the British embassy in Moscow is either provided free of charge or is paid for directly by the organisation co-hosting the function. In the latter example, the embassy would not ordinarily be aware of the sum being spent.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the running cost of the British Embassy in Moscow was in each of the last five years. [239372]

**Caroline Flint:** The net running costs at the British embassy in Moscow, expenditure less income, is as follows:

| *FY* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 8.2 |
| 2006-07 | 8.67 |
| 2005-06 | 10.08 |
| 2004-05 | 13.9 |
| 2003-06 | 13.06 |

### Russia: Foreign Relations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the European Commission on its audit of EU-Russian relations; what contribution the Government has made to that audit; and if he will make a statement. [234051]

**David Miliband:** The UK works closely with the European Commission and other member states on EU/Russia policy. The audit of EU-Russia relations commissioned by the special European Council of 1 September has just issued. We look forward to its consideration by Foreign Ministers at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 10 November. It will be important that the audit informs the progress of the negotiations on a successor to the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement.

### Russia: Georgia

**Mr. Wilshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed with his Russian and Georgian counterparts allegations of war crimes committed by both sides during the recent Russia-Georgia conflict. [234063]

**David Miliband:** Both the Russian and Georgian governments have made allegations of war crimes. This issue was discussed when my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov on 25 September, and Georgian President Saakashvili on 27 September in New York. The EU and UK have called for any allegations of war crimes to be independently investigated.

Heads of EU states agreed at the September European Council to set up an inquiry into the origins of the conflict. The former Head of the UN Mission to Georgia (UNOMIG) Heidi Tagliavini has been selected to head the inquiry. Her remit has now been agreed and at the request of the UK a requirement for the inquiry to look at war crimes and breaches of international and humanitarian law has been included.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment the Government has made of the relationship between Russia and Georgia. [235376]

**Caroline Flint:** Relations between Georgia and Russia are strained, following the conflict in August.

The EU and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) ceasefire plan, brokered between President Sarkozy and President Medvedev on 12 August, included a commitment to talks on security and stability in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The first round of these talks took place in Geneva on 15 October

under EU chairmanship with UN and OSCE participation. At the second meeting held on 18 November, there were two working groups, one to discuss security and stability in the region, and the other on refugees and internally displaced persons. The next meeting is scheduled for 17-18 December. We are encouraging both Georgia and Russia to engage constructively and hope that this will lead to a lasting, peaceful solution. In the meantime, we urge restraint on both sides.

**Somalia: Piracy**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of occasions on which ransom has been *(a)* demanded and *(b)* paid in respect of vessels hijacked off the coast of Somalia in 2008; and what estimate he has made of the total ransom paid. [238242]

**David Miliband:** The Government are aware of 38 hijackings off the coast of Somalia in 2008 for which ransoms have been demanded. It is British Government policy that ransoms should not be paid. Where ransoms are paid by private individuals or companies the details are not normally made public and such information is not held by the Government.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs under what arrangements the eight Somalis recently apprehended by the Royal Navy in the Gulf of Aden on grounds of piracy were transferred to Kenyan custody; whether further such transfers are planned; and if he will make a statement. [239833]

**David Miliband:** The eight Somalis apprehended by the Royal Navy in the Gulf of Aden were transferred to Kenyan custody on the basis of an exchange of letters between the British and Kenyan Governments specific to this incident. Discussions are ongoing between the EU and a number of states regarding any future detentions that are made during anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden.

**South East Asia: Climate Change**

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions Ministers and officials in his Department have had with the Association of South East Asian Nations on energy and climate change. [236490]

**Gillian Merron:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed climate change with the Association of Southeastern Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretary General when they last met during the Asia-Europe Meeting in Beijing in October. While in Beijing my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also discussed climate change with Foreign Ministers from other ASEAN countries including Indonesia. Additionally, other Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials are in regular contact with both ASEAN and its constituent nations with whom we consistently discuss both climate change and energy.

The ASEAN grouping brings together some of the nations who will be hit hardest and hit first by climate change. Countries like Vietnam and Thailand are some of the world's most vulnerable and it is critical that their voices are heard in the international climate negotiations. ASEAN will be important in driving the political mobilisation necessary for an ambitious and equitable post-2012 agreement at Copenhagen.

**Sri Lanka: Human Rights**

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 168W, on Sri Lanka, what proposals the UK has put forward to strengthen human rights mechanisms in Sri Lanka; and what action has been taken on those proposals. [236343]

**Bill Rammell:** During Sri Lanka's UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in May, the UK worked closely with the Government of Sri Lanka and other international partners to agree a series of recommendations to improve the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. These are set out in the UPR Working Group report (A/HRC/8/46) available at

http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session2/LK/A_HRC_8_46_SriLanka_E.pdf

We welcome the Sri Lankan Government's announcement of a national action plan on the protection and promotion of human rights and we continue to urge them to ensure early progress.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what initiatives the Government have put forward to re-start the Sri Lankan peace process negotiations; and what discussions he has had with his counterparts in the *(a)* US, *(b)* EU, *(c)* India and *(d)* Japan on these initiatives. [236348]

**Bill Rammell:** The UK continues to urge all parties to the conflict to work towards a sustainable political settlement for Sri Lanka. We stand ready to assist the people of Sri Lanka to take forward efforts to achieve this. My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown discussed Sri Lanka with Ministers and officials when he visited India in October. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are in regular contact with EU, US, Indian and Japanese counterparts about how the international community can contribute towards a long term political settlement.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Sri Lanka on its recent refusal to allow a European Union investigation mission into human rights abuses into the country for monitoring and reporting purposes; and if he will make a statement. [236349]

**Bill Rammell:** The UK continues to urge the Sri Lankan Government to engage in a constructive dialogue with the European Commission in relation to the investigation under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) plus scheme. We have made clear that the onus is on the Government of Sri Lanka to demonstrate its compliance with the 27 international conventions that underpin the scheme.

### Sudan: Arms Trade

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed the merits of a UN arms embargo for the whole of Sudan with his counterparts in UN Security Council member states; and whether such an embargo has been discussed at the UN Security Council. [237361]

**David Miliband:** The UK asked the Sudan UN Sanctions Committee of 6 November 2007 to extend its arms embargo on Darfur to all of Sudan, but not all Security Council members agreed. We have raised the issue in the Security Council whenever Sudan has been discussed, and elsewhere, e.g. at the UN/African Union led talks on Darfur in Geneva on 5 June.

On 12 June 2008 the UK reiterated in the UN Security Council the need for all parties to adhere to the arms embargo on Darfur. We will continue to press for an extension of the arms embargo.

The EU continues to operate an arms embargo on the whole of Sudan.

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with UN Security Council counterparts on proposals to strengthen the UN's Mission in Sudan in order to improve the security situation in the Nuba region. [236351]

**Gillian Merron:** Our Permanent Representative to the UN raised the situation in Southern Kordofan (which includes the Nuba region) in the UN Security Council on 18 August and 5 November of this year and encouraged United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) to focus on priority areas including the Nuba region.

In his latest report on Sudan (20 October 2008), the UN Secretary-General noted a decline in inter-ethnic violence in Southern Kordofan. We remain concerned about the potential for conflict and continue to monitor the situation in the area through UNMIS, and through the Security Working Group of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission, which visited the region on 13-14 November.

### Syria

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what matters were discussed during his meeting with the President of Syria on 17 November; and if he will make a statement. [239604]

**Bill Rammell:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's discussion with President Assad on 18 November focused on recent positive developments in the region, how to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and the need for those with power in the region to exercise it with great responsibility. They also discussed the UK's concerns over Syria's co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and its human rights record.

### Training

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230957]

**Gillian Merron:** Since June 2007 the Foreign Secretary has received training in the presentation of foreign policy and in Foreign and Commonwealth IT systems.

### UN Resolutions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken by the Government to give effect to UN General Assembly Resolution 1723 (XVI), with specific reference to the right to self-determination. [235569]

**David Miliband:** As the Foreign Secretary made clear in his written ministerial statement of 29 October, the UK does not support independence for Tibet and considers Tibet to be part of the People's Republic of China. However, we do believe that a system of meaningful autonomy with full respect for Tibet's distinct culture, religion and languages to be a valid aspiration, and one which we support.

We consider that the position the Dalai Lama has stated publicly, including when he visited Britain this year, that he is seeking meaningful autonomy within the framework of the Chinese constitution, provides the basis for a negotiated settlement. We continue to call on both parties to engage in substantive dialogue towards such a settlement.

The United Kingdom voted in favour of UN General Assembly resolution 1723 (XVI) expressly to register disapproval at the human rights situation in Tibet. We made clear at the time that our support did not indicate any change in our position on Tibet's status.

### UN World Conference against Racism

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will withdraw from the UN Durban II anti-racism conference in the light of the language used in the draft statement portraying Israel as an enemy of humanity; and if he will make a statement. [239540]

**Gillian Merron:** The Government have previously expressed their concern at the direction taken by preparations for the Durban Review Conference. A further round of negotiations will take place in January 2009, after which the Government will assess their position. At a recent Preparatory Committee (held in Geneva from 7 to 18 October), the United Kingdom delegation was pro-active in promoting positive language and objecting to contributions from other blocs that we deemed unacceptable, which included language singling out Israel.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on which countries *(a)* have withdrawn and *(b)* are considering withdrawal for the

UN Durban II anti-racism conference due to the language used concerning Israel in the draft statement; and if he will make a statement. [239541]

**Gillian Merron:** Israel and Canada have formally announced that they would not participate in the Durban Review conference. The United States have not thus far engaged in the process, having walked out of the 2001 World Conference Against Racism. France and Denmark have both made public statements expressing concerns about the preparatory process.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the UN on the draft statement for the UN Durban II anti-racism conference; and if he will make a statement. [239542]

**Gillian Merron:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the new United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on 12 November. He informed her that the United Kingdom was dissatisfied with preparations for the Durban Review Conference and explained our key concerns. These included how the outcome document would approach challenges to the right to freedom of expression, singling out of Israel, the fight against anti-Semitism and historical issues.

### USA: Central Asia

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 878W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations (1) when the request to provide assistance to the review of American defence and security policy regarding engagement in the greater Middle East and Central Asian area was received; and which part of the United States administration made the request; [236134]

(2) what the projected cost of the UK's contribution to the American review of defence and security policy in the greater Middle East and Central Asian area is; [236139]

(3) what the *(a)* names and *(b)* affiliations are of the 13 members of the UK team to contribute to the review of American defence and security policy in the greater Middle East and Central Asian area; [236137]

(4) when he expects the UK team to begin its work on the American review of defence and security policy in the greater Middle East and Central Asian area; [236138]

(5) what the Government's objectives are for the review of American defence and security policy in the greater Middle East and Central Asian area; and if he will publish the Government's contribution; [236136]

(6) what the terms of reference for the review of American defence and security policy in the greater Middle East and Central Asian area are; when it will be concluded; and whether a formal report will be published at the end of the process. [236135]

**Gillian Merron:** US General David Petraeus established a Central Command (CENTCOM) Assessment Team (CAT) which began on 4 November and is due to conclude in February 2009. Its aim is to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the CENTCOM area of operations—which spans the greater Middle East and parts of Asia, including Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The UK was asked to contribute to the review of American defence and security policy during September 2008. Participation in the review is part of the important bilateral relationship with the US. Some costs are being met by CENTCOM while other costs, including salary, will be covered by individual departments. We will write to the hon. Member separately with details. The UK is a key partner in the ongoing international coalition aiming to bring security and stability to this area. The CAT is an integral part of this effort and the UK therefore has a responsibility to participate.

The UK team is drawn from a range of thematic and geographical experience with two personnel from the FCO, one person from DFID and 14 personnel from the MOD and military. The FCO does not routinely release the names of individuals. The UK team began work in the CAT on 4 November following preparation in Whitehall within the policy and research community.

The UK objective for participation is to share our views, and learn those of others, across a very broad spectrum of issues concerning the provision of security, the rule of law and other issues of current global concern. The UK will contribute to a wide discussion and will not publish their contribution separately.

### Western Sahara: Military Exercises

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on joint UK/Morocco military exercises in occupied Western Sahara. [238852]

**Bill Rammell:** As my right. hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces stated on 13 November, *Official Report*, column 1301W, the Governments of the UK and Morocco signed a Joint Accord on Technical and Military Co-operation in 1993 under which the two countries conduct bi-lateral military co-operation including training. This arrangement does not specify what facilities are used in Morocco and it does not cover the territory of Western Sahara. The British armed forces do not conduct bi-lateral military activity in Western Sahara whose status is yet to be determined by the UN.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) when he plans to answer Question 225596, tabled on 6 October 2008, on language training in his Department; [237453]

(2) when he plans to answer Question 225596, tabled on 6th October 2008, on language training. [238252]

**David Miliband:** These questions were answered on 26 November.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how long on average Ministers in his Department have taken to answer questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day in the present parliamentary session. [238237]

**David Miliband:** To collate this information would incur disproportionate cost. There has been a delay in answering a number of questions during the present session due to administrative error. I and other Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers have apologised individually to hon. and right hon. Members for these delays.

The FCO has upgraded its central system for answering questions, with effect from the start of the new session to ensure that questions are answered in a timely manner, and management information is more readily available.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how long on average his Department has taken to answer letters from hon. Members in the present parliamentary session. [238238]

**Gillian Merron:** Guidance for Government Departments handling correspondence from hon. and right hon. Members is laid down by the Cabinet Office, who has a set target of 20 working days to reply to routine correspondence.

From our records it is not possible to calculate the average time taken to answer hon. Members' letters. However, of the 9,452 letters received from 1 November 2007 to 30 September 2008, records indicate that 8,431 letters were answered within the 20-day target.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many questions to his Department for written answer on a named day in the present parliamentary session to date did not receive a substantive reply on the day named. [238239]

**David Miliband:** To collate this information would incur disproportionate cost. There has been a delay in answering a number of questions during the present session, due to administrative error. I and other Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers have apologised individually to hon. and right hon. Members for these delays.

The FCO has upgraded its central system for answering questions, with effect from the start of the new session to ensure that questions are answered in a timely manner, and management information is more readily available.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many questions to his Department for ordinary written answer did not receive an answer within one working week of the date of tabling in the present parliamentary session to date. [238240]

**David Miliband:** To collate this information would incur disproportionate cost. There has been a delay in answering a number of questions during the present session, due to administrative error. I and other Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers have apologised individually to hon. and right hon. Members for these delays.

The FCO has upgraded its central system for answering questions, with effect from the start of the new session to ensure that questions are answered in a timely manner, and management information is more readily available.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day Ministers in his Department have answered in the present parliamentary session. [238241]

**David Miliband:** Ministers in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) have answered more than 3,800 Parliamentary Questions for either ordinary written answer or written answer on a named day in the present Session. It is not possible to give an exact figure without incurring disproportionate cost. The FCO has upgraded its central system for answering Questions, with effect from the start of the new session, to ensure that Questions are answered in a timely manner, and management information is more readily available.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer Question 225600, tabled on 6th October 2008, on reception of visiting dignitaries. [238253]

**David Miliband:** This question was answered on 26 November

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer Question 225598, tabled on 6th October 2008, on Government hospitality. [238254]

**David Miliband:** This question was answered on 26 November.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer Question 228919, on departmental security, tabled on 16 October 2008. [239019]

**Gillian Merron:** This question was answered on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 747W.

### Zimbabwe: Sanctions

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the EU Common Position on Zimbabwe will next be reviewed; and what his policy is on *(a)* strengthening the Common Position and *(b)* including new restrictive measures. [236393]

**David Miliband:** We regularly review the EU Common Position on Zimbabwe with EU partners and will do so again before Christmas. In those discussions we will consider strengthening the EU Common Position including the addition of new restrictive measures. The EU is committed to supporting the establishment of a new government that reflects the democratic will of the Zimbabwean people as expressed in the 29 March elections.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress is being made by the Stabilisation Unit in Afghanistan on wealth creation projects. [237627]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Stabilisation Unit provides civilian experts to the UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Helmand Province, and through them has responsibility for ensuring the delivery of major components of the UK's effort in Helmand. Licit wealth creation is a priority for the PRT.

Providing security is probably the single most important factor in enabling economic growth and wealth creation. So, for example, we have seen considerable growth in the volume of trade in District Centre bazaars when they come under the control of the Government of Afghanistan.

More directly supporting wealth creation, the PRT is working with the Government of Afghanistan to:

improve infrastructure, including through the construction of roads, markets, and irrigation schemes;

run cash-for-work schemes. The PRT is supporting a £1.8 million cash-for-work programme in five districts creating employment for over 600 individuals;

support licit agricultural livelihoods. The PRT is supporting contract farming, the provision of wheat seed and the guarantee of farm gate prices which has enabled over 6,000 farmers to benefit from crop diversification;

provide vocational training. The PRT has sponsored a variety of courses and events, including in May 2008 a business administration course for 75 women to assist them to establish small family run businesses.

We assess that Helmand has made the first small steps in the sustainable transition to a economy driven by licit activity.

### Afghanistan: Power Stations

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what fuel the main generators of power plants in Afghanistan are run. [238662]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Diesel.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the geographical location is of the main generating power plants in Afghanistan; what their output is; and how far their supply extends. [238663]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Afghan Energy Information Center, supported by USAID, lists 18 Hydro power plants with a combined generating capacity of 263MW, 15 Thermal energy plants with a generating capacity of 88MW and 13 sources from which energy is imported from neighbouring countries capable of supplying a further 296MW. The individual locations and generating capacities are shown in the following table.

Although total generating capacity is over 600MW the actual output is estimated to be around 400MW. There is no national grid system and distribution is limited to individuals and businesses that are located in the major cities or close to sources of power generation.

| *Power Plant* | *Type* | *Installed Capacity (MW)* |
|---|---|---|
| Baharak Hydro Plant | Hydro | 0.2 |
| Faizabad Hydro Plant | Hydro | 0.25 |
| Pul-e- Khumri Hydro Plant I | Hydro | 4.8 |
| Pule Khumri Hydro Plant II | Hydro | 9.0 |
| Jabal Saraj Hydro Plant | Hydro | 2.2 |
| Charikar Hydro Plant | Hydro | 2.4 |
| Istalif Hydro Plant | Hydro | 0.2 |
| Ghorband Micro Hydro Plant | Hydro | 0.3 |
| Asadabad Hydro Plant | Hydro | 0.7 |
| Darunta Hydro Plant | Hydro | 11.5 |
| Naghlu Hydro Plant | Hydro | 100 |
| Mahipar Hydro Plant | Hydro | 66 |
| Sarobi Hydro Plant | Hydro | 26 |
| Chak-e-Wardak Hydro Plant | Hydro | 3.3 |
| Baba Wali Hydro Plant | Hydro | 0.25 |
| Kajakai 1 Hydro Plant | Hydro | 16.5 |
| Kajaki 3 Hydro Plant | Hydro | 16.5 |
| Gereshk Hydro Plant | Hydro | 2.4 |
| *Total Hydro* | | 263 |
| Aybak | Thermal | 1.68 |
| Sugar Factory I | Thermal | 1.31 |
| Sugar Factory II | Thermal | 1.66 |
| Gulbahar Thermal Plant | Thermal | 2.80 |
| NW/ Kabul 3 | Thermal | 22.00 |
| NW/ Kabul 4 | Thermal | 23.00 |
| Kabul Diesel Gen | Thermal | 11.69 |
| Urgun | Thermal | 0.82 |
| Khost | Thermal | 0.96 |
| Qalat | Thermal | 3.40 |
| Ghazni | Thermal | 1.60 |
| Trink Kot | Thermal | 1.00 |
| Kandahar | Thermal | 11.90 |
| Lashkar Gah | Thermal | 3.00 |
| Musa Qala | Thermal | 0.85 |
| *Total Thermal* | | 88 |
| Kunduz (Tajikistan) | Import | 25.6 |
| Mazar-e-Sharif (Uzbekistan) | Import | 25.6 |
| Sar-e-Pul (Turkmenistan) | Import | 12.8 |
| Jarqodoq (Turkmenistan) | Import | 25.6 |
| Khojadko (Turkmenistan) | Import | 2.00 |
| Maimana (Turkmenistan) | Import | 25.6 |
| Andkhoy (Turkmenistan) | Import | 8.00 |
| Shern Tagab (Turkmenistan) | Import | 16.0 |
| Juma Bazar (Turkmenistan) | Import | 6.4 |
| Herat City Noor e Jehad (Turkmenistan) | Import | 64 |
| Robat Sangi (Turkmenistan) | Import | 12.0 |
| Mir Dawood (Iran) | Import | 48 |
| Ghorian (Turkmenistan) | Import | 24 |
| Total Import | | 296 |
| Total power generating capacity | | 646 |

### Afghanistan: Roads

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many major road projects have been *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in Afghanistan since 2001; how many of the roads concerned remain in operation; and what the geographical starting and finishing points of each project are. [237628]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Since October 2001, the donor community has provided over $3 billion towards the repair and expansion of Afghanistan's road network. According to the Asian Development Bank, which is the lead donor in this sector, by the end of 2007, improvement works had either been completed or were ongoing on approximately 3,200 km of regional roads, 1,900 km of national roads and 6,000 km of rural roads across all of Afghanistan.

86 per cent. of the regional road network is scheduled to be operational by the end of 2008 with the remainder to be operational by 2010. As far as we are aware, all of the roads constructed since October 2001 are still in operation.

The Asian Development Bank has also estimated that the donor community is planning to spend a further $1.25 billion on Afghanistan's road network over the next four to five years.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what forms of access roads there are into and out of Musa Qala. [237629]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The access roads connecting Musa Qala to the other major towns of north and central Helmand of Gereshk, Lashkar Gah, Kajaki and Sangin are unpaved, well-used tracks suitable for heavy vehicles.

## Africa: Education

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1320-23W, on Africa: education, what the outcome of the teacher census in Sierra Leone was. [238475]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The teachers' census that was undertaken in Sierra Leone (August, 2008) revealed that there are 33,164 teachers in Government-owned or Government-assisted primary and secondary schools. This is broadly similar to the total number of teachers on the official payroll. However, further investigations are needed and are underway in order to establish a fully credible and reliable payroll.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1320-23W, on Africa: education, what the requirements for disbursements from *(a)* the Catalytic Fund and *(b)* the UNICEF-administered transition fund are. [238476]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Education for All (EFA) Fast Track Initiative's (FTI) Catalytic Fund is currently managed under World Bank Trust Fund regulations. The World Bank applies the same fiduciary controls to Catalytic Fund disbursement as it does with any of its other transactions.

Disbursements from the Catalytic Fund to countries securing FTI endorsement are made according to a needs based allocation, agreed by the Catalytic Fund Steering Committee (comprised of the donors contributing to the Catalytic Fund). The funding modality used in disbursing funds is agreed between the World Bank as fund supervising entity and the recipient government, and formalised within a grant agreement.

There is broad international agreement to convert an existing Netherlands-UNICEF bilateral programme into a multilateral Transition Fund managed by UNICEF within the FTI partnership. The requirements for disbursements under this fund are currently being formulated.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 30th October 2008, Official Report, columns 1320-3W, on Africa: education, what the best practice criteria on harmonisation and alignment in the *(a)* Monterrey consensus and *(b)* Paris Declaration are. [238477]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The best practice criteria on harmonisation and alignment in the (a) Monterey Consensus and (b) Paris Declaration are as follows:-

*(a) Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development*

Recipient and donor countries, as well as international institutions, should strive to make Official Development Assistance (ODA) more effective. In particular, there is a need for the multilateral and bilateral financial and development institutions to intensify efforts to:

Harmonise their operational procedures at the highest standard so as to reduce account national development needs and objectives under the ownership of the recipient country;

Support and enhance recent efforts and initiatives, such as untying aid, including the implementation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee recommendation on untying aid to the least developed countries, as agreed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in May 2001. Further efforts should be made to address burdensome restrictions;

Enhance the absorptive capacity and financial management of the recipient countries to utilise aid in order to promote the use of the most suitable aid delivery instruments that are responsive to the needs of developing countries and to the need for resource predictability, including budget support mechanisms, where appropriate, and in a fully consultative manner;

Use development frameworks that are owned and driven by developing countries and that embody poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, as vehicles for aid delivery, upon request;

Enhance recipient countries' input into and ownership of the design, including procurement, of technical assistance programmes; and increase the effective use of local technical assistance resources;

Promote the use of ODA to leverage additional financing for development, such as foreign investment, trade and domestic resources;

Strengthen triangular cooperation, including countries with economies in transition, and South-South cooperation, as delivery tools for assistance;

Improve ODA targeting to the poor, coordination of aid and measurement of results.

*(b) Paris Declaration*

*Principle 2: Alignment*

Donors base their support on partner countries' national development strategies, institutions and procedures.

Criteria are:

Reliable Country Systems

Aid flows aligned on national priorities

Strengthened capacity by coordinated support

Use of country Public Finance Management systems and procurement systems. Strengthening capacity by avoiding parallel implementation structures

Aid is more predictable and is untied

*Principle 3: Harmonisation*

Donor actions are more harmonised, transparent and collectively effective.

Criteria are:

Use of common arrangements or procedures

Encouraging shared analysis

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1320-23W, on Africa: education, what criteria he uses to assess whether a bilateral or multilateral investment proposal is bankable. [238478]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time before Prorogation.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1320-23W, on Africa: education, what the compliance requirements of the Education for All Fast Track Initiative are. [238479]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The focus of the Education for All (EFA) Fast Track Initiative (FTI) is to accelerate country progress towards the universal primary education goals through additional funding and building local capacity.

The FTI Catalytic Fund provides financial assistance to FTI countries which have (a) an approved national Poverty Reduction Strategy, (b) endorsed education sector plans (through the FTI review process) and (c) have an identified funding gap.

The World Bank currently manages the FTI's two major pooled trust funds, the Education Programme Development Fund and the Catalytic Fund. It applies the same fiduciary controls to fund disbursement as it does with any of its other transactions. Further information about the FTI may be obtained from the FTI website

http://www.education-fast-track.org/.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1320-23W, on Africa: education, what the imputed UK share of multilateral overseas development aid for the Education for All initiative is. [238523]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** It is not possible to track support to the Education for All initiative through multilateral organisations. The total imputed DFID share of multilateral overseas development aid for education was £104 million for the 2006-07 period. This figure does not include an imputed share of General Budget Support provided by multilateral organisations which is subsequently spent on education.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1320-23W, on Africa: education, which sectors of the Education for All initiatives are supported on the UK's behalf by *(a)* the International Development Association, *(b)* the African Development Fund, *(c)* the European Commission and *(d)* the UN Children's Fund. [238524]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** It is not possible to track which sectors of the Education for All initiative are supported through multilateral organisations. The Education for All Goals cover broad areas from early childhood care, free primary education and the particular needs of girls to the learning needs of young people and adults including literacy, numeracy and essential life skills.

The total imputed DFID share of multilateral overseas development aid for education for each organisation in 2006-07 is:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* International Development Fund | 41.7 |
| *(b)* African Development Fund | 12.9 |
| *(c)* European Commission | 39.1 |
| *(d)* UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) | 1 |

The figures do not include an imputed share of General Budget Support provided by multilateral organisations which is subsequently spent on education.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1320-23W, on Africa: education, which *(a)* major donors in education *(b)* developing countries and *(c)* civil society organisations are partners in the Education For All Fast Track initiative. [238525]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Some 30 bilateral, regional and international agencies and development banks are partners of the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI). The main financial contributors are the Netherlands, the UK, Spain and the European Commission. 36 developing countries have to date had their education plans endorsed by the FTI. Civil Society Organisations are represented on the FTI Steering Committee by the Global Campaign for Education and Data. Full details can be obtained from the FTI website at

http://www.education-fast-track.org/

and go to the link for 'Partners'.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1320-23W, on Africa: education, what reports his Department and its international partners have produced on the outcome of the project undertaken by the Association for Development of Education in African Books Working Group. [238529]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** DFID was the lead agency for the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) Working Group on Books and Learning Materials from July 2004 to February 2008. We provided annual reports to the ADEA secretariat in Paris on the Working Group's activities in support of book development in Sub-Saharan Africa. From March 2008, the Working Group has been lead by the Department of Education in South Africa, with coordination provided by Read Education Trust.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1320-3W, on Africa: education, what the nature is of the infrastructure grants provided to the government of Kenya; and how much funding the UK has provided to education in Malawi. [238532]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The UK Government do not provide infrastructure grants to the government of Kenya. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to her on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1320-3W, in which I advised that we provide funding, along with other donors, to the government of Kenya's Education Sector Support Programme. The programme works in 23 investment areas, one of which is the provision of infrastructure grants to primary schools. There are two types of grant:

(i) The Basic school infrastructure grant, which supplements on-going community initiatives rather than replacing a long established tradition of self reliance. Grants have been provided to 4,000 schools out of a total of 18,500. These were selected based on poverty levels in their area, enrolment levels, examination data and the physical condition of permanent and temporary infrastructure. Grants have ranged from Ksh 100,000 (approx £750) to Ksh 400,000 (approx £3,000).

(ii) The Additional school infrastructure grant, which is for schools with the highest enrolments and the very poorest physical infrastructure. Schools are selected after they have a used a basic grant well and after a plan has been developed and approved for an additional grant, which can be around Ksh 1 million (approx £7,500).

We plan to spend some £17 million in the education sector in Malawi in 2008-09. Over the previous three years, we spent £9.2 million in 2007-08, £6.4 million in 2006-07 and £6.5 million in 2005-06.

### Africa: Water

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the progress the EU Water Initiative Africa Working Group has made towards meeting the Millennium Development Goal on water and sanitation. [239320]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The EU disbursed nearly £1 billion pounds to the water sector in Africa last year. The EU Africa Working Group works with the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) to improve the effectiveness of this aid. The Department for International Development (DFID) is this year co-chairing, with AMCOW, the Africa Working Group. This has led to a strengthened engagement with African partners and donors to ensure that future aid provided to Africa more closely matches the needs of those countries to meet the water and sanitation targets. The Africa Working Group has also worked to highlight the need to do more on sanitation, the most off-track of the millennium development goals. This has led to 32 African Ministers committing to give increased priority, including more national funding, to sanitation.

### CDC

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 5WS, on CDC Group, what measures his Department has taken to fulfil the obligations of paragraph 9.1 of the New Investment Policy to *(a)* determine and *(b)* measure the (i) differentiation and (ii) added value of CDC investments. [239302]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** DFID and CDC are working together to illustrate the ways in which CDC provides added value and differentiation. These include the extent to which CDC acts as a lead investor in funds, its role in attracting third party investment and its wider demonstration effect to private investors, including environmental, social and ethical standards.

Determining additionality is a difficult challenge faced by all development finance institutions, and not only CDC. But CDC's new investment policy, which focuses very significantly more on poorer countries than other DFIs, is a major part of seeking to ensure that CDC's investments are additional.

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 5WS, on CDC Group, when the CDC shareholders' resolution adopting the New Investment Policy was passed. [239303]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The new investment policy will be adopted at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the company to be held before the end of 2008.

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 5WS, on CDC Group, what consideration he gave to including targets for investment in *(a)* agriculture and *(b)* environment sectors within the policy targets; and if he will make a statement. [239304]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** DFID's primary objectives for CDC are that it should invest in the creation and growth of viable private businesses in poorer countries to contribute to economic growth for the benefit of the poor; and mobilise other private investors to invest in these markets, both directly and more widely by demonstrating profitable investments.

In some countries and circumstances, well-chosen investment in agriculture and the environment sectors may generate good returns; in other countries and circumstances this may not be the case as a result, the new CDC policy does not include specific targets for investment in certain sectors.

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 5WS, on CDC Group, what measures his Department will put in place to ensure parliamentary scrutiny of the reports his Department receives from CDC under paragraph 12 of the New Investment Policy. [239305]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I will place copies of both CDC's annual report and accounts, as well as CDC's annual review in the Library of the House.

As part of the annual report CDC will include a report on its development impact, as well the conclusions of the independent audit of its implementation processes in relation to the Investment Code.

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 5WS, on CDC Group, what his Department's timescale is for the principle to work overtime to apply relevant international best practice standards, as set out in the Investment Code. [239306]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** CDC is currently working with around 60 investment fund managers of differing experience and sophistication, which in turn are investing in some 600 businesses in developing countries. CDC has made good progress in raising the standards applied by the fund managers in which it invests, and has different timescales with different fund managers according to the nature of the challenges to be addressed in each case.

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 5WS, on CDC Group, why his Department has included in section 3 of the Investment Code an exception to the exclusion of investment in tobacco or tobacco-related products; what current investments involving tobacco CDC has or is committed to; and if he will make a statement. [239307]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Some African companies seeking investment from CDC have old, legacy connections to tobacco farming. To encourage agribusiness investment in poor countries, CDC's excluded investment list was recently amended so that it is now possible for promising agribusinesses with small and declining legacy tobacco farming interests to receive backing from CDC funds.

CDC has no investments or commitments involving tobacco or cigarette production and CDC's capital will not be used to support cigarette production. CDC will additionally require its fund managers to ensure that their portfolio companies with legacy tobacco connections agree a schedule for phasing out any tobacco farming interests.

### Chain Reaction Conference

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 755W, on the Chain Reaction conference, *(a)* from which budget line his Department's funding for the conference was taken, *(b)* what the development impact and outcomes of the conference were and *(c)* how many people attended. [239811]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Chain Reaction conference was funded as part of the Department for International Development's (DFID) remit (under the 2002 International Development Act) to promote awareness of global poverty.

The organisers will shortly be taking forward an analysis of the event's impact and outcomes, including drawing together information on the new ideas that the conference has inspired. The speakers and attendees from business, Government, third sector, development focused non-governmental organisations and youth initiatives agreed 138 written commitments to take forward on a range of issues, including new partnerships between developed and developing countries. All of these can be viewed at the Chain Reaction website:

www.chain-reaction.org

The Chain Reaction conference was attended by 1,100 people.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid the Government *(a)* has channelled and *(b)* plans to channel to those displaced by violence and conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [239264]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time before Prorogation.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [239322]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time before prorogation.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; what the target rates set for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [238935]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested is as follows:

(i) The average number of working days lost to sickness absence in the Department for International Development (DFID) from 1999 onwards, are shown in the following table:

*Average working days lost to sickness absence*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 7.3 |
| 2000 | 6.2 |
| 2001 | 6.0 |
| 2002 | 8.0 |
| 2003 | 7.0 |
| 2004 | 4.8 |
| 2005 | 5.7 |
| 2006 | 5.0 |
| 2007 | 4.4 |

We do not have information prior to 1999.

DFID has a target of 5.5 average working days lost to sickness absence by the end of December 2008.

(ii) During the period 1997 to present, DFID has had three non-Departmental public bodies (NDPBs):

Overseas Service Pensions Scheme (OSPS) Advisory Board was wound up on 1 October 2005;

Crown Agents Holding and Realisation Board was wound up on 1 April 2008;

Commonwealth Scholarship Commission is still in operation.

None of the non-departmental public bodies employed any staff.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237421]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development has a staff restaurant in each of its two UK offices. These are contracted out to an external provider, and the contract includes a subsidy towards the operating costs.

There are no agencies for which DFID is responsible.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [239061]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time before Prorogation.

### Departmental Databases

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library an electronic copy of his Department's Performance Reporting Information System for Management database. [239813]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time before Prorogation.

### Departmental Equality

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets in each respect. [238482]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department for International Development (DFID) carries out a diversity monitoring analysis annually on its staff covering sex, ethnicity, age and disability. In the first quarter of each year DFID's Management Board review progress on the key diversity challenges identified for the preceding year and sets priorities for the year ahead.

The following table shows how DFID's senior civil service performed in 2008 against the Cabinet Office and DFID targets.

| *Civil service 2008 targets* | *DFID 2008 target* | *Percentage DFID 2008 performance* |
|---|---|---|
| 37 per cent. women in the senior civil service (SCS) | 37 | 37 |
| 30 per cent. women in top management posts | 35 | 35 |
| 4 per cent. ethnic minority staff in the SCS | 12 | 11.7 |
| 3.2 per cent. disabled staff in the SCS | 4 | 2.1 |

DFID plans to review the process of collecting and assessing information on sexual orientation and religion or belief once the Single Equality Bill becomes an Act.

### Departmental Gifts

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received in each case. [239634]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time before prorogation.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much surplus land his Department owns; and what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated monetary value of each site is. [236420]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department for International Development has no surplus land.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many departmental posts are *(a)* established and *(b)* filled in military stabilisation support teams in Helmand province. [239897]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time before Prorogation.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [238952]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* DFID has spent the following since 2000 on advertising and publicity figures; figures prior to this date are not available. 98 per cent. of this expenditure has been for procurement and recruitment reasons.

| | Spend (£) |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 793,917 |
| 2001 | 1,208,192 |
| 2002 | 914,571 |
| 2003 | 849,196 |
| 2004 | 703,719 |
| 2005 | 423,952 |
| 2006 | 699,898 |
| 2007 | 910,191 |

Note:
Final figures for 2008 are not yet available.

(b) DFID has one non-departmental public body, The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, which has spent the following on publicity and advertising:

| | Spend (£) |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 7,211 |
| 1998-99 | 7,085 |
| 1999-2000 | 5,067 |
| 2000-01 | 7,172 |
| 2001-02 | 8,522 |
| 2002-03 | 20,059 |
| 2003-04 | 19,650 |
| 2004-05 | 24,366 |
| 2005-06 | 19,562 |
| 2006-07 | 20,432 |
| 2007-08 | 19,346 |

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [238172]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time before Prorogation.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the budget for food and entertainment in his Department was in (a) 2005, (b) 2006 and (c) 2007. [237021]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The budgets for food and entertainment in the Department for International Development in the last three financial years were as follows:

(a) 2005-06: £623,353
(b) 2006-07: £545,284
(c) 2007-08: £514,962

### Departmental Postal Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department uses the Royal Mail as the primary company for sending its post, parcels and packages. [238116]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department for International Development (DFID) uses the Royal Mail as its primary company for sending post.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many press releases have been issued by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238991]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time before Prorogation.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract. [239637]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** During the 2005 to 2008 financial years DFID aborted 32 procurements. These were almost entirely tenders for business on behalf of developing country recipients, whose priorities and plans sometimes change after tendering action has started. DFID has made no payments to bidders in respect of nugatory work. The only costs are the staff resources we deployed on aborted processes. Records of these costs are not routinely disaggregated between each tender, and could not be calculated without disproportionate effort.

### Developing Countries: Maternity Services

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the progress of the International Health Partnership towards improving maternal health. [239119]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time before Prorogation.

### Efficiency Technical Notes

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the comparative study of the effectiveness of different multilateral institutions referred to on page 11 of his Department's Efficiency Technical Notes. [239012]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** A copy of the comparative study of the effectiveness of different multilateral institutions referred to on page 11 of the Department for International Development's Efficiency technical notes will be placed in the Library and can be found at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/efficiency-technical-note.pdf

### Food: Prices

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the global financial situation on global food prices. [239317]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** World cereal prices have declined substantially over the last few months, with wheat falling

the most by 60 per cent. to $248 from its peak in March. The current financial crisis is a potentially important factor, but this is currently empirically unproven. Other important factors include record 2008 harvests, the steep drop in world crude oil prices, and appreciation of the US dollar.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation suggest that if current difficulties in access to finance continue, next season's plantings and output could be affected, leading to another price increase in 2009 and further food insecurity. While global prices may continue to fall until the end of the year, the economic slowdown could reduce yield growth as producers spend less on irrigation, fertilisation, and other inputs necessary to boost yields.

### India: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to ensure that aid to India is delivered in a non-discriminatory manner, with particular reference to the Dalit peoples. [237915]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department for International Development's (DFID) programmes in India conform to the non-discrimination provisions of the Indian Constitution. DFID supports specific government strategies, such as positive discrimination and provision of incentives, which are used to benefit disadvantaged groups. DFID tracks the impacts of its programmes on different social groups and women to make sure these strategies are working.

For example, in the DFID-supported elementary education programme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, greater resources are allocated to districts with a high concentration of Dalits, and free text books and school uniforms are provided to socially-excluded groups. Dalit teachers are recruited to encourage Dalit students to enrol, stay in school and get the most out of their time there. Dalit children's share in elementary enrolments improved from 18.6 per cent. to 19.9 per cent. between 2006 and 2007. Similarly, the DFID-supported Reproductive and Child Health Programme has a specific aim to increase access to quality health services for the most socially excluded. As a result of this programme, the percentage of institutional deliveries among women increased by 30 per cent. between 2006 and early 2008, a large proportion of whom are Dalits as the programme specifically targets Dalit women.

### International Assistance

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will publish a list of all bilateral projects for which his Department has provided funding at or above the level of £100,000 in each of the last three years. [238094]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time before Prorogation.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1082W, on Lebanon, on how many occasions in the last five years his Department has funded National Audit Office missions to countries which receive UK financial assistance. [239963]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time before prorogation.

### Overseas Aid

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to ensure that investments abroad, through *(a)* CDC Group and *(b)* other bodies do not use with offshore tax regimes that are designated as harmful by the EU Code of Conduct. [238736]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time before Prorogation.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 669W, on overseas aid, what assessment he has made of the UK's progress towards meeting the UN target of 0.7 per cent. of gross national income being spent on overseas development aid by 2013. [238765]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time before prorogation.

### Overseas Aid: Environment Protection

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1325W, on environment protection: overseas aid, what criteria he uses to judge improvements in forest governance; and what performance indicators have been established for the voluntary partnership agreement. [238530]

**Mr. Thomas:** Permanence can be monitored by use of satellite imagery, aerial photographs and ground surveys. Improvements in permanence are influenced by the effectiveness of enforcement of regulations and by the quality and frequency of monitoring.

The Parties to a Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement will establish a joint mechanism to facilitate the monitoring and review of the Agreement. The parties will consider any matter relating to effective implementation of the Agreement. In particular the parties will:

Recommend the date upon which the FLEGT licensing scheme should be fully operational;

Review reports issued by the Independent Monitor on assessment of the effectiveness of the legality assurance scheme;

Assess the social, economic and environmental impacts of this Agreement, in accordance with relevant good practice and criteria to be agreed by the parties and address any issues raised as a result of the assessment;

Publish an annual report on progress in implementation of the Agreement.

### Overseas Aid: Voluntary Work

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps are being taken to inform eligible 18 to 25 year olds about the Platform2 volunteering programme. [238766]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Platform2 was launched in February 2008. It is implemented on behalf of the Department for International Development (DFID) by Christian Aid in partnership with Islamic Relief and the British Universities North America Club (BUNAC). Platform2 focuses on less advantaged young adults, so priority has been placed on ensuring effective steps are taken to inform eligible young people about the programme.

These steps include: Publicising the scheme through Further Education colleges, education and youth media, and Connexions and Jobcentre Plus. Music artists popular with young people have also been used to support and promote the scheme.

Platform2 volunteers also play a key role in publicising the programme through talks in their local communities, and use of local and online media to place stories about their experiences. A free-phone information line enables interested young people to talk to returning volunteers.

A series of roadshows around the UK from January will further promote the programme to the target audience.

### Pakistan: Overseas Aid

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1326W, on Pakistan: overseas aid, what steps he has taken to raise £10 million from the private sector; and at what cost. [238531]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** With support from the Department for International Development (DFID), the State Bank of Pakistan has started the process of mobilising funds from the private sector for micro finance. Two licences have been issued to micro finance banks to begin raising funds from international investors. Under one of these licences a consortium of commercial banks is already negotiating a loan of over £10 million, although as previously stated, resources from the private sector have not yet started to flow. It is anticipated that private sector funds will be provided at the prevailing interest rate, which is currently 15 per cent.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 112-3W, on Pakistan: overseas aid, what mechanisms will be used to monitor progress in macroeconomic policy in the area of general budget support. [238759]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** A number of monitoring mechanisms will be used to assess macroeconomic policy, including regular visits from the IMF assuming that a stand by facility is agreed. These will consider issues such as fiscal and external balances. We will also assess economic reporting provided both by the Government of Pakistan and the World Bank.

A comprehensive mechanism will be put into place with the World Bank and others in order to assess the Government of Pakistan's public financial management systems into which budget support is provided. This is a standard mechanism used in a number of countries, known as a Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) assessment.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 112-3W, on Pakistan: overseas aid, what assessment he has made of the accessibility of semi-formal financial services in Pakistan. [238760]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Department for International Development (DFID) has financed an access to finance survey, which has shown that access to both formal and semi-formal financial services to the poor has expanded by approximately a third during the last year. Of the 1.7 million micro finance users 61 per cent. are presently supported by semi-formal financial sources. However, the trend in Pakistan is moving towards more formal financial services. DFID's Financial Inclusion programme is helping providers of semi-formal financial services to either become formal banks or strengthen their capacity to access commercial funding.

### Palestinians: Overseas Aid

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of the humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. [239318]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time before prorogation.

### Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239050]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time before prorogation.

### Sierra Leone: Water

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the water, sanitation and hygiene programme in Sierra Leone. [239324]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department for International Development (DFID) launched a £32 million nationwide Water, Sanitation and Hygiene programme for Sierra Leone in February this year. The programme is a joint effort with the Government of Sierra Leone, UNICEF and a number of NGOs. DFID is required to carry out annual assessments on all its support programmes over £1 million. In line with requirements, a comprehensive Annual Review of progress against the objectives of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene programme will be carried out in February 2009.

DFID has been monitoring the use of funds disbursed to date, to key partners including UNICEF for programme activities. Our support has so far provided training and logistical support to staff in the Ministry of Health to monitor community-led total sanitation (CLTS)

programmes, as well as improving hygiene, sanitation and water supplies in districts like Port Loko in the Northern Region, Kenema, Kailahun, Kono in the Eastern Region and in the western area of Freetown.

### South America: Research

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 570W, on South America: research, which companies have been contracted to work on the scoping study; in which country each company is based; and what the value is of each contract worth over £20,000 to work on the study. [238758]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department for International Development has co-funded with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) scoping studies related to Climate Change Adaptation research in Asia and Latin America.

Fundacion Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA) led the scoping work related to Latin America and the Caribbean. FFLA sub-contracted other organisations in South America to undertake different parts of the study. Contracts over £20,000 were issued to Recursos e Invetigacion para el Desarrollo Sustentable—Chile (£40,467.56), The Cropper Foundation—Trinidad and Tobago (£33,303.78) and the Latin American Centre for Competitiveness and Sustainable Development—Costa Rica (£27,818.80).

Other contracts issued by FFLA less than £20,000 in value related to the scoping study are listed in the following table.

| | *Country* |
|---|---|
| Mexican National Autonomous University UNAM | Mexico City, Mexico |
| Institute for Environmental Studies, IDEAM | Bogota, Colombia |
| Interamerican Institute for Global Change, IAI | Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil |
| Mexican National Autonomous University UNAM | Mexico City, Mexico |
| University of Buenos Aires | Buenos Aires, Argentina |
| National Centre for Atmospheric Research NCAR | Boulder, USA |
| National Institute for Space Studies, INPE | Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil |
| Institute of Ecology and Systematic | Havana, Cuba |
| Regional Committee for Hydraulic Resources In Central America, CRRH | San Jose, Costa Rica |
| Network for Social Studies on Disaster Prevention in Latin America, LARED | Panama City Panama |
| University of Chile | Santiago, Chile |
| University of Brasilia | Brasilia, Brazil |

### South East Asia: Primary Education

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of progress towards increasing levels of primary school enrolment in South East Asia. [239321]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time before Prorogation.

### Sub-Saharan Africa: Infant Mortality

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 115-6W, on Sub-Saharan Africa: infant mortality, on what projects the £6 billion allocated to health systems and services between 2008 and 2015 will be spent; and how much of that money will be spent in Sub-Saharan Africa. [238761]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** DFID has laid out how it will support work on health in its strategy 'Working together for better health', which was published last year, and how we will tackle HIV and AIDS in this year's updated AIDS strategy 'Achieving Universal Access'. Both strategies are on the DFID website

www.dfid.gov.uk

DFID's overall country allocations for the next three years were presented in its annual report 2008, published in May. The annual report also sets out our commitment to spend £3 billion of development assistance in Africa by 2010-11. Individual country allocations for health and HIV and AIDS will be determined through discussions with other donors, partner governments and other stakeholders to ensure DFID aid is delivered in the most efficient way.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 116W, on Sub-Saharan Africa: poverty, what his assessment is of the progress which has been made towards meeting the first Millennium Development Goal in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2015. [238762]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Sub Saharan Africa has made progress towards meeting the millennium development goals (MDGs): headcount poverty fell from 55.7 per cent. in 1990 to 50.3 per cent. in 2005. However, this rate of progress is not fast enough to halve poverty by 2015.

Detailed assessments are provided by the United Nations, which monitors progress towards the MDGs and reports yearly. The 2008 report is available at

www.un.org/millenniumgoals.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 115-6W, on Sub-Saharan Africa: infant mortality, which countries are planned to receive the 20 million insecticide-treated bed nets in the next three years; and how many will go to each country. [238763]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We expect that the countries that will receive the 20 million insecticide treated bed nets over the next three years will include Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Mozambique. The actual number for each country will be determined by country needs and take into account the role of other partners such as the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

### Sudan: Peace Negotiations

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan is upheld during the run up to the Sudanese elections in 2009. [232161]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Support to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is at the heart of UK Government engagement in Sudan.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is working closely with the British embassy to support implementation of the CPA in the run up to the elections. Elements of our support are highlighted as follows:

We support the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) - the body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the CPA. A senior UK ambassador - Sir Derek Plumbly - is now the chair of the AEC. The UK chairs the Security Working Group of the AEC and has a large programme in support of implementation of CPA security protocols, including security sector reform.

Between 2005 and 2008, we contributed £49.6 million to the two Multi-donor Trust Funds (National and Southern Sudan). These Funds are the primary mechanisms for donor support for the priority reconstruction and development needs of war affected regions in Sudan. We have pledged a further £63 million to these Funds for the second half of the interim period, 2008 to 2011.

We have worked intensively to resolve crisis points in the CPA. For example, following the conflict in Abyei in June 2008, we worked with the international community to establish the Abyei road map. DFID funding will support construction of the new Abyei administration and the police headquarters.

We provide support to address the underlying drivers of conflict in Sudan. For example, we plan to set up a Peace Building Fund for the conflict sensitive areas along the disputed border (£750,000 in 2008) and piloted innovative approaches to community security and arms control in Jongiei state in Southern Sudan (£1.7 million in 2008).

We provide support to ensure that the key CPA milestones are met. In 2008, DFID provided £3.1 million in support of Census preparations and monitoring. In 2007-08, we provided technical assistance to the National Constitutional Review Committee (NCRC) to revise the electoral law. We have also supported the establishment of the National Elections Commission (NEC) through UNDP.

### Turks and Caicos Islands: Hurricanes and Tornadoes

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made on a financial aid package to help the Turks and Caicos Islands deal with the effects of Hurricane Ike. [238370]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department for International Development (DFID), jointly with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has indicated a willingness to provide up to £5 million to support post-Hurricane Ike priority reconstruction needs.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much financial aid his Department has given to the Turks and Caicos Islands since Hurricane Ike in September 2008. [238371]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department for International Development (DFID) provided £200,000 in post-hurricane humanitarian relief, comprising £110,000 through the International Red Cross for the Turks and Caicos Red Cross Society to supply emergency shelter, sanitation and general relief, and £90,000 to the Pan-American Health Organisation for emergency health and water systems.

### Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Protracted Relief Programme in Zimbabwe. [239324]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time before prorogation.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Academies: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the operation of the academies programme in the London Borough of Bexley. [225925]

**Jim Knight:** There are currently two open academies in Bexley.

The Bexley Business Academy opened in 2002. It was formally assessed by Ofsted in March 2007 when inspectors judged it provided a satisfactory standard of education and was an improving school. Achievement overall was judged to be satisfactory. Its leadership and management were judged to be good, as were governance, pupils' care, guidance and support, personal development and well-being.

The second academy, Harris Academy Falconwood, opened this September, and a third is due to open in September 2009, sponsored by the Haberdashers' Federation and Temple Grove Trust.

### Academies: Truancy

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of levels of truancy in academies in each of the last three years, broken down by age group. [237657]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not maintain records of "truancy". Information is collected on unauthorised absence.

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established, and truancy.

Comparable information showing the number and percentage of unauthorised absence in academies in each of the last three years, broken down by age group, cannot be provided within the timeframe required by Parliament. The requested information will be placed in the House of Commons Library within 10 working days.

## A-Levels

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* percentage and *(b)* percentage point change was in the number of people studying for AS or A-level qualifications was in each parental income decile in each of the last five years. [226043]

**Jim Knight:** The information required is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of students in schools and their achievement by IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices) decile in 2006/07 can be found in the following Statistical First Release (SFR):

"DCSF: National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2006/07"

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

## Children in Care

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children who had ever been in care while at their present school were in their school's gifted and talented cohort in each of the last five years. [235582]

**Beverley Hughes:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children who had ever been in care while at their present school were in their school's gifted and talented cohort on the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by local authority. [235583]

**Beverley Hughes:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been taken into care in each year since 1997, broken down by reasons for being taken into care. [236541]

**Beverley Hughes:** The number of children that have been taken into care in each year since 2001, broken down by reasons for being taken into care can be found in the following table.

Information going back to 1997 is not available. This is due to an introduction of new category of need codes in 2000 on the Children Looked After system which are used to identify the reason for being taken into care.

*Children who were taken into care during the years ending 31 March by category of need[1,2,3,4,5,6] years ending 31 March 2001 to 2008. Coverage: England*

*Number*

| | [5]2001 | [5]2002 | [5]2003 | [6]2004 | [6]2005 | [6]2006 | [6]2007 | [6]2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All children who were taken into care[1,2,3] | 7,000 | 7,400 | 8,100 | 7,500 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,700 | 7,400 |
| *Category of need*[7] | | | | | | | | |
| Abuse or neglect | 5,600 | 6,000 | 6,600 | 5,900 | 6,000 | 5,700 | 5,700 | 5,400 |
| Child's disability | 70 | 50 | 70 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 70 | 50 |
| Parents illness or disability | 290 | 280 | 340 | 280 | 300 | 320 | 290 | 270 |
| Family in acute distress | 270 | 260 | 290 | 290 | 390 | 470 | 500 | 480 |
| Family dysfunction | 520 | 520 | 590 | 670 | 700 | 790 | 870 | 860 |
| Socially unacceptable behaviour | 100 | 110 | 90 | 110 | 80 | 100 | 80 | 90 |
| Low income | 10 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 |
| Absent parenting | 150 | 190 | 150 | 190 | 170 | 240 | 160 | 160 |

*Source:*
[1] SSDA903 return on children looked after.
*Notes:*
[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[3] "Children taken into care" are children who started to be loo ked after under the following legal status: interim or full care orders, police protection or emergency protection or child assessment orders. They exclude children freed for adoption or for whom a placement order was granted, they exclude children under voluntary accommodation and they also exclude children under youth justice legal statuses.
[4] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[5] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.
[6] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.
[7] It is the most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the entire reason they are looked after.

## Children in Care: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many looked after children there were in each *(a)* ward and *(b)* lower layer super output area in each of the principal seaside towns in England in the last year for which figures were available. [238294]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Information on the number of looked after children in each *(a)* ward and *(b)* lower super output area in each of the principal seaside towns in England is not collected centrally by the department. The lowest level of information available is by Local Authority.

Information on the number of looked after children at 31 March by Local Authority for the last 5 years can be found in table LAA1. This table is taken from the

Statistical First Release (SFR 23/2008) entitled "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008".

The SFR is located at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

Table LAA1 can be found within the first set of additional Excel tables.

### Children in Care: Crime

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1067W, on children in care: crime, how much has been spent on the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders since its inception. [236336]

**Beverley Hughes:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps he is taking to improve the performance of local authority care systems in preventing looked-after children from offending; [238086]

(2) if he will put in place strategies to assist local authorities in their capacity as corporate parents to prevent children in their care becoming involved in crime. [238113]

**Beverley Hughes:** Government requires local authorities to collect data on the incidence of offending by children aged 10 or over in their care that have been looked after continuously for at least a year to contribute to the national statistics collection about outcomes for looked after children. Local authorities use this information to improve their performance in reducing offending by children in their care.

As part of our programme to deliver the commitments set out in the Care Matters White Paper, my Department we will be producing revised guidance to local authorities with information on their responsibilities for preventing offending by looked after children.

The care plan for a child in care and the pathway plan for a care leaver must include a clear strategy setting out how the young person will be supported to prevent any repetition of offending behaviour. Placement decisions, especially where residential care is being considered, must take account of the quality of support and supervision given to children to ensure that they are engaged in constructive activities enabling them to enjoy and achieve and do not have any opportunity to get caught up in anti-social behaviour or offending.

We would expect local authority children's services to establish real constructive relationships with local youth offending teams.

### Children in Care: Mentally Ill

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of children and adolescents in care homes who had mental health problems in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority. [236947]

**Beverley Hughes:** Information on the number of children and adolescents in care homes who had mental health problems in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority is not currently collected centrally by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

However, table A3, taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 23/2008) entitled "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008,"shows the number of children in residential care homes at 31 March for each year from 2004 to 2008. The SFR is located at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

and table A3 can be found within the first set of Excel tables on the website. Information is not readily available for the number of children in residential care homes for earlier years and can only be provided at a disproportionate cost. Information on number of children in residential care homes could be produced at a local authority level however the numbers would be very small and disclosure rules would result in the vast majority of the figures having to be suppressed.

### Children: Care Homes

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children's homes there were in each of the principal English seaside towns in each year for which figures are available; and how many children were in each home in each year. [238920]

**Beverley Hughes:** This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 24 November 2008:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted assumed responsibility for the regulation of children's homes in April 2007. Annual data about the number of children's homes and places prior to that point are only available at a national level, and can be obtained from the annual reports of the Commission of Social Care Inspection.

The table below displays the number of children's homes and the maximum number of places available in each of the principal English seaside towns in 2007 and 2008. These data were taken from figures available at the end of March 2007 and March 2008, and only include children's homes that were active at those points. Ofsted does not hold data on the number of children in a particular home. Therefore, the table includes the total number of registered places (aggregated for each town).

A copy of this reply has been sent to the right hon. Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

*Number of children's homes and total number of registered places in principal seaside towns at end of March 2007 and end of March 2008*

| | *End of March 2007* | | *End of March 2008* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Principal seaside towns* | *Children's homes* | *Maximum places* | *Children's homes* | *Maximum places* |
| Bognor Regis | 2 | 8 | 2 | 8 |
| Bridlington | 1 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| Burnham-on-Sea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Clacton | 2 | 25 | 1 | 8 |

*Number of children's homes and total number of registered places in principal seaside towns at end of March 2007 and end of March 2008*

| *Principal seaside towns* | *End of March 2007* | | *End of March 2008* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Children's homes* | *Maximum places* | *Children's homes* | *Maximum places* |
| Dawlish/ Teignmouth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Deal | 7 | 39 | 7 | 35 |
| Eastbourne | 2 | 11 | 4 | 16 |
| Exmouth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Falmouth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Folkestone/ Hythe | 2 | 17 | 2 | 17 |
| Great Yarmouth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greater Blackpool | 14 | 76 | 18 | 99 |
| Greater Bournemouth | 4 | 17 | 4 | 17 |
| Greater Brighton | 3 | 55 | 3 | 55 |
| Greater Worthing | 8 | 47 | 10 | 53 |
| Hastings/ Bexhill | 4 | 14 | 4 | 14 |
| Ilfracombe | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Isle of Wight | 2 | 5 | 2 | 5 |
| Lowestoft | 1 | 7 | 1 | 7 |
| Minehead | 5 | 21 | 4 | 19 |
| Morecambe/ Heysham | 4 | 12 | 4 | 12 |
| Newquay | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Penzance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scarborough | 3 | 18 | 3 | 18 |
| Sidmouth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Skegness | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Southport | 17 | 84 | 16 | 79 |
| St. Ives | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Swanage | 1 | 48 | 1 | 48 |
| Thanet | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Torbay | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Weston-super-Mare | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Weymouth | 3 | 31 | 3 | 31 |
| Whitby | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Whitley Bay | 2 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| Whitstable/ Herne Bay | 2 | 13 | 4 | 23 |
| Total | 91 | 563 | 96 | 576 |

## Children: Counselling

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support his Department makes available for child mentoring schemes; and if he will make a statement. [236950]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families funds several programmes which support the learning and development of child mentors. These include:

Keeping Young People Engaged programme, which supports education, training and employment-based mentoring for young offenders. The Department currently supports this programme through the Youth Justice Board and it is delivered through Youth Offending Teams across the country.

Learning mentors, supported through the Children's Workforce Development Council. Learning mentors usually work in educational settings with pupils of all abilities who need help to overcome difficulties that are getting in the way of their learning.

Academic mentoring, which is provided to some schools in City Challenge areas: London, Greater Manchester and the Black Country. This support is brokered through City Challenge Advisers who work with schools in challenging contexts based on the specific needs of the school and its pupils.

Business mentoring for 14-19 Diploma students, the Department has a contract with the National Education Business Partnership Network to develop and promote business mentoring for 14-19 Diploma students.

## Children: Databases

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether pupils from overseas who are boarding in UK boarding schools will be included on the ContactPoint database; [237362]

(2) what steps his Department (a) has taken and (b) plans to take to publicise the ContactPoint database to parents; [237363]

(3) what advance notice parents will receive about when their children's details are to be loaded on to the ContactPoint database; [237364]

(4) what information parents will receive about applying for their children's information to be shielded on the ContactPoint database; [237365]

(5) whether children's visits to NHS accident and emergency departments will be recorded on ContactPoint; [237366]

(6) pursuant to the Answer of 12th November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1267W, on children: databases, if he will publish the results of the local shielding analysis of each local authority; and if he will make a statement. [237388]

**Beverley Hughes:** In response to question 237362, ContactPoint will contain basic identifying information about all children and young people ordinarily resident in England up to their 18th birthday, and contact details for services working with them. ContactPoint will not hold information on children from overseas unless that child has a current residential address in England.

If information is provided to ContactPoint on such a child by a boarding school in England, the system will flag the record for review by the local authority ContactPoint management team and, once it has been confirmed that the information is for a child permanently residing outside England, the data will be moved to archive. The system submitting the information will receive an automated "stop notice" asking them not to provide the information when it attempts to send this data again.

In response to questions 237363 and 237364, all data controllers who process personal information are under a duty to inform those whose data they are processing, that they are doing so - this is called a fair processing notice. The Department has included ContactPoint in its submission to the Information Commissioner's Office "Register of Data Controllers", which contains the name and address of data controllers and a description of the kind of processing they do.

The Department and local authorities are making information available to children, young people and their parents/carers, using a range of channels and mechanisms, such as direct mailing to households (where practicable), at points of service and public areas (for example, libraries), on websites and through the media. Materials include: ContactPoint leaflets, fact sheets and

Q&As (including young people's versions) and scenarios to demonstrate how ContactPoint will work in practice; from a service user perspective.

Activity is already taking place across England. For example, for the past two academic years, schools have included ContactPoint in their Fair Processing Notices to parents/young people. Information has also been available on websites. Activity is also underway in local authorities and will increase as each LA introduces ContactPoint. In response to 237365, the information available to parents and young people will include information about shielding: that a shielding facility exists on ContactPoint, that there are criteria about when it is appropriate to apply a shield, and that a young person, parent or carer will be able to contact their local authority if they have reason to believe their child's record should be shielded on ContactPoint.

In answer to question 237366, individual visits made by a child to A&E will not be recorded, but the fact that a child has had an involvement with a hospital's A&E department might be recorded if, in the treating clinician's professional judgment, other practitioners or organisations with access to ContactPoint need to be aware of that involvement. We will be working with clinicians in the ContactPoint early adopter sites and will continue discussions with the Department of Health to ensure that guidance is developed to promote best practice in this area.

In response to question 237368, we have no plans to publish the results of the shielding analysis currently underway in all local authorities in England. This analysis, which is expected to be completed by the end of November, is intended to support local authority and local partner planning and operational activity.

**Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the number of users who will have access to the Contact Point database. [240014]

**Beverley Hughes:** Previous and current estimates have indicated that potential authorised users of ContactPoint could range from 220,000 to 480,000. Our current statistical modelling based on the latest work force analysis predicts there will be around 390,000 authorised users of ContactPoint.

ContactPoint has been developed in response to Lord Laming's inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié. Its purpose is to support early intervention and prevention by enabling practitioners to identify and contact other practitioners who are providing a service to a particular child and family. ContactPoint contains no case information.

Access will only be granted to those who need it as part of their work. Users will only be authorised once they have had stringent security checks, including enhanced Criminal Records Bureau clearance and mandatory training which will cover the importance of security and good security practice. They will only be able to access ContactPoint with a password, a PIN and a security token to access ContactPoint. All access will be continuously audited and monitored.

The number of authorised users will ultimately be determined by what local authorities and national partners judge is the minimum necessary to enable effective communication between professionals.

### Children: Day Care

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding will be available to *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan district under the free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work scheme; and if he will make a statement. [238775]

**Beverley Hughes:** The free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work programme is supported through £75 million of funding for the period 2008-2011. The programme will be piloted in 67 local authorities, including Leeds City Council. The programme is aimed at lower income couple families where one parent is working and the second parent is not working and wishes to undertake training on route to employment. Funding will not be allocated at local authority level. It will be allocated by places taken.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding will be provided to *(a)* Romsey constituency, *(b)* the City of Southampton and *(c)* Test Valley borough under the free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work scheme; and if he will make a statement. [239845]

**Beverley Hughes:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Children: Diabetes

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to ensure that schools provide appropriate support for children diagnosed with diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [235891]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has allocated for expenditure on support for children diagnosed with diabetes in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [235894]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Children: Disadvantaged

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of three to five year-olds in *(a)* Carshalton and Wallington constituency, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* England were living in (i) workless households and (ii) relative poverty in each of the last 10 years. [224968]

**Kitty Ussher:** I have been asked to reply.

The number and percentage of three to five-year-olds living in workless households is estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS) and Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS and LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. At constituency level estimates are based on very small sample sizes and the margin of uncertainty is very large. Constituency level estimates are therefore deemed unreliable for practical purposes.

APS datasets are only available from 2004 and constituency estimates are derived from this source due to insufficient sample numbers in the LFS. For London and England, estimates are provided from both the APS (back to 2004) and LFS (back to 1997). Estimates from the APS are based on a larger sample and are therefore more robust than estimates from the LFS.

The LFS is a quarterly survey and the household datasets which are used to produce the data on children in workless households are only available once a year in the April to June release.

Accompanying each estimate is a confidence interval which means that from all samples possible there would be 95 per cent. certainty that the true estimate would lie within the lower and upper bounds.

Figures for households are based on working age households. A working age household is a household that includes at least one person of working age; that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

Available information is shown in the following tables.

*Table 1: Number of children aged three to five in working age workless households in Carshalton and Wallington constituency, London and England, January to December in each year 2004-07*

| | *Estimate* | *Lower Bound* | *Upper Bound* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2004* | | | |
| Carshalton and Wallington | 1,000 | 0 | 2,000 |
| London | 76,000 | 67,000 | 85,000 |
| England | 300,000 | 285,000 | 316,000 |
| *2005* | | | |
| Carshalton and Wallington | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| London | 76,000 | 67,000 | 85,000 |
| England | 298,000 | 282,000 | 314,000 |
| *2006* | | | |
| Carshalton and Wallington | 1,000 | 0 | 2,000 |
| London | 79,000 | 70,000 | 88,000 |
| England | 309,000 | 293,000 | 325,000 |
| *2007* | | | |
| Carshalton and Wallington | 1,000 | 0 | 2,000 |
| London | 72,000 | 63,000 | 80,000 |
| England | 299,000 | 282,000 | 315,000 |

*Table 2: Proportion of children aged three to five in working age workless households in Carshalton and Wallington constituency, London and England, January to December in each year 2004-07*

| | *Estimate* | *Lower Bound* | *Percentage Upper Bound* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2004* | | | |
| Carshalton and Wallington | 25.2 | 2.7 | 47.7 |
| London | 26.2 | 23.5 | 28.9 |
| England | 17.0 | 16.1 | 17.9 |
| *2005* | | | |
| Carshalton and Wallington | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| London | 26.4 | 23.7 | 29.1 |
| England | 17.3 | 16.4 | 18.2 |
| *2006* | | | |
| Carshalton and Wallington | 12.2 | 0.0 | 25.6 |
| London | 26.7 | 24.0 | 29.4 |
| England | 17.8 | 16.9 | 18.7 |
| *2007* | | | |
| Carshalton and Wallington | 22.4 | 2.4 | 42.4 |
| London | 24.3 | 21.7 | 26.9 |
| England | 16.9 | 16.0 | 17.8 |

n/a = data not available to avoid the disclosure of individuals.

*Note:*

Numbers of children in working age workless households have been rounded to the nearest 1,000 children. Proportions of children in low income households have been rounded to the nearest 0.1 percentage point.

*Source*: Annual Population Survey.

*Table 3: Number of children aged three to five in working age workless households in Carshalton and Wallington constituency, London and England, April to June in each year 1997 to 2008*

| | Carshalton and Wallington | London | England |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | n/a | 80,000 | 389,000 |
| 1998 | n/a | 67,000 | 376,000 |
| 1999 | n/a | 82,000 | 351,000 |
| 2000 | n/a | 82,000 | 332,000 |
| 2001 | n/a | 74,000 | 302,000 |
| 2002 | n/a | 83,000 | 341,000 |
| 2003 | n/a | 71,000 | 310,000 |
| 2004 | n/a | 77,000 | 291,000 |
| 2005 | n/a | 77,000 | 289,000 |
| 2006 | n/a | 73,000 | 287,000 |
| 2007 | n/a | 75,000 | 304,000 |
| 2008 | n/a | 71,000 | 308,000 |

*Table 4: Proportion of children aged three to five in working age workless households in Carshalton and Wallington constituency, London and England, April to June in each year 1997 to 2008*

Percentage

| | Carshalton and Wallington | London | England |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | n/a | 28.4 | 20.5 |
| 1998 | n/a | 25.1 | 20.4 |
| 1999 | n/a | 27.7 | 19.4 |
| 2000 | n/a | 27.8 | 18.8 |
| 2001 | n/a | 25.8 | 17.2 |
| 2002 | n/a | 28.4 | 19.2 |
| 2003 | n/a | 24.9 | 17.8 |
| 2004 | n/a | 27.2 | 17.3 |
| 2005 | n/a | 26.3 | 17.6 |
| 2006 | n/a | 25.9 | 17.1 |
| 2007 | n/a | 25.0 | 17.5 |
| 2008 | n/a | 24.8 | 18.0 |

n/a = denotes data not available to avoid the disclosure of individuals.

*Notes:*

1. Numbers of children in working age workless households have been rounded to the nearest 1,000 children. Proportions of children in low income households have been rounded to the nearest 0.1 percentage point.
2. The table is not adjusted for households with unknown economic status.
3. Percentages are based on children living in working age households with known economic status. Some individuals on the LFS within the household have unknown economic status.

*Source:*

Labour Force Survey

The Government's preferred measure of relative low income poverty for children is defined as being in a household with a household income of less than 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income on a 'Before Housing' cost basis.

Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in 'Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2006/07'.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government office region or inner and outer London for the London Government office region. Information on the numbers of children below 60 per cent. of national contemporary median income is set out in the following tables. Three survey year averages are given as robust single year estimates for regions cannot be produced because of volatility in estimates.

*Table 5: Numbers (million) and proportions of three to five-year-olds living in households below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income for England and London (Before Housing costs)*

| | England | | London | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number (million) | Proportion (percentage) | Number (million) | Proportion (percentage) |
| 1995-96 to 1997-98 | 0.5 | 26 | 0.1 | 24 |
| 1996-97 to 1998-99 | 0.5 | 26 | 0.1 | 26 |
| 1997-98 to 1999-2000 | 0.5 | 26 | 0.1 | 26 |
| 1998-99 to 2000-01 | 0.5 | 26 | 0.1 | 26 |
| 1999-2000 to 2001-02 | 0.5 | 25 | 0.1 | 24 |
| 2000-01 to 2002-03 | 0.4 | 23 | 0.1 | 24 |
| 2001-02 to 2003-04 | 0.4 | 22 | 0.1 | 23 |
| 2002-03 to 2004-05 | 0.4 | 22 | 0.1 | 25 |
| 2003-04 to 2005-06 | 0.4 | 22 | 0.1 | 25 |
| 2004-05 to 2006-07 | 0.4 | 22 | 0.1 | 24 |

*Notes:*

1. Low income statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data.
2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined for London as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the low income estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. The low income figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
6. Low income figures have been presented before Housing costs, which is consistent with the child poverty PSA target. For before Housing costs, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income.
7. Numbers of children in low income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children, while proportions of children in low income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
8. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

## Children: Obesity

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in each year group have opted out of the National Child Measurement Programme in each year since its inception. [237220]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) was established in 2005 and is an important part of the 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives' strategy. The NCMP aims to weigh and measure all children in reception year (four to five years old) and year 6 (10 to 11 years old) in primary schools.

The rates of participation for each year group for the first two years of the NCMP are as follows:

2005-06: 57 per cent. for reception year (297,600 children measured); 42 per cent. for year 6 (240,800 children measured).

2006-07: 83 per cent. for reception year (435,927 children measured); 78 per cent. for year 6 (440,489 children);

The results for 2007-08 will be published in December 2008.

Records are not kept of the reasons that children give for not participating in NCMP, so further detail cannot be provided. Reasons include parents taking up the option to withdraw their child from the programme, children themselves choosing not to take part or being unable to participate due to sickness absence.

### Children: Poverty

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will estimate the number of children living in poverty who are not entitled to free school meals; and if he will make a statement. [236316]

**Beverley Hughes:** It is estimated that around half of children living in poverty are not entitled to free school meals.

Free school meals are available only to children whose parents/guardians are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

Income Support

Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance

Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related) – from 27 October 2008

Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Families in receipt of Child Tax Credit will also qualify provided that (a) they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit, and (b) their annual income, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs does not exceed £15,575 as at 6 April 2008 (subject to annual review).

Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Child poverty is defined as children living in families with equivalised income before housing costs below 60 per cent. of median household income. This is measured using data from the Family Resources Survey, and figures are published annually in Households Below Average Income.

### Children: Protection

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance other than that relating to the Criminal Records Bureau checking procedures he provides on the measures for schools to take to ensure the safety of their students. [234652]

**Beverley Hughes:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many referrals to social services were made where there was a concern about a child's safety in the year ending March *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007 and *(e)* 2008; [237698]

(2) how many children were on the child protection register in the year ending March *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007 and *(e)* 2008. [237699]

**Beverley Hughes:** Information on the number of referrals of children to children's social care services is shown in table 1. The reason for the referral is not collected centrally by the Department.

*Table 1: Referrals of children to children's social care services[1,2], years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008: England*

| | Numbers | | Percentages | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | All referrals during year | of which: Referrals within 12 months of a previous referral[3] | All referrals during year | of which: Referrals within 12 months of a previous referral[3] |
| 2004 | 572,700 | 127,400 | 100 | 22 |
| 2005 | 552,000 | 121,800 | 100 | 22 |
| 2006 | 569,300 | 132,500 | 100 | 23 |
| 2007 | 545,000 | 123,900 | 100 | 23 |
| 2008 | 538,500 | 130,800 | 100 | 24 |

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[2] Figures for referrals include unborn children.
[3] Re-referrals relate to a previous referral to the same authority only.
*Source:* CPR3.

Information on the number of children who are subject of a Child Protection Plan is shown in table 2.

*Table 2: Children subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP), by gender: Years at 31 March 2004 to 2008: England*

| | Numbers[1] | | | Percentages[2] | | Rate per 10,000 children aged under 18 years | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | All children[3] | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | All children[3] | Boys | Girls |
| 2004 | 26,300 | 13,500 | 12,500 | 52 | 48 | 24 | 24 | 23 |
| 2005 | 25,900 | 13,100 | 12,600 | 51 | 49 | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| 2006 | 26,400 | 13,200 | 12,800 | 51 | 49 | 24 | 23 | 24 |
| 2007 | 27,900 | 14,100 | 13,400 | 51 | 49 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| 2008 | 29,200 | 14,700 | 14,062 | 51 | 49 | 27 | 26 | 26 |

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[2] Percentage calculations exclude unborn children.
[3] The "all children" figures include unborn children.
*Source:* CPR3.

The latest figures on the numbers and percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plans or placed on the Child Protection Register were published in a Statistical First Release (SFR) 24/2008 "Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan, England – Year ending 31 March 2008" on 16 September 2008. A copy of this release is available on my Department's website

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to reinforce child protection in schools in the last 12 months. [238196]

**Beverley Hughes:** In 2007 new guidance on "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education" came into force. The guidance sets out the responsibilities of all local authorities, schools and FE colleges in England to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

New regulations came into force in 2007 strengthening the provisions under which individuals who have committed sex offences against children are automatically entered on List 99 and barred from working in schools and other education settings. In the past 12 months, the Government have also made significant progress towards the implementation of the new vetting and barring scheme, which will further strengthen the system for preventing unsuitable adults from working with children, including in schools.

In October 2008 Sir Roger Singleton, chair of the Independent Safeguarding Authority, was asked to lead a review of safeguarding arrangements ih independent school, non-maintained special schools and boarding schools. The review will examine the practical operation of the current statutory and non-statutory safeguarding arrangements that apply to independent schools, non-maintained special schools and boarding schools in the maintained, non-maintained and independent sectors in England. Sir Roger expects to conclude his work in February 2009.

In April 2008, Ministers at the DCSF wrote to local authorities and schools to remind them of their responsibilities in relation to the issue of forced marriage and of the materials and guidance already available. In June 2008, new materials on forced marriage were launched specifically for schools and for young people to raise awareness of forced marriage. These were sent to all secondary schools, pupil referral units, local authorities and Local Safeguarding Children Boards. New draft guidance on forced marriage was published for consultation in July 2008. The consultation closed in October, and the new statutory guidance was launched on 25 November.

Within schools, staff have powers to bar people from their premises if they consider them a threat or a nuisance. We have also started a series of regional conferences (late 2008 to early 2009) on Partnership Working to Keep Pupils Safe which is aimed at schools, police and local authorities. We have an ongoing programme of work to prevent and tackle the bullying of children. Our guidance, "Safe To Learn", advises schools on tackling bullying related to ethnicity, sexuality, disability and cyberbullying. We are funding the Anti-Bullying Alliance and national strategies to ensure this work is embedded in schools.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the recommendations of the report of the Thanet Inquiry in respect of looked after children and vulnerable young people being placed out-of-county by local authorities. [238658]

**Beverley Hughes:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Children: Social Services

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Part 8 reviews into child deaths there have been in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [239806]

**Beverley Hughes:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Children's Commissioner for England: Public Relations

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much the Children's Commissioner for England has spent on external *(a)* public relations and *(b)* public affairs in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [233541]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Children's Commissioner for England published his Annual Report and Accounts for 2007-08 in July 2008, copies of which were laid before Parliament and are available in the House Library.

Sue Berelowitz, the Deputy Children's Commissioner at 11 Million, will write to the right hon. Member with more detailed information in response to this question and a copy of her reply will also be placed in the House Library.

### Children's Workforce Strategy

**Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the forthcoming Children's Workforce Strategy will include any cross-cutting themes. [238036]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Children's Workforce Strategy will set out how the Government will work with partners to secure improvements and to support the workforce to 2020. It will look at cross-cutting issues right across the workforce, as well as at the need for progress within individual sectors. Particular cross-cutting themes will include:

supply, recruitment and retention;

excellence in practice; and

integrated working.

**Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department plans to publish the Children's Workforce Strategy. [238094]

**Beverley Hughes:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Christmas

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [226963]

**Ed Balls:** The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) did not host any Christmas functions in 2007, but did host two celebratory events in January 2008, which I attended. The cost of these events was approximately £2,350.

I also attended six Christmas functions in 2007-8. The cost of attending these functions is not readily available and gathering this information would be at a disproportionate cost.

Information on events hosted or attended by either *(a)* DCSF officials or *(b)* our executive agencies is also not readily available and gathering this information would be at a disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in the last 12 months. [237492]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit to be served by his Department at Christmas functions which will be sourced from British producers. [239546]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Class Sizes: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average pupil-to-teacher ratio in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in York was in each year since 1996/97. [237267]

**Jim Knight:** The following table provides the pupil/teacher ratio in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in York local authority and England, in each January, 1997 to 2008.

*Pupil: teacher ratios[1] in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools, 1997 to 2008, York local authority and England*

| | *Primary* | | *Secondary* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *As at January each year* | *York* | *England* | *York* | *England* |
| 1997 | 24.3 | 23.4 | 16.3 | 16.7 |
| 1998 | 24.6 | 23.7 | 16.2 | 16.9 |
| 1999 | 23.5 | 23.5 | 16.7 | 17.0 |
| 2000 | 24.6 | 23.3 | 18.4 | 17.2 |
| 2001 | 22.9 | 22.9 | 16.6 | 17.1 |
| 2002 | 22.0 | 22.5 | 16.0 | 16.9 |
| 2003 | 22.0 | 22.6 | 16.0 | 17.0 |
| 2004 | 22.7 | 22.7 | 16.0 | 17.0 |
| 2005 | 23.0 | 22.5 | 15.6 | 16.7 |
| 2006 | 21.7 | 22.0 | 15.9 | 16.6 |
| 2007 | 21.7 | 21.8 | 16.3 | 16.5 |
| 2008 | 21.4 | 21.6 | 15.7 | 16.1 |

[1] The within-school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.

*Source:*
Annual School Census.

### Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to improve its arrangements for co-ordination with other Government departments of policy affecting coastal towns in the last two years. [238648]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department is part of a cross-departmental working group that was established in February 2008 that is providing a forum for improving cross-Government understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing coastal towns, including the impact of existing policy approaches and mechanisms in improving regeneration and economic development outcomes.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its non-departmental public bodies in each year since its inception; what the target rates set for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [239140]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to his Department of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers (i) was in the last 12 months and (ii) has been since 1997-98. [231691]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237410]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not directly subsidise, from public funds, the food and drink that is on sale to staff. However, it does pay its catering supplier an annual management fee to cover their costs in delivering the service. The Department does not retain information on its agencies at official premises.

### Departmental Civil Servants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many civil servants have been employed by each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [239138]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department's Executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) are non-Crown bodies and employees are not civil servants—although civil servants can be seconded or loaned to NDPBs. Information on the number of employees in executive NDPBs is published in the annual Cabinet Office "Public Bodies" publication. Copies are available from the Libraries of the House and from my Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/ndpb

Advisory NDPBs do not usually employ staff. They are typically supported by civil servants from the sponsoring Department.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [239139]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what sanctions are available in cases of departmental staff found to have committed disciplinary offences; and how many times each has been used in each of the last three years. [238209]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Early Retirement

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many employees in his Department have taken early retirement since its inception; and at what total cost. [238964]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessor have spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237437]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** it has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Gifts

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received in each case. [239136]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental ICT

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each year since its inception. [234093]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Equipment reported as lost, missing or stolen in the financial year 2007/08 is as follows:

| | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (i) lost | (ii) stolen | (i) lost | (ii) stolen |
| *(a)* Memory Sticks | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| *(b)* Laptop computers | 7 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| *(c)* Desktop computers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *(d)* Hard drives | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| *(e)* Mobile phones | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| *(f)* Blackberries | 7 | 1 | 7 | 5 |

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much surplus land his Department owns; and what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated monetary value of each site is. [236433]

**Jim Knight:** The Department has no surplus land to report on.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by his Department in each year since its inception; and at what cost in each year. [239082]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [239141]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237322]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Two civil servants support the advisers in my office, providing administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers".

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned. Office costs will be accounted for in the 2008-09 Cabinet Office Annual Resource Accounts.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [238167]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on entertainment and hospitality in each year since 1997. [239006]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Older Workers

**Mr. Barstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people recruited by his Department in 2007-08 were aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years; and what percentage this represented of the number of new recruits in each case. [235236]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department was formed as part of the machinery of Government changes announced on 28 June 2007. Figures are available from 28 June 2007 to 31 October 2008. The information is set out as follows:

| | Number/percentage |
|---|---|
| *Aged over 55 years* | |
| Number recruited | 16 |
| Percentage of all new recruits | 4 |
| *Aged over 60 years* | |
| Number recruited | 1 |
| Percentage of all new recruits | 0.3 |

### Departmental Pay

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the total amount the staff of each *(a)* agency and *(b)* non-departmental public body within his responsibility were paid in bonuses in 2007-08. [239082]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** All non-departmental public bodies for which the Department of Children Schools and Families have responsibility for have their own remuneration and reward systems within public sector pay policy, and information is not kept centrally. The information could be established only at disproportionate costs.

The Department has no agencies.

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [239061]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* bonuses for staff in his Department in 2007-08. [239855]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Pensions

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department on pensions of its previous employees in 2007-08. [239851]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Postal Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department uses the Royal Mail as the primary company for sending its post, parcels and packages. [238122]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families principally contracts with the following organisations for sending post, parcels and packages:

1. The Royal Mail—Letters.
2. Parcelforce—Parcels.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many press releases have been issued by his Department in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [238985]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract since the inception of his Department. [239687]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since its inception; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239044]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on *(a)* entertainment, (b) advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy in 2007-08. [228084]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which regional offices have responsibilities for delivering *(a)* funding and *(b)* services relating to policy objectives set by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [237154]

**Ed Balls:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) works with all nine of the English regional Government Offices.

Each year my Department specifies its expectations of Government Offices in the delivery of DCSF policies and priorities. For 2008-09 these include supporting the implementation of the Children's Plan, Every Child Matters and achievement of the Public Service Agreements.

DCSF currently delegates £92 million of programme funding to Government Offices in support of these objectives.

### Education

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1585W, on education, if he will provide a breakdown of the funding allocated to each programme listed in Table 1. [233078]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Table 1 lists the programmes aggregated under the "Other Miscellaneous" title and their corresponding projected allocations for 2008-09, as shown in the 2008 departmental annual report.

*Table 1: List of Other Miscellaneous Programmes*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| *Schools* | |
| Music and Dance Capital | 34 |
| Medical Fees and Services | 1 |
| Premature Retirement Compensation | 12 |
| Teacher Development Agency | 600 |
| National College for School Leadership | 83 |
| Partnership for Schools | 1 |
| Inclusion Programmes/Behaviour/Aim higher/Alternative provision | 4 |
| Governors/Admissions/Independent State Schools/Travel Advisers/School Meals | 5 |
| Teachers Pensions Contractual | 1 |
| Partnerships and Federations | 9 |
| Pupil attainment and assessment publications | 1 |
| Gifted and Talented/ Study Support/ Playing for Success | 32 |
| Curriculum | 32 |
| Sport | 22 |
| Total | 837 |

*Table 1: List of Other Miscellaneous Programmes*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| *Children and Families* | |
| LEA Capacity and Intervention | 14 |
| Comms Unit—CYPFD and SD | 8 |
| CYPFD capital grants | 7 |
| Children's Commissioner's Office | 3 |
| Voluntary Community Sector CYPF Grant | 1 |
| Adoption/Bichard Implementation Plan/Contact Point | 2 |
| Parenting Fund | 15 |
| Priority Fund | 2 |
| S48 Inspection Grants | 31 |
| Total | 83 |
| *Young People* | |
| Youth Challenge Fund | 4 |
| NYA Grants | 8 |
| Youth Facilities Capital | 7 |
| Youth Sector Support | 6 |
| Teenage Pregnancy/Substance Misuse | 2 |
| Youth Capital Fund | 71 |
| Youth Services | 15 |
| Total | 113 |
| *Support for all functions* | |
| Centre for Procurement Performance salary related costs | 1 |
| Total | 1 |

### Education Maintenance Allowance

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families under what circumstances his Department may terminate its education maintenance allowance contract with Liberata. [226046]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The LSC contracts with Liberata UK Ltd to carry out the helpline, assessment and payment function. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken to improve communications between the administrators of the education maintenance allowance (EMA) and *(a)* members of the general public and *(b)* hon. Members calling on the EMA MP helpline. [235309]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and manage the contract for EMA delivery with Liberata. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Cotswold with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 21 November 2008:*

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 235309 that asked:

"What steps he has taken to improve communications between the administrators of the education maintenance allowance (EMA) and (a) members of the general public and (b) hon. Members via the EMA MP Helpline."

The LSC has a dedicated EMA micro-site within directgov and this acts as the primary communications channel to members of the public. We also encourage Learner Support staff in colleges and other learning providers to disseminate information to learners.

Since January 2008 the LSC has been publishing a monthly e-bulletin to keep colleges and learning providers informed of developments in Learner Support. This is sent to over 4000 colleagues. A dedicated provider website has also been in operation since January 2008 which acts as a single point of contact for regular operational updates.

There is no arrangement to host an EMA MP helpline.

The LSC have provided regular updates on delivery issues, and progress made to address this, to the Minister of State for Schools and Learners Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, and the Children, Schools and Families Committee has been kept informed.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will consider extending the deadline for education maintenance allowance (EMA) applications for applicants who have been unable to submit EMA applications owing to the technical and administrative difficulties experienced in *(a)* accepting and *(b)* processing them. [235310]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and manage the contract with Liberata for the processing of EMA applications and the delivery of EMA payments. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member for Cotswold with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom, 21 November 2008:*

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 235310 that asked: "If he will consider extending the deadline for education maintenance allowance (EMA) applications for applicants who have been unable to submit EMA applications owing to the technical and administrative difficulties experienced in *(a)* accepting and *(b)* processing them."

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) are currently working hard to improve the speed with which EMA applications are processed and learners notified of decisions. Part of the action which has been taken by the LSC is to ensure that sufficient supplies of paper applications are available, through learning providers, schools and colleges, to learners wishing to apply for EMA.

As in previous years, EMA applications are accepted during the entire Academic Year. Normally the LSC allows later applications, i.e. ones received after the start of a course, to be backdated to the start of a course when the application is received within 28 days of the start date.

However, in an effort to ensure that no learner is disadvantaged by the present administrative difficulties the LSC temporarily extended the backdating rules for the scheme. Any learner applying for EMA before 31 October 2008 would have their allowance backdated to the start of their course.

The LSC will, as in previous years, consider any cases that do not fall within this timescale as part of their case review arrangements.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what sanctions he plans to impose on Liberata for failing to make education maintenance allowance payments on time; and if he will make a statement. [237372]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The helpline, assessment and payment function for EMA will be transferring to Capita from 28 November 2008. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Yeovil with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students have *(a)* received a notice of entitlement for the education maintenance allowance, *(b)* successfully enrolled and *(c)* received at least one payment since September 2008. [239469]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**Education Maintenance Allowance: Contracts**

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* contractual and *(b)* other penalties will be imposed on Liberata in respect of its administration of education maintenance allowances. [238072]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The helpline, assessment and payment function for EMA will be transferring to Capita from 28 November 2008. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**Education Maintenance Allowance: ICT**

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of applications for education maintenance allowance (EMA) for 2008-09 have been recorded on the new EMA IT system; [237292]

(2) how much was spent on the new education maintenance allowance IT system in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [237293]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom,

the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for Putney with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

### Education: Admissions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many surplus places there were in *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools in each local authority area in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [238341]

**Jim Knight:** The Department collects information from each local authority on the number of surplus places through an annual survey. The most recent data published relates to the position as at January 2007. There was no data collection in 2002 to allow for a change from the MOE (More Open Enrolment) method of assessing capacity to the Net Capacity method which was introduced in 2003.

Tables showing the number of surplus places in both primary and secondary schools by local authority area in 2001 and from 2003 to 2007 have been placed in the Library for viewing.

### Education: Disadvantaged

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what comparative assessment he has made of the academic achievement of pupils living in *(a)* overcrowded housing, *(b)* temporary housing, *(c)* social housing and *(d)* private housing; [237263]

(2) what *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of children living in (i) overcrowded and (ii) temporary accommodation obtained five or more GCSEs at grade C or above in the last year for which figures were available; and if he will make a statement. [237262]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not available.

### Education: Regulation

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of the number of unregulated and unregistered educational institutions in England used by local education authorities. [240011]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Free School Meals

**Dr. Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost of extending free school meals to *(a)* children in families in receipt of maximum tax credit, *(b)* all children in families in receipt of tax credits and *(c)* all children in families below the official poverty line. [222838]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not collect this information. The Secretaries of State for Children, Schools and Families and Department of Health announced on 24 September 2008 that pilots would be set up to test the evidence base for extending eligibility to free school meals and to test giving free school meals to all primary children. The evaluation of these pilots will include estimating the costs of eligibility.

### Free School Meals: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children are entitled to free school meals in each *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school in the principal seaside towns of England. [237658]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

### GCE A-Level

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils registered as gifted and talented did not sit at least one A level examination in 2008. [239881]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### GCSE: Disadvantaged

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils eligible for free school meals achieved three A grades at A level in 2008; [228819]

(2) how many pupils eligible for free school meals did not gain a single grade C or above at GCSE in 2008. [228837]

**Jim Knight:** The Department does not currently hold this information.

Attainment data with pupil characteristics will be published in December, from the National Pupil Database (NPD).

### General Certificate of Secondary Education

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* pupils entitled to free school meals, *(b)* pupils not entitled to free school meals and *(c)* all pupils gained (i) no GCSEs and (ii) fewer than five A* to G grades including English and mathematics at GCSE in each year since 1999. [238351]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many comprehensive schools 50 per cent. or more pupils achieved a modern language GCSE at A* to C in 2007. [238747]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which maintained mainstream schools no pupils at the end of key stage 4 were entered for GCSE in history in 2007. [238754]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to his predecessor Department was of preparing the Answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 549-52W, on GCSE. [238755]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in the maintained mainstream sector achieved five GCSEs, including a modern language at A* to C grade in each year since 2005. [238829]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 636W.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of eligible pupils in the maintained, mainstream sector achieved five GCSEs including a modern language at A* to C in *(a)* 1999, *(b)* 2000, *(c)* 2001, *(d)* 2002 and *(e)* 2003. [239294]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many gifted and talented pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals who obtained level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 tests in 2003 did not obtain five GCSEs at A* to C in 2007. [239861]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals who (i) obtained and (ii) did not obtain level 4 in Key Stage 2 tests in 2003 did not obtain five GCSEs at A* to C in 2007. [239862]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children obtained five GCSEs at A* to C grade including English and mathematics in schools *(a)* with fewer than 10 per cent., *(b)* with more than 20 per cent. and *(c)* with more than 50 per cent. free school meals pupils. [239878]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in *(a)* pupil referral units, *(b)* alternative provision and *(c)* special schools obtained at least one C grade or above at GCSE in 2008. [239879]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of gifted and talented pupils did not obtain five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in the latest year for which figures are available. [239880]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils did not obtain at least one C grade or above in GCSE examinations in 2008. [239882]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils obtained five GCSEs at grade A* to C including English and mathematics *(a)* excluding and *(b)* including equivalents in each year since 1997. [240009]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### General Teaching Council: Official Hospitality

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by the General Teaching Council on *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* hospitality, *(c)* advertising and *(d)* outside consultancy in 2007-08. [239857]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### General Teaching Council: Pay

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* bonuses by the General Teaching Council for its staff in each of the last 10 years. [239852]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Independent Schools: Assessments

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which independent schools are offering diploma courses, broken down by diploma type. [225841]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### International Baccalaureate

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authorities do not have any schools offering International Baccalaureate courses. [239864]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils are studying for the International Baccalaureate in maintained mainstream schools. [239865]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### National College of School Leadership: Official Hospitality

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by the National College of School Leadership on *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* hospitality, *(c)* advertising and *(d)* outside consultancy in 2007-08. [239856]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### National Curriculum Tests

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his plans are for national indicators *(a)* 95, *(b)* 96, *(c)* 97 and *(d)* 98 following his announcement of the abolition of key stage 3 tests. [228128]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of when all National Curriculum test papers from 2008 will have been re-marked and returned to schools. [239876]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many National Curriculum test papers from 2008 schools have asked to be re-marked. [239877]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### National Curriculum Tests: Standards

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what marks were required in key stage 2 tests in *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics to achieve a level (i) 4 and (ii) 5 in (A) 1999, (B) 2006, (C) 2007 and (D) 2008. [238348]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Office for Standards in Education Children's Services and Skills: Pay

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on salaries of staff of Ofsted in each of the last 10 years. [239853]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Ofsed

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by Ofsted on *(a)* hospitality, *(b)* entertainment, *(c)* advertising and *(d)* outside consultancy in 2007-08. [239860]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Ofsted: Pay

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by Ofsted on bonuses to staff in each of the last 10 years. [239859]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Overseas Students: Finance

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the reasons are for ceasing to fund scholars from Australia, the Bahamas, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cyprus, Malta, New Zealand and Singapore after 2009. [225511]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]*: I have been asked to reply.

The FCO will stop funding scholarships for developed Commonwealth countries after 2008-09 because, as the then Minister for Europe explained to my hon. Friend the Member for Northampton, North (Ms Keeble) on 8 May 2008, column 1105W, it concluded that the Chevening and Marshall scholarship schemes better achieve its purpose of building relations with international leaders of the future.

In recognition of the value of attracting high-quality students from developed Commonwealth countries to UK institutions, DIUS will fund scholarships for students from these countries from 2009. These scholarships will be for PhD students and will be jointly funded by UK universities.

The FCO will also continue to fund Masters awards for students from the developed Commonwealth countries (except Cyprus and Malta because they are in the EU) through the Chevening scholarship scheme.

### Parliamentary Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the cost to his Department of answering parliamentary questions was in each year since 2004; [234568]

(2) how many people in his Department are employed to answer parliamentary questions. [234779]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** We do not employ anyone directly to answer parliamentary questions; it is a small part of many people's job roles. It is not possible to estimate an equivalent cost.

### Powers of Entry

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation sponsored by his Department and its predecessors has (i) amended and (ii) enhanced existing powers of entry since May 1997. [221996]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Minister for the Home Office on 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 576W.

### Pre-school Education: Standards

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what enforcement actions Ofsted may take in circumstances where an early years provider is found to be inadequate; how many early years providers have been found to be inadequate on more than one occasion in the last 10 years; and which of the enforcement actions available to Ofsted have been used. [237191]

**Beverley Hughes:** These are matters for Ofsted. The Chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the Library.

### Pre-school Education: Teachers

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female nursery school teachers there are. [239873]

**Beverley Hughes:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Primary Education: Greater London

**Mr. Davey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions his Department has had with London boroughs on the demand for primary school places over the next four years; and if he will make a statement. [235665]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department has held direct discussions with officials from Kingston upon Thames, a number of other London authorities, and representatives of the Association of London Directors of Children's Services. We have begun work to evaluate the accuracy of existing forecasts and to determine to what extent actual demand might differ from these. Local authority capital allocations are based upon forecasts covering the three-year spending review period 2008-09 to 2010-11. Forecasts for future years will inform allocations for the period 2011-12 onwards.

### Primary Education: Literacy

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the reading skills of children in primary schools. [239445]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Ensuring children are able to read fluently and confidently by the time they leave primary school is a key element of our strategy to raise standards in primary schools.

In response to the recommendations of the Rose Early Reading Review, we changed the national curriculum to ensure that all children learn to read through the use of systematic phonics, and produced the Letters and Sounds programme free for schools.

The Communication, Language and Literacy Development programme was also developed to implement the Rose Review recommendations and is now funding specialist work in 100 local authorities to ensure that all children experience best practice in the teaching of early reading and phonics. This programme is being extended from April 2009 to provide every authority with a specialist consultant to improve the teaching of reading.

On top of this we have the Primary Framework available online for all schools. This puts phonics at the heart of teaching reading and offers a broad range of guidance and resources to support teachers in ensuring that their teaching is personalised to the needs of every child. Local authorities and schools receive training from the National Strategies in the effective use of the framework and its supporting materials.

For those children who experience difficulty in learning to read, we are rolling out the Every Child a Reader programme. This offers a suite of literacy interventions to help children get back on track, including the highly effective Reading Recovery one-to-one programme for children with the greatest need.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the writing skills of children in primary schools. [239446]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Improving standards of children's writing is a major priority for this Government, and will be vital in ensuring we reach our public service agreement targets in 2011 for 78 per cent. of children to be reaching the expected level in English and maths.

In September this year we launched new materials called "Support for Writing" for teaching children to write across Key Stages 1 and 2. This guidance and exemplification is available online through the Primary Framework, and is based on effective teaching strategies in the areas we know children find hardest about writing at the moment. The materials focus on ensuring children make good progress in their writing through outlining incremental small steps in learning within the year and specific classroom examples of how teachers might chose to approach each step. In January 2009 we will launch "Talk for Writing" materials which provide extra guidance to teachers on how they should develop children's speaking and listening skills to improve their writing. All materials are available free and cascaded to local authorities and schools with training and support.

In addition we are now piloting Every Child a Writer, a new commitment from our Children's Plan, with funding of £25 million over the next three years. This programme aims to improve children's writing through leading teacher support for class teachers and intensive one-to-one tuition in the areas of writing children find

hardest to master. Every Child a Writer is being piloted from September 2008 in nine local authorities and is due to scale up to reach all local authorities by 2010-11.

**Primary Education: Pupil Exclusions**

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary school pupils in Suffolk of each age have been given a fixed-period exclusion in the last 12 months, broken down by reason for exclusion. [240006]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Private Education: Education Maintenance Allowance**

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in independent schools have received the education maintenance allowance in each year since the allowance was introduced. [223837]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who have operational responsibility for the education maintenance allowance (EMA) and hold the information about applications, payments and expenditure made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**Pupil Exclusions**

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of fixed period exclusions were given to pupils *(a)* with special educational needs and *(b)* entitled to free school meals in (i) secondary schools and (ii) primary schools in each year since 1997. [238349]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Data on the numbers of pupils with fixed period exclusions were collected for the first time for the school year 2003/04, therefore data cannot be provided for fixed period exclusions for prior to this. Information on free school meals eligibility of excluded pupils is only available from 2005/06 onwards.

It is not possible, given the amount of analysis required, to provide a response to these questions within the timeframe required by Parliament. The requested information will therefore be placed in the Library.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils were given a fixed period exclusion in schools with *(a)* fewer than 10 per cent., *(b)* more than 20 per cent., and *(c)* more than 50 per cent. of pupils in receipt of free school meals in 2007-08. [239867]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female pupils receiving free school meals received one or more fixed period exclusions in each of the last 10 years. [239870]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Ms Barlow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils of each age have been given a fixed-period exclusion in the last 12 months, broken down by reason for exclusion. [240013]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Pupil Exclusions: Leicestershire**

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children under the age of *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 15 years were (i) temporarily excluded and (ii) permanently excluded from state schools in Leicestershire in (A) 2007 and (B) 1997; [235825]

(2) how many children under the age of *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 15 years were temporarily excluded from state schools in Leicestershire for (i) attacking another pupil or teacher, (ii) having drunk alcohol at or before school or having alcohol with them and (iii) carrying an offensive weapon in (A) 1997 and (B) 2007; [235826]

(3) how many children under the age of *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 15 years were permanently excluded from state schools in Leicestershire for carrying an offensive weapon in (i) 2007 and (ii) 1997. [235827]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Data on the numbers of pupils with fixed period exclusions were collected for the first time for the school year 2003-04, therefore data cannot be provided for fixed period exclusions for 1997. Prior to 2002 information was collected on the number of permanent exclusions; therefore for 1997 the Department can only provide information on the number of permanent exclusions not the number of pupils involved.

The reasons for exclusion were collected for the first time for the school year 2003-04. There is no category specifically on "carrying an offensive weapon", this is included under the category of verbal abuse/threatening behaviour so the Department cannot determine how many exclusions involved carrying an offensive weapon. Other categories include physical assault against a pupil, physical assault against an adult and drugs and alcohol.

It is not possible, given the amount of analysis required, to provide a response to these questions within the timeframe required by Parliament. Information on the numbers and reasons for exclusions for 2003/04 and 2006/07 will be placed in the Library.

**Pupil Referral Units**

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female teachers there are in pupil referral units. [239872]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Pupils: Bullying**

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to reduce levels of bullying in schools, with particular reference to bullying of children with disabilities. [238255]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** We have an ongoing programme of work to prevent and tackle the bullying of children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities. In May 2008 we published guidance on "Bullying involving Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities" as part of our "Safe to Learn" suite of guidance. The guidance provides schools with advice on their legal obligations in respect of children with special educational needs and disabilities. It also provides comprehensive advice on how to prevent the bullying of these children, and how to respond to bullying incidents. We are funding the Anti-Bullying Alliance and National Strategies to work with local authorities and schools to ensure the guidance is effectively implemented on the ground, and to provide challenge and support, where necessary. We will monitor the situation closely.

At the launch of the Anti-Bullying week on 13 November, the Department launched the "Make Them Go Away" DVD. This is a short film for schools which seeks to illustrate to young people the damaging impact of bullying other young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The DVD has been well received by our key stakeholders. We will encourage schools to show the DVD in assemblies and in class with a view to stimulating discussions around the issue with their pupils.

### Pupils: Chronically Sick

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued to schools on provision of support to children with long-term conditions, particularly children with type 1 diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [239237]

**Jim Knight:** The Department has issued guidance entitled 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Year Settings'.

This guidance, published in 2005 jointly with the Department of Health, specifically addresses what schools can do to help children with diabetes and other medical conditions, we also produced sister guidance in the same year, entitled 'Including me: managing complex health needs in schools and early years settings'.

### Pupils: Diabetes

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of training given to teachers on the needs of children with type 1 diabetes; [238276]

(2) whether he has issued guidance on the administering of injections and other treatments to children with type 1 diabetes by school teachers; [238277]

(3) what guidance he has issued to local education authorities on informing teachers about children with type 1 diabetes. [238278]

**Jim Knight:** This Department issued, in 2005, guidance entitled 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Setting'. This guidance was published jointly with the Department of Health, and specifically addresses what schools can do to help children with diabetes and other medical conditions.

This guidance encourages schools and local authorities to develop local policies on the management of pupil's medicines and on supporting pupils with medical needs, taking account of local resources and their various responsibilities. It is for schools and local authorities to set their own policy, including the training needs of staff; they should work with local health services to support pupils with medical conditions, including diabetes.

Schools may contract members of support staff to support pupils as part of their duties, for instance to administer injections. In other schools support staff and teachers may volunteer to take on such roles. In either case, the Department recommends that the school should ensure such staff receive appropriate training and are covered by appropriate insurance.

Diabetes is a recognised medical condition under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, which requires schools not to treat disabled pupils less favourably. No child should miss out because of their diabetes.

The Department has made no assessment of training either made available to or undertaken by teachers on the needs of children with type 1 diabetes.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of children with diabetes who were unable to participate in school trips because of a lack of provision for their health care during such trips in the last 12 months. [239965]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of children of school age whose diabetic conditions *(a)* prevent and *(b)* reduce their attendance at school. [239966]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions his Department has had with the Department of Health on steps to ensure that children with diabetes receive necessary health care when they are in school. [239967]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department provides to schools on provision of healthcare to children with diabetes when they are in school. [239968]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of provision of care for children with diabetes *(a)* in schools and *(b)* on school trips. [239969]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** it has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Pupils: Disadvantaged

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many boys on free school meals achieved three As at A-level in the last year for which figures are available. [224880]

**Jim Knight:** The information is given as follows. A revised figure for all pupils eligible for free school meals has also been given which updates that given in answer to PQ 185780, 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 480W.

| | *Number achieving three A grades at A-level* | *Percentage achieving three A grades at A-level* | *Number of pupils entered* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Pupils eligible for free school meals* | | | |
| Males | 75 | 3.6 | 2,074 |
| Females | 114 | 3.8 | 3,040 |
| Total | 189 | 3.7 | 5,115 |
| *All pupils* | | | |
| Males | 5,980 | 9.2 | 64,785 |
| Females | 7,487 | 9.7 | 77,182 |
| Total | 13,467 | 9.5 | 141,967 |

*Note:*
These figures relate to pupils aged 16-18, (age at start of academic year, ie 31 August 2006), in all maintained mainstream schools including academies and City Technology Colleges.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 15 year olds *(a)* not entitled and *(b)* entitled to free school meals achieved (i) five GCSEs at A* to C and (ii) five GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics in each year since 1997. [225122]

**Jim Knight:** The proportion of pupils at the end of key stage 4 *(a)* not entitled to free school meals and *(b)* entitled to free school meals achieved (i) five GCSEs at A* to C and (ii) five GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics for 2007 is shown in the following table.

| *Subject* | *Not entitled to free school meals* | *Percentage Entitled to free school meals* |
|---|---|---|
| 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C | 62.8 | 35.5 |
| 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C including English and mathematics | 49.0 | 21.1 |

*Source:*
National Pupil Database (provisional figures)

Further details can be found in the Statistical First Release 'National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England 2006-07'

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

published in November 2007.

The equivalent figures for 2006 are shown in the following table:

| *Subject* | *Not entitled to free school meals* | *Percentage Entitled to free school meals* |
|---|---|---|
| 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C | 61.0 | 33.0 |
| 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C including English and mathematics | 47.7 | 19.6 |

*Source:*
National Pupil Database

Further details can be found in the Statistical Release 'National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England 2005-06 (Revised)'

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000708/index.shtml

published in February 2007.

Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Qualifications and Curriculum Authority: Official Hospitality

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on *(a)* hospitality, *(b)* advertising, *(c)* marketing and *(d)* outside consultancy by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in 2007-08. [239863]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Redundancy

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by his Department. [237355]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since it was established received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [239159]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Refuges: Domestic Violence

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if his Department will provide funding in 2008-09 to increase emergency refuge accommodation across the UK; and if he will make a statement. [237858]

**Beverley Hughes:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Rural Areas

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in respect of which of his Department's public service agreements rural proofing of departmental policies is stipulated. [230738]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### School Food Trust

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has given to the School Food Trust in each year since its establishment; and what control he exercises over the way in which such funds are used. [235960]

**Jim Knight:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has allocated grant in aid to the School Food Trust (SFT) as follows:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 1 |
| 2006-07 | 7 |
| 2007-08 | 9.5 |
| 2008-09 | 10.9 |

The totals for 2007-09 include £4 million capital funding that the trust has/will pass to the new regional Food Excellence and Skills Training (FEAST) centres for school caterers as they are set up.

The DCSF's accounting officer (its permanent secretary) has appointed the trust's chief executive as accounting officer for the SFT. As with all non-departmental public bodies, the Department works with the SFT accounting officer, agreeing a three-year corporate plan and annual remit, business plan and budget. Framework documents, including a financial memorandum, set out the respective roles and responsibilities of the Department and the trust in relation to a range of financial and non-financial matters, including monitoring of financial and non-financial targets.

### School: St David's Day

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department encouraged schools to celebrate St. David's Day in 2008. [227731]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It is important that the curriculum provides opportunities for young people to consider for themselves what it means to live in the UK today.

To ensure that young people explore their own identity and issues around diversity, a new strand was added to the Citizenship programme of study in September 2008 called 'Identity and Diversity: living together in the UK'. Pupils are encouraged to consider these important concepts with their peers and teachers and in doing so develop their understanding of what it means to be a UK citizen.

We also supported the 'Who Do We Think We Are?' week in June 2008, which encouraged over 500 schools across the country to explore identity, diversity and citizenship with their pupils, in their schools, local communities and nationally.

The Department did not take any particular steps to encourage schools in England to celebrate St. David's Day in 2008.

### Schools: Assessments

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1502-03W, on schools: assessments, which mainstream schools did not enter any pupils for A-level history. [239025]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 16th October 2008, Official Report, columns 1502-03W, on schools: assessments, which mainstream maintained schools did not enter any pupils for A-level geography. [239026]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Schools: Closures

**Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained schools *(a)* closed, *(b)* merged with another school and *(c)* closed and reopened as an independent school on the same site in each of the last 10 years. [236525]

**Jim Knight:** The following table sets out the numbers of maintained mainstream schools which have *(a)* closed or *(b)* merged each year under local decision making arrangements, which were introduced in September 1999. Information about decisions made under the arrangements that operated prior to September 1999 is not reliable and has therefore been excluded:

| *Reason for closure* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cease to maintain | 12 | 26 | 34 | 36 | 54 | 39 | 41 | 46 | 47 | 335 |
| Due to amalgamation | 96 | 193 | 180 | 177 | 191 | 211 | 224 | 269 | 174 | 1,715 |
| For a new establishment | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | 4 |
| For an Academy | — | — | 4 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 17 | 34 | 50 | 126 |
| Fresh Start | 8 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 3 | — | 37 |
| Add or change religious character | — | 4 | 9 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 48 |
| Total | 116 | 226 | 229 | 236 | 265 | 272 | 290 | 358 | 273 | 2,265 |

The table includes the reasons for closure. The numbers shown in the column headed 'Cease to maintain' indicate closures where the schools have not been replaced by new schools. In all other cases a replacement maintained mainstream school will have been established (sometimes on the site of a closing school), or an amalgamating school altered, to accommodate displaced pupils.

We do not hold records of the numbers of maintained mainstream schools that have closed and reopened as an independent school on the same site.

### Schools: Diabetes

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance has been issued by his Department to *(a)* schools and *(b)* Ofsted on training of school staff to deal with emergencies relating to children with diabetes. [238413]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Schools: Finance

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funds the Government have made available for schools in deprived areas. [239447]

**Jim Knight:** The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) distributed to schools includes an amount for additional educational needs including deprivation and for pockets of deprivation in generally less deprived authorities.

In addition to the DSG there are additional sums that are provided to schools that have deprivation as part of the distribution methodology; these are the school standards grant (personalisation) (SSG(P)), post leadership incentive grant (Post-LIG), school lunch grant and extended schools grant.

Nationally for 2008-09 this amounts to:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| Deprivation in DSG (including pockets of deprivation) | 2,981.8 |
| SSG(P) | 124.6 |
| Post-LIG | 100.9 |
| School Lunch Grant | 24.0 |
| Extended schools | 22.5 |
| Total | 3,253.8 |

The additional grants have conditions placed upon them requiring targeting in specific ways to reach deprived pupils. Within the DSG it is for each local authority to target funding to deprived pupils in schools to support their additional needs and improve their life chances. The Department for Children Schools and Families is working with local authorities to increase the proportion of the deprivation funding they receive through the DSG that is targeted to those pupils most in need.

Funding should be targeted based on pup characteristics rather than schools, and it is therefore not possible to say how much is given to schools in deprived areas as this should change annually with each budget round to meet the needs of the pupils in schools at that time - in whichever school those pupils are educated.

### Schools: Plants

**Mr. Brady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the amount spent by maintained schools in England on ornamental plants and seeds in the most recent year for which figures are available. [222499]

**Jim Knight:** The Department has not made any estimates on the amount spent by maintained schools in England on ornamental plants and seeds. We do not collect this information.

### Schools: Repairs and Maintenance

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital funding for rebuilding and refurbishing *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools the City of York Council has received (i) in the last year for which figures are available and (ii) in each year since 1979. [237059]

**Jim Knight:** Most capital funding allocated to local authorities and schools is prioritised locally. Accordingly, no split is held centrally on what proportion is allocated on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. The Department's database includes capital allocations since 1996-97, set out in the following table.

| | £million |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 0.8 |
| 1997-98 | 1.3 |
| 1998-99 | 1.8 |
| 1999-2000 | 4.5 |
| 2000-01 | 7.4 |
| 2001-02 | 4.8 |
| 2002-03 | 25.4 |
| 2003-04 | 9.5 |
| 2004-05 | 9.4 |
| 2005-06 | 8.7 |
| 2006-07 | 128.5 |
| 2007-08 | 135.7 |

[1] This includes £22.2 million of Targeted Capital Funding.
[2] This includes £28.0 for a one school pathfinder scheme.

### Schools: Sports

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many Competition Managers have been appointed; and how many he expects to be appointed during 2008-09; [224769]

(2) when he expects his Department to publish its most recent annual survey of school sport partnerships; [224973]

(3) when he expects his Department to publish its annual survey of school sport partnerships. [225684]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The full national network of 225 Competition Managers has now been appointed. We have no plans to appoint any additional Competition Managers during the rest of 2008-09.

The results of the 2007-08 School Sport Survey were published on 16 October. Copies of the results of the survey will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Schools: Standards

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of educational attainment at schools in the principal seaside towns in England. [234935]

**Jim Knight:** Data on the attainment of pupils in English, mathematics and science at ages 11 and 14 and GCSE and equivalent qualifications are published by Government office region, local authority, district, parliamentary constituency and ward level and can be found at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/inyourarea

We do not publish school performance data by town.

There are a number of National Challenge schools (where the proportion of pupils achieving five A*-C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics is below 30 per cent.) that are located in or near seaside towns. We are supporting the LAs concerned to develop plans to ensure these schools can improve and achieve above this level by 2011.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Fresh Start schools have opened in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [236538]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Fresh Start schools are part of the National Challenge; and if he will make a statement. [236539]

**Jim Knight:** Eighteen local authority Fresh Start secondary schools will be supported in 2008-09 through the National Challenge or City Challenge programmes.

Although the Fresh Start initiative, which began in 1999, was generally successful in raising attainment, it has now been superseded by programmes such as Academies, the National Challenge, and City Challenge all of which aim to generate sustained secondary transformation. Primary Schools are still eligible for Fresh Start.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what action the Government have taken to improve standards in schools in deprived areas. [239448]

**Jim Knight:** The Government's school standards and school improvement strategies aim to raise standards in all schools, and thanks to a range of measures including increased investment, excellent leadership and teaching; renewed primary and secondary teaching frameworks; better use of pupil data; and the targets schools and local authorities have set for their pupils, school standards have risen substantially since 1997. These have also helped to narrow attainment gaps for disadvantaged pupils, whether or not in deprived areas.

The school funding system allows for a significant additional premium per disadvantaged pupil. Local authorities and schools with high proportions of disadvantaged children therefore receive additional funds to help them improve standards. In addition, the Government support the City Challenge programme which aims to break the link between deprivation and educational under-achievement in London, Greater Manchester and the Black Country.

Supported by £160 million up to 2011, City Challenge aims to bring about a sharp improvement in under performing schools—particularly focusing on English and maths; an increase in the number of outstanding schools; and a narrowing of the attainment gap between disadvantaged children and their peers. City Challenge is an expansion of the successful London Challenge programme, which Ofsted reported had a dramatic impact on London schools: reducing the number of secondary schools in special measures, maintaining GCSE results ahead of the national average and narrowing the attainment gap between disadvantaged children and their peers more quickly than nationally.

The National Challenge programme shares the City Challenge objective to break the link between disadvantage and low attainment. The National Challenge seeks to ensure there are no schools where fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieve five good GCSEs including English and mathematics by 2011. Over the next three years, we are investing £400 million in the National Challenge, which builds on the successful London Challenge approach in providing bespoke support for schools facing some of the most significant challenges across the country. As in City Challenge areas, National Challenge schools serve areas where pupils are more likely than average to come from deprived backgrounds—as shown by eligibility for free school meals. None the less, since there are many schools in similarly adverse socio-economic conditions where more than 30 per cent. of students gain five good GCSEs including English and mathematics, deprivation should not be seen as an excuse for low achievement.

### Schools: Transport

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children *(a)* walked, *(b)* cycled and *(c)* were driven to school in each of the last five years according to school census returns. [235584]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The Department does not hold complete data relating to mode of travel to school. Provision of this information is only compulsory for those schools with an approved Travel Plan. The scope of collection includes: maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, city technology colleges, academies and special schools.

In the spring 2007 school census, mode of travel data was supplied for almost 70 per cent. of pupils. In the spring 2008 school census, mode of travel data was supplied for just over 85 per cent. of pupils. The available information relating to maintained primary, state-funded secondary and all special schools is provided in a table which has been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the guidance document Home to school travel for pupils requiring special arrangements (reference: LEA/0261/2004) and the 2007

report by his Department's predecessor. Procurement of home to school transport services for children with Special Educational Needs in London, are still in use. [239444]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** "Home to School Travel for pupils requiring special arrangements" (ref: LEA/0261/2004) is still in use and can be downloaded from www.teachernet.gov.uk search by its reference or title. Hard copies can be obtained from the Department's publications centre by phoning 0845 602 2260 or email *dfes@prolog.uk.com*.

The report "Procurement of home to school transport services for children with Special Educational Needs in London" is in use, only available from www.teachernet.gov.uk, and can be found by searching using the report's title.

### Schools: Vetting

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many notifications his Department and its predecessor sent to each of the schools inspectorates under the automatic transfer arrangements in relation to *(a)* independent and *(b)* maintained schools in each year since April 2005; and how many notifications his Department and its predecessor received from independent and grant maintained schools in each such year. [238396]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Secondary Education: Admissions

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many unfilled secondary school places there were in (a) Hemel Hempstead and (b) Hertfordshire on the latest date for which figures are available. [237126]

**Jim Knight:** The Department collects information annually from each local authority on the number of surplus places which exist within maintained schools, via the Surplus Places Survey. The most recent data available relate to the position as at January 2008.

At January 2008 the number of unfilled places in maintained secondary schools within Hemel Hempstead was 836 (11 per cent.), and the number of unfilled school places in maintained secondary schools within Hertfordshire was 8,644 (10 per cent.).

### Secondary Education: Drugs

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what programmes are in place to educate secondary school pupils on the dangers of illegal drugs. [239046]

**Jim Knight:** All maintained secondary schools must teach about the effects of drugs and drugs misuse as part of the National Curriculum Science Order. We expect schools to deliver drug education through the non-statutory personal well-being programme of study which provides a context for schools to fulfil their legal responsibilities to promote the well-being of pupils and provide a programme of drugs education.

We have issued comprehensive guidance to schools to help them deliver more effective drugs education. The guidance makes it clear that teachers should be the main providers of drug education and maintain responsibility for the overall drug education programme in their schools. It is for schools and local authorities to decide whether to use particular resources or programmes of study to support the overall drug education programme in their schools.

### Sixth Form Education

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to implement the changes to the presumption in favour of school sixth forms set out in paragraph 4.21 of the Raising Expectations White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [239964]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Sixth Form Education: Disadvantaged

**Mr. Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will estimate the number of 16 to 17-year-olds entitled to free school meals who attend a sixth-form college; and if he will make a statement. [236317]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The power of local authorities to provide free meals is for registered pupils at a school, this is covered by Section 512 of the Education Act 1996. If a pupil is eligible for free school meals then the local authority or school governors have a duty to provide the lunch free of charge. Every registered pupil at a school is entitled to free school meals if they or their parents qualify under Section 512. This includes sixth formers in a school but does not apply to pupils at a sixth form college, or in further education, as these establishments are not classified as schools. The number of sixth form pupils aged 16 and 17 who are eligible for free school meals is shown in the table.

*State funded secondary schools and special schools[1,2]*
*Number of 16 and 17-year-old sixth form pupils eligible for free school meals[3] as at January 2008: England*

| | Number of pupils[4] | Number of pupils eligible for free school meals | Percentage of the school population[5] |
|---|---|---|---|
| State funded secondary schools[1] | 366,680 | 17,860 | 4.95 |
| Special schools[2] | 7,420 | 2,020 | 27.30 |

[1] Includes CTCs and academies.
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
[3] Pupils aged 16 and 17 following national curriculum year 12, 13 and 14, includes dual registrations.
[4] Percentage of pupils aged 16 and 17 in national curriculum years 12, 13 and 14 eligible for free school meals. Includes dual registrations.
Source:
School Census.

### Social Services

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what rules apply to the out-of-county placement of vulnerable *(a)* adults and

(b) children; what procedures are employed to monitor such placements; and how the costs of such placements are shared. [238299]

**Beverley Hughes:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Social Services: Complaints

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints were made against children's social services departments in each London borough in the latest period for which figures are available. [236469]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Special Educational Needs

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained special schools there were in each year since 1997. [226439]

**Jim Knight:** The numbers of maintained special schools are shown in table A1 of the following statistical first release: 'Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England':

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000766/NationalTablesWeb.xls.

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in developing a project to test ways of improving the system of providing accessible versions of text books for blind and partially sighted pupils. [227190]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** Good progress has been made on the accessible resources pilot project. The invitation to tender was advertised and circulated to interested organisations on 22 September. The deadline for bids is 11 November and interviews will take place in December, with the project commencing in early 2009.

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what sign language qualifications a communication support worker working with deaf children is expected to hold; and what measures are in place to ensure all communication support workers hold such a qualification. [227192]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** We do not specify minimum competence in signing for teaching assistants or communication support workers but we would expect them to assist teachers with mandatory qualifications during lesson times by providing educational support for deaf and hearing impaired children.

All schools receive a school development grant which they are able to use to support improvements in any aspect of teaching and learning and it is for individual teachers and their schools to determine their own particular training and development needs. Local authorities may also retain a proportion of this grant, under conditions, to provide specific training and development of Special Educational Needs.

We are committed to providing a suitable education for all children. In the Children's Plan we announced new resources to increase the number of teachers taking mandatory qualifications for teaching deaf and hearing impaired children, with some free places available from September 2009.

### Specialised Diplomas

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of 14 year-olds he expects will be enrolled on a diploma course in 2013; and if he will make a statement. [238346]

**Jim Knight:** It is too early for us to know how many or what proportion of 14 year olds will be enrolled on a Diploma course in 2013. The national entitlement will come into effect from September 2013, which will ensure that the right provision, including Diplomas, will be in place for all young people across England.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the estimated cost is of providing diploma courses for (a) 2008-09, (b) 2009-10, (c) 2010-11 and (d) 2011-12. [239866]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many (a) male and (b) female pupils of each ethnicity (i) receiving and (ii) not receiving free school meals are studying one or more diploma courses. [239871]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Specialised Diplomas: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils have been entered for diploma qualifications in Suffolk. [240004]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Specialist Schools: Disadvantaged

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children attending (a) language, (b) sports, (c) technology and (d) arts specialist schools are eligible for free school meals. [237153]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** The requested information is given in the following table.

*School meal arrangements[1], position as at January 2008 - England*

| | *Number of schools* | *Number of pupils (used for FSM calculation)* | *Number of pupils taking free school meals[2]* | *Percentage of pupils taking free school meals* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Language Schools | 220 | 250,720 | 17,670 | 7.0 | 23,490 | 9.4 |
| Schools with Languages Combined with another Specialism | 20 | 19,460 | 2,290 | 11.8 | 2,880 | 14.8 |
| Schools with Languages as High Performing Option | 111 | 126,810 | 6,530 | 5.2 | 8,270 | 6.5 |
| Total | 351 | 396,990 | 26,490 | 6.7 | 34,650 | 8.7 |
| Sports Schools | 395 | 208,460 | 21,790 | 10.5 | 28,980 | 13.9 |
| Schools with Sports combined with another subject | 25 | 25,760 | 2,320 | 9.0 | 2,970 | 11.5 |
| Schools with Sports as High Performing Option | 28 | 33,070 | 2,410 | 7.3 | 3,360 | 10.2 |
| Total | 448 | 267,300 | 26,530 | 9.9 | 35,310 | 13.2 |
| Technology Schools | 556 | 599,330 | 51,640 | 8.6 | 68,760 | 11.5 |
| Schools with Technology combined with another subject | 19 | 21,990 | 1,870 | 8.5 | 2,430 | 11.1 |
| Schools with Technology as High Performing Option | 3 | 5,280 | 340 | 6.4 | 440 | 8.2 |
| Total | 578 | 626,600 | 53,850 | 8.6 | 71,620 | 11.4 |
| Arts Specialist Schools | 487 | 499,580 | 53,480 | 10.7 | 70,820 | 14.2 |
| Schools with Arts Specialist combined with another subject | 45 | 47,130 | 5,200 | 11.0 | 7,230 | 15.3 |
| Schools with Arts Specialist as High Performing Option | 31 | 37,810 | 3,360 | 8.9 | 4,630 | 12.2 |
| Total | 563 | 584,510 | 62,040 | 10.6 | 82,670 | 14.1 |

[1] Includes pupils with sole and dual registration of all ages.
[2] Number of pupils who took a free school meal on the day of the census in January.
*Note:*
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
School Census

### Specialist Schools: Finance

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recurrent additional capital funding specialist schools receive to support their specialism; and if he will make a statement. [236540]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Specialist Schools: Languages

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 900W, on specialist schools: languages, which specialist schools have chosen languages as one of their specialisms. [238854]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Specialist Schools: Science

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 900W, on specialist schools: science, which specialist schools have chosen science as one of their specialisms. [238855]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Students: Barnet

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will investigate the time taken to process applications for student support in the London Borough of Barnet; and if he will make a statement. [226241]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for

Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about applications made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Hendon with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

### Sure Start Programme: Stoke on Trent

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start children's centres have opened in Stoke-on-Trent since the scheme's inception; and if he will make a statement. [239491]

**Beverley Hughes:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Teachers

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many qualified (a) teachers and (b) male teachers under the age of 60 years are not currently teaching. [239868]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Teachers: Males

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools were male in each year since 1997. [240018]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Teachers: Manpower

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers worked in maintained schools in Crosby constituency in 1997; and how many do so in 2008. [236673]

**Jim Knight:** The following table provides the number of full-time equivalent teachers employed in local authority maintained schools in England, January 1997 and 2008.

*Full-time equivalent teachers in local authority maintained schools, 1997 and 2008, Crosby constituency and England*

| As at January | Crosby constituency[1] | England[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 620 | 399,180 |
| 2008 | 650 | 434,870 |

[1] Source: School Census.
[2] Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618 g.
*Notes*
1. Includes qualified and unqualified teachers.
2. Excludes academies and city technology colleges.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

### Teachers: Pay

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average starting salary *(a)* inside and *(b)* outside London was for newly qualified teachers in each of the last 10 years. [235110]

**Jim Knight:** The following table provides the average salary of newly qualified entrants to full-time teaching in local authority maintained schools in London, outside London and England, in each March 1998 to 2007.

*Average salary of newly qualified entrants[1] to full-time teaching in local authority maintained schools, Years 1998 to 2007[2], Coverage: London, outside London and England*

£

| | London | Outside London | England |
|---|---|---|---|
| *March* | | | |
| 1998 | 16,670 | 14,720 | 15,060 |
| 1999 | 17,350 | 15,280 | 15,660 |
| 2000 | 17,910 | 15,840 | 16,210 |
| 2001 | 18,570 | 16,420 | 16,760 |
| 2002 | 20,590 | 17,470 | 17,940 |
| 2003 | 21,650 | 18,220 | 18,730 |
| 2004 | 22,080 | 18,740 | 19,280 |
| 2005 | 22,650 | 19,190 | 19,790 |
| 2006[2] | 23,510 | 19,750 | 20,430 |
| 2007[2] | 24,030 | 20,190 | 20,880 |

[1] Includes all new entrants to maintained schools in England, qualifying in England or Wales in the calendar year prior to the date shown, including SCITT and OU but excluding those qualifying through employment based routes.
[2] Provisional
*Note:* Figures are rounded to the nearest £10
*Source:* Database of Teacher Records and The General Teaching Council

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average salary of state school teachers in Crosby constituency is. [236675]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not available at constituency level.

The average salary of full-time qualified teachers in local authority maintained schools in Sefton local authority was £32,250.

### Teachers: Pensions

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers will have received a payment from the Teachers' Pension Scheme in 2008 by the end of the year. [231125]

**Jim Knight:** Data on numbers of members, including pensioners, are available in the published Teachers' Pension Scheme Resource accounts, which are available in the House of Commons Library (reference HC872).

### Teachers: Recruitment

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new *(a)* female and *(b)* male teachers have entered the teaching profession in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools in 2008 to date. [228008]

**Jim Knight:** The information is not available in the format requested.

Figures for the number of teachers gaining qualified teacher status in calendar year 2005 via undergraduate and postgraduates routes by type of service, phase, age and gender in March 2006 are published in table C1 of the School Workforce Statistical First Release, January 2007 (Revised) at the following web link:-

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/Addition_C_DOU.xls

March 2007 figures will be available at the end of November.

### Teachers: Resignations

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many qualified teachers have left the maintained sector since 1997. [239869]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Teachers: Sick Leave

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many days off sick were taken by teachers on account of stress-related illnesses in each year for which figures are available. [226483]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

Information the number of full-time and part-time teachers taking sickness absence, and the total number of days taken by length of absence is collected by the Department. The information available has been published in table 14 of the School Workforce Statistical First Release, January 2008 at the following web link:-

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/SFR29_2007_FinalTables1-17_Updated_10_Oct.xls

A summary for calendar years 2000 to 2007 has been published in table 13 of the School Workforce Statistical First Release, January 2008 at the same web link.

### Teachers: Vacancies

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many unfilled teaching jobs there have been at *(a)* primary school level and *(b)* secondary school level in (i) Cornwall and (ii) England in each year since 1979. [239012]

**Jim Knight:** The information is not available in the format requested.

The following table provides the number of full-time vacancies in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Cornwall local authority and England, January 1979 to 2008.

*Full-time vacancy[1] numbers in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools: years 1979 to 2008: Coverage: Cornwall local authority and England*

| | Nursery/Primary | | Secondary | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cornwall | England | Cornwall | England |
| *January* | | | | |
| 1979[2] | | | | |
| 1980[2] | | | | 3,310 |
| 1981[2] | | | | 2,060 |
| 1982[2] | | | | 1,720 |
| 1983[2] | | | | 1,840 |
| 1984[2] | | | | 1,830 |
| 1985[2] | | | | 1,900 |
| 1986[2] | | | | 2,400 |
| 1987[2] | | | | 2,510 |
| 1988[2] | | 2,480 | | 1,840 |
| 1989[2] | | 3,120 | | 2,170 |
| 1990[2] | | 3,720 | | 2,780 |
| 1991[2,3] | | 3,250 | | 2,020 |
| 1992[2] | 0 | 1,970 | 3 | 820 |
| 1993[2,3] | 0 | 780 | 0 | 550 |
| 1994[2] | 0 | 1,520 | 6 | 1,250 |
| 1995[2] | 0 | 780 | 1 | 520 |
| 1996[2] | 0 | 860 | 2 | 590 |
| 1997[2] | 6 | 1,990 | 3 | 730 |
| 1998[2] | 6 | 1,390 | 2 | 970 |
| 1999[2] | 6 | 1,370 | 0 | 940 |
| 2000[2] | 8 | 1,420 | 3 | 1,250 |
| 2001[2] | 0 | 2,110 | 0 | 2,590 |
| 2002[2] | 5 | 1,900 | 5 | 2,450 |
| 2003[2] | 1 | 1,110 | 2 | 2,050 |
| 2004[2] | 8 | 780 | 3 | 1,630 |
| 2005[2] | 0 | 740 | 1 | 1,550 |
| 2006[2] | 1 | 730 | 2 | 1,340 |
| 2007[2] | 3 | 660 | 2 | 1,210 |
| 2008[2] | 1 | 870 | 13 | 1,470 |

[1] Advertised vacancies for full-time permanent appointments (or appointments of at least one term's duration). Includes vacancies being filled on a temporary basis of less than one.
[2] Include sixth form colleges.
[3] Includes grant maintained schools. Excludes academies and city technology colleges. England figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618g

### Training and Development Agency for Schools: Official Hospitality

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by the Training and Development Agency on *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* hospitality, *(c)* advertising and *(d)* outside consultancy in 2007-08. [239858]

**Ed Balls:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Training and Development Agency for Schools: Pay

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on *(a)* salaries and *(b)* bonuses for staff of the Training and Development Agency in each year since its establishment. [239854]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Truancy

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils classed as persistent truants were absent from school for more than *(a)* 100 sessions, *(b)* 150 sessions, *(c)* 200 sessions, *(d)* 250 sessions and *(e)* 300 sessions of school in the 2007-08 academic year. [239874]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils have had *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* more than five unauthorised absences in the latest year for which figures are available. [239875]

**Jim Knight:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Truancy: Wiltshire

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many truancies expressed in days there were in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Wiltshire in each of the last three years. [234120]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

### Vetting: Fees and Charges

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether volunteers will have to pay *(a)* the £28 fee to cover the costs incurred by the Independent Safeguarding Authority and *(b)* the £36 fee to cover the costs of the Criminal Records Bureau as administrator of applications for registering with the Independent Safeguarding Authority. [236578]

**Meg Hillier** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

Individuals in paid employment will pay £64 when applying for registration with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). The one-off application fee is composed of two elements—£28 to fund the running of the ISA and £36 to pay for Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) administration and, in most cases an Enhanced Disclosure will be included. Those involved only in unpaid voluntary activity will pay no application fee.

### Vocational Training

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of people enrolled on an entry to employment programme have applied for education maintenance allowance since June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [225087]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about applications made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Yeovil with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people enrolled on an entry to employment programme have had education maintenance allowance payments delayed because of technical problems; and if he will make a statement. [225088]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about applications made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Yeovil with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

*Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 21 November 2008:*

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 225088 that asked:

"How many people enrolled on an entry to employment programme have had education maintenance allowance payments delayed because of technical problems."

From 30th June to 14th November 16,811 learners received EMA through the Entry To Employment programme. It is not possible to identify how many of this group have experienced delays due to technical problems.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authorities allow people enrolled on an entry to employment programme to apply for education maintenance allowance online; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the online application process; and if he will make a statement. [225089]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about applications made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Yeovil with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

### Young Offenders: Essex

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many first time entrants aged between 10 and 17 years to the criminal justice system there were in *(a)* Chelmsford local authority area and *(b)* Essex County Council area in each of the last five years. [238563]

**Beverley Hughes:** Data on the number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system are provided at the local authority level rather than at district or unitary authority level. The number of first time entrants aged 10 to 17 in Essex local authority over the last five years is outlined as follows:

| *Financial year* | *Number* | *Rate per 100,000 10 to 17-year-olds*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 1,831 | 1,400 |
| 2001-02 | 1,958 | 1,470 |
| 2002-03 | 1,726 | 1,270 |
| 2003-04 | 1,836 | 1,340 |
| 2004-05 | 2,433 | 1,760 |
| 2005-06 | 2,718 | 1,960 |
| 2006-07 | 2,549 | 1,840 |
| 2007-08 | 2,844 | 2,040 |

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10.

The number and rate of first time entrants aged 10 to 17 to the criminal justice system is based on data recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC).

### Youth Services: Finance

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has allocated for the training of youth workers and social service practitioners to enable the early identification of young people at risk in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [236943]

**Beverley Hughes:** It has not proved possible to respond in the time available before Prorogation.

## TREASURY

### Bank Services

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors he took into consideration when deciding to *(a)* include deposits at Bradford and Bingley (Isle of Man) in his arrangements to transfer Bradford and Bingley deposits to Banco Santander and *(b)* exclude Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man) deposits from his arrangements to transfer Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander deposits to ING Direct; and if he will make a statement. [233555]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* Bradford and Bingley's Isle of Man operation was a subsidiary of Bradford and Bingley plc. When the Government took Bradford and Bingley into temporary public ownership, it automatically acquired the shares in Bradford and Bingley's Isle of Man subsidiary. These were subsequently transferred to Abbey National plc.

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Isle of Man is a subsidiary of the Icelandic parent company, not of the UK sister company. The Treasury's powers to transfer shares in and property of a bank only applies to a UK authorised deposit taker and (to a much more limited extent) its subsidiaries. The powers do not permit the Treasury to transfer shares in or property of the subsidiary of a foreign owned bank.

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what unilateral actions the UK can take to discourage the use of offshore financial centres by *(a)* persons domiciled in the UK for tax purposes and *(b)* UK-registered companies. [237712]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government are committed to tackling offshore tax evasion by UK tax residents, whether individuals or companies. The key objective is to ensure effective exchange of information between tax authorities.

Most of the actions taken by the Government to improve information exchange are part of multilateral initiatives, such as the OECD Harmful Tax Practices initiative and the EU savings directive.

However, the UK is also acting unilaterally. Following the success of its 2007 Offshore Disclosure Arrangements, which led to the collection of £400 million in unpaid tax, HM Revenue and Customs is continuing discussions with the banking industry with the aim of obtaining further offshore account information on UK residents.

In addition, the UK operates a tax avoidance disclosure regime, under which tax avoidance schemes must be disclosed to HM Revenue and Customs in accordance with strict rules that enable users of schemes to be identified.

### Bank Services: Charities

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will include deposits by charities in Icelandic banks in any arrangements designed to secure UK deposits in such banks. [227941]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* The Government have put in place arrangements to ensure that all FSCS-eligible depositors in the Icelandic banks of Landsbanki, Heritable and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander will receive their money in full. If a charity is eligible to claim compensation from the financial services compensation scheme, it will be entitled to benefit from these arrangements.

### Bank Services: Iceland

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the United Kingdom's support for an International Monetary Fund loan to Iceland is conditional on an agreement with the Icelandic authorities on deposits held in Icelandic banks by UK citizens and corporations. [236121]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* On 19 November the IMF announced the approval of a $2.1 billion two-year loan for Iceland to support an economic recovery programme to help Iceland restore confidence in its banking system and stabilise its currency. This includes Iceland's commitment to the principle of fair, equal and non-discriminatory treatment of creditors and Iceland's recognition of its obligations to depositors under its Deposit Guarantee Scheme.

### Bank Services: Low Incomes

**John Battle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will require lenders to seek financial assistance from the Government or the Bank of England to provide a plan and timescale for how they intend to meet the needs of low income customers; if he will put in place a transparent reporting mechanism to measure progress against such plans; and if he will make a statement. [233109]

**Ian Pearson:** On 8 October this year the Government announced a comprehensive package of measures to support stability of the financial system, protect ordinary savers, depositors, businesses and borrowers, and to safeguard the interests of the taxpayer.

As part of its investment, the Government have agreed with the banks supported by the recapitalisation scheme a range of commitments. Details are available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_105_08.htm

These include agreements to make available affordable products during this period of global turbulence in financial markets, help individuals struggling with their mortgage payments stay in their homes and support the expansion of financial capability initiatives.

As announced in the pre-Budget report, the Government have committed a total of £80 million to a Growth Fund to expand the capacity of third sector lenders to provide affordable credit to financially excluded customers. Since July 2006, over 110,000 loans totalling over £50 million, 85 per cent. of which were to new customers, have been made to financially excluded customers through Credit Unions and Community Development Finance Institutions funded by the Growth Fund.

In addition, in December 2007, the major retail banks made a commitment to support third sector affordable credit, including actions to develop new provision in the 25 high priority areas identified by the Financial Inclusion

Taskforce. The Government now seek to build on this commitment from the banks and ensure that clear plans are in place in each of the high priority areas.

Some households on low incomes will also be able to access affordable credit through the Social Fund. The Social Fund provides a safety net of grants and loans for the most vulnerable in times of crisis, supporting those without a stock of savings and assets to fall back on.

**Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008**

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008; and what recent representations he has received on the Act. [229503]

**Ian Pearson:** As the Chancellor explained to the House on 14 October2008, *Official Report*, column 694, the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008 has provided the Government with necessary powers to maintain financial stability and to protect consumers and taxpayers during exceptional times in financial markets.

In preparing the Banking Bill as a permanent replacement to the powers in the Act that lapse in February 2009 the Government have sought to refine and develop these powers. This has involved extensive consultation with stakeholders.

**Banks**

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to protect deposits made in international banks by British citizens; and if he will make it his policy that such proposals be included in arrangements for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. [239416]

**Ian Pearson:** I refer the hon. Member to the paragraph 3.50-3.51 of the 2008 pre-Budget report.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government have taken in light of the inclusion of *(a)* Bank Mellat (UK), *(b)* Bank Saderat plc and *(c)* Bank Tajerat (London) in the letter of 1 August 2008 (SI2008/520) from the Permanent Representatives of France, the United Kingdom and the United States to the President of the UN Security Council. [239499]

**Ian Pearson:** The letter of 1 August 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of France, the United Kingdom and the United States to the President of the UN Security Council provides a list of banks domiciled in Iran and their branches and subsidiaries abroad in order to facilitate the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1803. UNSCR 1803 calls upon all states "to exercise vigilance over the activities of financial institutions in their territories with all banks domiciled in Iran, in particular with Bank Melli and Bank Saderat, and their branches and subsidiaries abroad, in order to avoid such financial support contributing to proliferation sensitive nuclear activities".

The Government have taken comprehensive steps to implement these vigilance requirements in the UK, in relation to both UK subsidiaries of Iranian banks and transactions with any other Iranian bank. The UK made a significant contribution to the development of Council Regulation (EC) 1110/2008 which implements the vigilance requirements of UNSCR 1803 throughout the EU. The regulation requires enhanced vigilance over activity with Iranian banks, additional information in payment instructions, enhanced record-keeping, and establishes a new requirement on financial institutions to report transactions they suspect are related to proliferation finance. It also requires reporting of all transfers of funds by Bank Saderat plc.

The UK has also worked with international partners to secure common standards of implementation of the vigilance requirements of UNSCR 1803 for all members of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), including those outside the EU.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Bank of England on the re-introduction of capital controls requiring commercial banks to increase deposits held with the Bank of England. [239516]

**Ian Pearson:** Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

**Banks: Finance**

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether banks participating in the Government's recapitalisation scheme will be required not to issue dividends in the next 12 months. [230103]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government have, since the scheme was announced in October, indicated their willingness to consider early repayment of the preference shares that it holds at a price equal to 101 per cent. of par during the first six months, after the closing of the placing and open offer, and, thereafter, at a price to be negotiated based on prevailing market conditions at the time. Such repayment would be subject to FSA approval. As soon as the preference shares are repaid, payment of cash dividends would be permitted.

The banks have made clear in their public statements their intention to repay the Treasury's preference shares as soon as it is prudent to do so.

**Banks: Iceland**

**Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the International Monetary Fund and associated international loans to the government of Iceland recently negotiated include any conditions relating to the Icelandic government's guarantees to depositors in Icelandic banks in the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. [239936]

**Ian Pearson:** On 19 November the IMF announced the approval of a $2.1 billion two-year loan for Iceland to support an economic recovery programme to help Iceland restore confidence in its banking system and stabilize its currency. This includes Iceland's commitment to the principle of fair, equal and non-discriminatory

treatment of creditors and Iceland's recognition of its obligations to depositors under its Deposit Guarantee Scheme.

### Bradford and Bingley

**Anne Main:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fees were paid to *(a)* Morgan Stanley and *(b)* other third parties in relation to the sale of Bradford and Bingley's UK and Isle of Man retail deposit and branch network. [231785]

**Ian Pearson:** Consultancy and advisory costs are included in HM Treasury's annual Resource Accounts.

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for how long he plans to borrow the funds required to finance the transfer of Bradford and Bingley deposits to Abbey Santander; and what interest rate he expects will apply to such borrowing. [239601]

**Ian Pearson:** The funds required to finance the loan to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) that enabled the transfer of Bradford and Bingley deposits to Abbey Santander are included in the revised Central Government Net Cash Requirement (CGNCR) of £152.9 billion announced in the pre-Budget Report. Following standard practices the Government do not identify the financing of each individual component of the CGNCR. The financing plans for the revised CGNCR are shown in Table B21 of the pre-Budget Report.

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the monetary value of claims upon the Financial Services Compensation Scheme which will arise from the transfer of Bradford and Bingley deposits to Abbey Santander. [239602]

**Ian Pearson:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for St. Albans (Anne Main) on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 935W.

### Building Societies: Finance

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to release additional funds to the building society sector. [239535]

**Ian Pearson:** It has not proved possible to answer the hon. Member's question, of which Treasury Ministers first received notice on 24 November 2008, before Parliament is prorogued later today.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to assist smaller building societies with set-up costs in order to allow them to access the special loan liquidity scheme. [239537]

**Ian Pearson:** The main set-up costs that banks and building societies will incur in accessing the Government's liquidity support schemes relate to legal advice and administrative matters. The significance of these costs as a proportion of the available assistance will depend on the circumstances of each institution.

The Government are taking steps in the Banking Bill to ensure that building societies have the same access to liquidity support as banks, however it is not aware of any instances where the set-up costs for building societies have been so prohibitive as to prevent a society from seeking to access assistance under the various liquidity schemes.

### Building Societies: Local Authorities

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to encourage local authorities to divert investment into the building society sector. [239536]

**Ian Pearson:** Local authorities should continue to follow the guidance on investments issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government, available at

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/capital/data/lginvest2.pdf

### Building Societies: Mortgages

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will provide a financial stimulus to the mortgage market, with specific reference to the operations of building societies. [239530]

**Ian Pearson:** In pre-Budget report 2008, the Government announced that they are establishing a Lending Panel to bring together Government, trade bodies, regulators, and industry and consumer groups to monitor lending to businesses and homeowners.

The Government are taking steps in the Banking Bill to ensure that building societies have the same access to the Government's liquidity support schemes as other financial institutions.

### Capital Gains Tax

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the estimated cost to the public purse of the new entrepreneurs relief from capital gains tax is in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [238307]

(2) what his estimates are of the effect of the flat 18 per cent. capital gains tax (CGT) rate on CGT receipts from disposals by *(a)* higher rate taxpayers and *(b)* basic rate taxpayers of (i) business assets and (ii) non-business assets for (A) 2008-09, (B) 2009-10 and (C) 2010-11. [238308]

**Mr. Timms:** No such estimates are available. The latest estimate of the Exchequer yield from the capital gains tax reforms was published in the 2008 Budget Report and is available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud08_chaptera.pdf

(Table A.2, row I).

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the annual £9,200 exempted amount in respect of the payment of capital gains tax in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [238309]

**Mr. Timms:** The estimated cost of the annual exempt amount is published in Table A3.1 of the FSBR and can be found on the HMT website at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud08_chaptera.pdf. Updated figures were published in Table 7 of the Tax Ready Reckoner available from Monday 24 November 2008.

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of *(a)* the cost to the Exchequer of taper relief claimed from capital gains tax on the disposal of (i) business assets and (ii) non-business assets in each year from 1998-99 to 2007-08 and *(b)* the cost to the Exchequer of taper relief from capital gains tax in respect of carried interest claimed by individuals working in the private equity industry in each year from 1998-99 to 2007-08. [238858]

**Mr. Timms:** No such estimate has been made. The latest estimate on the cost of taper relief is published in Table 1.5 on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.pdf

An updated figure was published in Table 7 of the Tax Ready Reckoner available from Monday 24 November 2008.

Figures for earlier years can be found on the HMT website in the PBR "supplementary documents" (or "other documents published today") section for the relevant year.

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many individuals used all or part of their annual £9,200 exemption to capital gains tax in 2007-08; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of those who paid income tax at the higher rate; [238862]

(2) if he will estimate the level, based on estimated receipts for 2007-08, at which a combined personal tax allowance covering income and capital gains could be financed by abolition of *(a)* the separate annual capital gains tax exemption of £9,200 and *(b)* that exemption together with separate entrepreneurs' relief from capital gains tax. [239496]

**Mr. Timms:** Figures on the number of individuals using all or part of their annual exempt amount and therefore the requested breakdowns are unavailable.

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what factors he took into account when deciding to set capital gains tax at a flat rate of 18 per cent; and what consideration he gave to setting capital gains tax at *(a)* the basic rate of income tax and *(b)* the individual's marginal rate of income tax; [239497]

(2) what the reasons are for *(a)* maintaining the existence of a separate annual allowance for exemption to capital gains tax (CGT) and *(b)* the difference between the level of the CGT exemption and the annual personal allowance for income tax. [239502]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government take a range of factors into consideration when formulating tax policy, and keep all aspects of policy under review.

### Carbon Monoxide: Alarms

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will exempt domestic carbon monoxide alarms from value added taxation. [239272]

**Mr. Timms:** The scope of exemptions from VAT is limited by European agreements under which it is not possible to exempt domestic carbon monoxide alarms from VAT. Similarly, under VAT agreements with our European partners signed by successive Governments, we can retain our existing VAT zero rates (which do not include carbon monoxide alarms) but may not extend them or introduce new ones.

### Child Benefit

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many nationals of each A8 country were receiving child benefit for a child or children living outside the UK at the end of September 2008; and in respect of how many such children child benefit was being paid on that date. [237404]

**Mr. Timms:** Around 7.5 million families are currently claiming child benefit for around 13 million children. Out of that total, at the end of September 2008, there were 26,180 child benefit awards to A8 nationals recorded as receiving child benefit for 42,759 children living in another EEA member state, which equates to around one-third of 1 per cent. of all child benefit awards. The UK makes these awards to comply with its obligations under EC social security co-ordinating regulations. The estimated breakdown by nationality is as follows:

| *Country* | *Number of awards at 30 September 2008* | *Number of children included in awards* |
|---|---|---|
| Czech Republic | 159 | 262 |
| Estonia | 14 | 25 |
| Hungary | 56 | 91 |
| Latvia | 249 | 335 |
| Lithuania | 692 | 1,033 |
| Poland | 23,620 | 38,669 |
| Slovakia | 1,388 | 2,341 |
| Slovenia | 2 | 3 |
| Total | 26,180 | 42,759 |

### Child Tax Credits: EC Nationals

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many nationals of each A8 country who have worked in the UK and have now left the country are in receipt of *(a)* child benefit and *(b)* tax credits. [237340]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is not available. Any person, regardless of nationality, who has left the UK permanently is not entitled to child benefit or tax credits, with the exception of those persons who continue to be in receipt of a UK contributory benefit. Such exceptions apply to UK and other EEA nationals leaving the UK for residence in another member state.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the expenditure his Department and its agencies plan to incur in relation to Christmas entertaining. [239650]

**Angela Eagle:** There are no plans for public funds to be used for Christmas entertaining by the Treasury or any of its agencies.

### Coastal Areas: Departmental Coordination

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to improve its arrangements for co-ordination with other Government Departments of policy affecting coastal towns in the last two years. [238651]

**Angela Eagle:** The Department for Communities and Local Government leads on policy affecting coastal towns. In February 2008 a cross-departmental working group on coastal towns was set up. This working group provides a forum for improving cross-government understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing coastal towns, including the impact of existing policy approaches and mechanisms in improving regeneration and economic development outcomes.

There is also a regional development agency (RDA) led Coastal Towns Network, involving central and local government, national and coastal town networks and RDAs.

### Credit

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken since 1997 to increase access to credit for *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses. [234884]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 11 November 2008]:* The Government have committed a total of £80 million to a Growth Fund to expand the capacity of third sector lenders to provide affordable credit to financially excluded customers. Since July 2006, almost 110,000 loans totalling £50 million, 85 per cent. of which were to new customers, have been made to financially excluded customers through credit unions and community development finance institutions funded by the Growth Fund.

Since 1997, the Small Firms Loan Guarantee (SFLG) scheme, the Government's principal debt finance instrument, has enabled around 40,000 firms to borrow around £2.5 billion. The scheme has helped firms that would not normally be able to access the debt finance required to start and grow their business.

Lenders have a duty to lend responsibly, and the Government expect all lenders to meet the requirements of statutory regulation. The Chancellor announced at pre-Budget report 2008 that the Government are establishing a Lending Panel, bringing together Government, regulators, lenders, trade bodies and consumer groups to monitor lending to both households and businesses. The new Panel will encourage and drive up best practice in lending decisions and treatment of borrowers.

### Credit Reference Agencies

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to regulate credit rating agencies. [238269]

**Ian Pearson:** It has been recognised internationally that greater oversight to ensure implementation of the International Organisation of Securities Commissions Code of Conduct for credit rating agencies is necessary. To meet that objective within the EU, it has been agreed that there should be enhancements to the EU's current registration regime for credit rating agencies under the capital requirements directive. The European Commission published a proposal for a new regulation on 12 November, which is now under consideration in the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament for adoption next year.

### Credit: Low Incomes

***John Battle:*** *To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer* what steps his Department is taking to ensure that low income communities have access to credit; and if he will make a statement. [238802]

**Ian Pearson:** As announced in the pre-Budget report, the Government have committed a total of £80 million to a Growth Fund to expand the capacity of third sector lenders to provide affordable credit to financially excluded customers. Since July 2006, over 110,000 loans totalling over £50 million, 85 per cent. of which were to new customers, have been made to financially excluded customers through credit unions and community development finance institutions funded by the Growth Fund.

In addition, in December 2007, the major retail banks made a commitment to support third sector affordable credit, including actions to develop new provision in the 25 high priority areas identified by the Financial Inclusion Taskforce. The Government now seek to build on this commitment from the banks and ensure that clear plans are in place in each of the high priority areas.

Some households on low incomes will also be able to access affordable credit through the Social Fund. The Social Fund provides a safety net of grants and loans for the most vulnerable in times of crisis, supporting those without a stock of savings and assets to fall back on.

Lenders have a duty to lend responsibly, and the Government expect all lenders to meet the requirements of statutory regulation. The Chancellor announced at pre-Budget report 2008 that the Government are establishing a Lending Panel, bringing together Government, regulators, lenders, trade bodies and consumer groups to monitor lending to both households and businesses. The new panel will encourage and drive up best practice in lending decisions and treatment of borrowers.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; what the target rates set for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [239030]

**Angela Eagle:** Data for 2002/2003/2004/2005/2006-07 can be found on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp.

Reliable data before 2002 are not available from HMT electronic systems. There are no set target rates for HMT.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237426]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury does not subsidise food and drink supplied in the 1 Horse Guards road building. The Debt Management Office provides subsidised tea, coffee and milk to its staff.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on external consultancy in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [239063]

**Angela Eagle:** Details of the Department's spending on external consultancy since 2001-02 is shown in Table A3 on page 111 of the 2007-08 Annual Report (CM 7408) available from:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/deptreport_index.htm

Information on spending prior to 2001-02 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Early Retirement

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees in his Department took early retirement in each of the last five financial years; and at what total cost. [238972]

**Angela Eagle:** Details of the number of Treasury employees who took early retirement or early severance together with the total cost in each of the last five financial years is shown in the following table.

| | *2007-08* | *2006-07* | *2005-06* | *2004-05* | *2003-04* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Employees (number) | 25 | 10 | 14 | 25 | 20 |
| Amount (£) | 2,079 | 1,140 | 973 | 2,178 | 2,926 |

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(c)* the Valuation Office Agency and (d) other agencies have spent on (i) flat-screen televisions, (ii) DVD players and (iii) stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237507]

**Angela Eagle:** Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) spent £582 in 2006-07, and £681 in 2007-08, on flat-screen televisions, and £25,227 in 2007-08 on DVD and television combination products.

The Valuation Office Agency spent £16,740 on flat screen televisions and £9,652 on stereo equipment in 2005-06, £6,838 on flat-screen televisions in 2006-07, and £2,056 on flat-screen televisions and £178 on DVD players in 2007-08.

The Debt Management Office spent £8,715 in 2006-07, and £3,335 in 2007-08, on flat-screen televisions. It did not have any such spending in 2005-06.

OGC.buyingsolutions, an agency of the Office of Government Commerce, spent £3,133 on flat screen televisions in 2005-06. It did not have any such spending in 2006-07 or 2007-08.

Information in relation to the Treasury in the last three years, and in relation to HMRC for 2005-06, is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Gifts

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received in each case. [239635]

**Angela Eagle:** The Cabinet Office publishes a list of gifts received by Ministers of over £140 in value that is available from

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers.aspx.

The Treasury's internal guidance to staff on receipt of gifts states that they should normally be refused or returned where staff have direct involvement in decisions affecting the giver or where they are worth more than about £25.

### Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much surplus land *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies own; and what the (i) area and (ii) estimated monetary value of each site is. [236426]

**Angela Eagle:** None.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for each of the sites owned by his Department and registered on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land; what construction projects are planned for each site; and when he expects each site to be returned to use. [236436]

**Angela Eagle:** The Chancellor does not have any sites registered on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a list of all staffing units created in his Department in the last 12 months, setting out the *(a)* functions and *(b)* staff complement of each. [208672]

**Angela Eagle:** As at the 30 June 2008 no new staffing units were created in the previous 12 months.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants have been employed by each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [239033]

**Angela Eagle:** HM Treasury does not have any non-departmental public bodies.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on *(a)* publicity and *(b)* advertising in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238940]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury spent £381,000 in 2007-08 on advertising. For prior years spending I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 116W to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban). The majority of the Treasury's spending on advertising and publicity is for the purposes of recruitment, except where indicated in the previous answer referred to.

### Departmental Mass Media

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last three years; and what the total cost was of each contract over that period. [231329]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury Group, compromising the departmental Treasury, Office of Government Commerce and Debt Management Office, total spend on media monitoring services in 2005-06: £380,807; 2006-07: £480,006; 2007-08: £483,288, and included contracts with the Central Office of Information, Press Association, EDS and Lexis Nexis.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and at what cost in each year; [239090]

(2) how many press officers were employed in his Department in each year since 1997-98; at what cost in each year; and if he will make a statement. [239124]

**Angela Eagle:** Information on the number of special advisers is published annually by the Prime Minister, the most recent information was given on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 98WS. For press officers I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 680W to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt). Information for each year since 1997 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Details of the Treasury's administration costs spending is published in the Resource Accounts and the Departmental Report each year available from:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237498]

**Angela Eagle:** The special advisers' office is currently staffed by four full-time equivalent staff. They provide support of a non-political nature to both the special advisers and the Council of Economic Advisers in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers. Cost details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned. Office costs are shown in the Treasury's Resource Account, HC 539, available from

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department and its agencies spent on entertainment in each of the last five years. [219255]

**Angela Eagle:** The following table provides details of spending on official entertainment in each of the last five years.

£000

| | Treasury | DMO | OGC | OGC bo |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 125 | 2 | 3 | 25 |
| 2006-07 | 170 | 4 | 7 | 31 |
| 2005-06 | 256 | 14 | 9 | 5 |
| 2004-05 | 213 | 13 | 3 | 16 |
| 2003-04 | 116 | 12 | 9 | – |

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

### Departmental Pay

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226432]

**Angela Eagle:** Performance and special bonuses paid to Treasury staff are all non-pensionable. For details of the number of bonuses paid in 2007-08 I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 164W, to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable).

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [239669]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 164W.

HM Treasury staff at all grades are eligible for bonus payments. Bonuses are paid in two circumstances: performance bonuses are those linked to the annual staff appraisal system; special bonuses are those paid to recognise exceptional performance for specific contributions or pieces of work during the year or situations outside the normal expectations of the post.

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press releases have been issued by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238993]

**Angela Eagle:** All Treasury press releases since 1997 can be found on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_notices_index.htm

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [239645]

**Angela Eagle:** Since April 2007 HM Treasury and the Debt Management Office have no procurement exercises where the competitive tendering process has been cancelled and abortive costs incurred.

### Departmental Property

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer from the Minister of State, Home Office, to the hon. Member for Angus (Mr. Weir) of 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 471-72W, on departmental property, if he will place in the Library a copy of the new Treasury reporting procedures; and for what reasons the details of stolen assets are not required to be specified under the procedures. [217441]

**Yvette Cooper:** I am placing in the Library the Treasury's current fraud reporting requirements, which are contained in a letter to Finance Directors (MS FD (08) 11) dated 21 April 2008. These were first introduced on 5 May 2006 in order to simplify the reporting process. Up to that date Departments were asked to provide details of each individual theft or fraud regardless of their value. Departments now provide, for each fraud category, the number of cases and their total value. The changes were introduced in order to reduce the burden on Departments and to speed up the process of producing the Fraud Report.

### Departmental Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239052]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1227W, to the hon. Member for Dundee, East (Stewart Hosie).

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy to his Department in 2007-08. [228161]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury does not record public relations expenditure as a separate category but a check of supplier records for the financial year 2007-08 has revealed no payments to suppliers that are known to be public relations companies. A more comprehensive answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Television

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the television licence fee in his official ministerial residence is paid for from public funds. [236659]

**Angela Eagle:** The licence in respect of the Chancellor's private flat is the personal responsibility of the Chancellor.

### Dorneywood

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge), of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 174W, on Dorneywood, (1) on what dates Treasury Ministers used Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months; [232657]

(2) on how many occasions he has made use of the official Ministerial residence of Dorneywood since he became Chancellor. [232660]

**Angela Eagle:** Ministers and civil servants have used Dorneywood for official events over the past 12 months. Dorneywood is held in trust for use as an official residence, as has been the case under successive Administrations. It is the official residence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and is also available to Ministers and their civil servants for official engagements. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such engagements.

### Economic Situation: Bank Services

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures the Government plan to introduce to protect the *(a)* pensions, *(b)* homes and *(c)* savings of UK citizens with reference to the recent uncertainty in the international banking sector. [224734]

**Ian Pearson:** The Banking Bill, now before Parliament, makes a number of changes to strengthen the framework for depositor protection and to provide new arrangements for resolving the position of banks in distress. The Financial Services Authority is considering further reforms to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

The Government launched the Pensions Protection Fund (PPF) in 2005. The PPF pays compensation to members of defined benefit pension scheme where the sponsoring employer becomes insolvent leaving insufficient assets in the scheme. At the same time, the Government created the Pensions Regulator (replacing the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority) to protect the benefits of members of work-based pension schemes.

As part of the £1 billion housing package announced on 2 September, the Government have already provided support for thousands of vulnerable homeowners facing

repossession to remain in their homes through a new mortgage rescue scheme. The Government have also increased support available under the Support for Mortgage Interest scheme for the next two years to increase help for some of the most vulnerable homeowners on very low, or no, incomes.

Building on the September package, at PBR the Chancellor announced further measures to help vulnerable homeowners to stay in their homes, including an extension to the mortgage rescue scheme to cover second charge mortgages. Support for Mortgage Interest was also strengthened through raising the capital limit to £200,000 and maintaining interest payments at 6 per cent. for the next six months, despite the fall in base rate. The PBR announced the formation of a new Lending Panel, which will encourage the highest standards of industry best practice in supporting borrowers with mortgage repayment problems. The major lenders are also committed not to initiate repossession proceedings within at least three months of the account going into arrears. In addition, Government are investing a further £15 million in debt advice services, to ensure all householders facing financial difficulties have access to free and impartial advice when they need it.

The Government are committed to doing whatever it takes to stabilise the banking system, protect savers and taxpayers and support the wider economy.

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what regulatory changes the Government plan to introduce to ensure better regulation of banks operating in the UK. [224737]

**Ian Pearson:** As the Chancellor made clear in his statement on financial markets to the House of Commons on 6 October 2008, he has asked Adair Turner, the Chairman of the FSA, to make recommendations for regulatory reforms.

On the basis of recent events in financial markets, which have shown the importance to banks of liquidity as well as capital, the FSA is already considering changes to liquidity requirements. In addition, the Government announced a comprehensive financial support package announced on 8 October and the specific details announced on 13 October detail the steps taken to ensure financial stability. This package of measures has subsequently been replicated throughout the world.

### Employment Agencies

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which recruitment agencies *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have used in the last three years; and how much was paid to each of these recruitment agencies in each year. [230941]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1495-96W. Information on payments to recruitment agencies is commercially sensitive and cannot be released.

### Equity Release

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of residents of *(a)* the City of Sunderland, *(b)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(c)* England and Wales who were mis-sold a home equity release product in each year since 1997. [230809]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government do not hold data on the number of equity release products sold each year or data on mis-selling.

### European Union Solidarity Fund

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the net additional funding the United Kingdom will receive from the European Union Solidarity Fund to assist in the aftermath of the floods in 2007. [229764]

**Yvette Cooper:** Based on the exchange rates at the time of application, the net benefit of the €162.4 million in EU Solidarity Fund assistance paid by the EU in relation to the summer 2007 flooding is around £31 million. This takes account of the increase to the EC budget and the impact on the size of the UK abatement. The exact size of the net benefit will depend on exchange rates on 31 December 2008, which are used to calculate the size of the UK's contribution for next year. The Government announced that £31 million would be made available to English local authorities through the Restoration Fund and to the devolved administrations of Wales and Northern Ireland.

### Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 375W, on excise duties: motor vehicles, what the effect of *(a)* each of these factors and *(b)* others has been in each of the last 10 years; and what forecast he has made for the next three years as a result of the vehicle excise duty changes introduced in the 2008 Budget. [231899]

**Mr. Timms:** The Treasury does not hold figures on the effect of factors such as brand, mileage, reliability, comfort or tax on the purchase price of used vehicles. These factors will all affect the purchase price to some degree. However, of equal or greater concern to consumers may be the difference in price between their previous vehicle and new purchase.

Given that there are three times as many transactions involving used cars as new ones each year, it is important that the incentive to purchase lower carbon vehicles extends to the used car market as well as the new car market.

Future forecasts for vehicle excise duty revenues are set out in Annex B of the pre-Budget report.

### Fiscal Policy

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the multiplier effect of a fiscal boost to the economy through *(a)* greater public spending and *(b)* tax reductions. [230111]

**Angela Eagle:** The 2008 pre-Budget report announced a discretionary fiscal action of £20 billion, which will deliver a fiscal stimulus of around 1 per cent. of GDP.

The use of fiscal measures to stimulate demand is discussed in the HM Treasury document. The case for a concerted international fiscal response available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pribud_pbr08_fiscalresponse.htm

and a range of evidence on the size and sign of fiscal multipliers is examined in the discussion paper "Fiscal Stabilisation and EMU" available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/fiscal_stabilisation_and_emu.htm

### Floods: EU Grants and Loans

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the EU has granted to the UK for flood relief since the 2007 floods. [218604]

**Yvette Cooper:** Based on the exchange rates at the time of application, the net benefit of the €162.4 million in EU Solidarity Fund assistance paid by the EU in relation to the summer 2007 flooding is around £31 million. This takes account of the increase to the EC budget and the impact on the size of the UK abatement. The exact size of the net benefit will depend on exchange rates on 31 December 2008, which are used to calculate the size of the UK's contribution for next year. The Government announced that £31 million would be made available to English local authorities through the Restoration Fund and to the devolved Administrations of Wales and Northern Ireland.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the EU funds given to the UK for flood relief as a result of the 2007 summer floods was *(a)* retained by the Treasury and *(b)* allocated to affected local authorities. [218605]

**Yvette Cooper:** Based on the exchange rates at the time of application, the net benefit of the €162.4 million in EU Solidarity Fund assistance paid by the EU in relation to the summer 2007 flooding is around £31 million. This takes account of the increase to the EC budget and the impact on the size of the UK abatement. The exact size of the net benefit will depend on exchange rates on 31 December 2008, which are used to calculate the size of the UK's contribution for next year. The Government announced that £31 million would be made available to English local authorities through the Restoration Fund and to the devolved Administrations of Wales and Northern Ireland.

### Formula One Holdings

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* briefing and *(b)* minutes the then Chancellor of the Exchequer received from (i) 10 Downing Street and (ii) ministerial colleagues in relation to the taxation affairs of Formula One Holdings and its associated companies in November 1997. [220017]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 21 October 2008]*: HM Revenue and Customs (and its predecessor departments, the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise) is bound by a statutory duty of confidentiality to taxpayers.

### Gold: Sales

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much gold has been sold by the Treasury since 1997, expressed in current retail prices; and how much was received in respect of the sales. [228882]

**Ian Pearson:** 395 tonnes of gold were sold from the reserves between July 1999 and March 2002 and re-invested in interest-bearing foreign currency assets. Other central banks have adopted similar policies. The total proceeds were around $3.5 billion, equivalent to around £2.3 billion (using exchange rates at the time of the sales).

### Horses: Animal Breeding

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tax measures are in place relating to the breeding of thoroughbred racehorses; and whether any such measures provide incentives to breed such horses. [239188]

**Mr. Timms:** There are no tax measures in place which cover the breeding of thoroughbred racehorses specifically.

HM Revenue and Customs operate a VAT registration scheme for racehorse owners. Owners who comply with the conditions of the scheme are considered to be in business, and are entitled to register for VAT. This means that they can recover VAT incurred on all expenditure connected with racehorse ownership, although they must also charge VAT on sponsorship income, prize money, appearance money, and the sale of racehorses. For the purposes of the scheme, 'owners' include breeders, dealers, trainers and racing clubs. Full details of the scheme are set out in VAT Public Notice 700/67.

For income and corporation tax purposes, the breeding of thoroughbred racehorses is treated as farming. There are a number of direct tax rules which apply to farming generally, reflecting the particular aspects of farming activity. These rules apply to the breeding of thoroughbred racehorses in the same way as they do to any other farming business.

### Income Tax

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* persons and *(b)* households with assets over (i) £1 million, (ii) £5 million, (iii) £10 million and (iv) £20 million; and if he will estimate the revenue which would accrue to the Exchequer of an annual levy of (A) 1 per cent. of the wealth of those with assets over £1 million, (B) 1.5 per cent. of the wealth of those with assets over £5 million, (C) 2 per cent. of the wealth of those with assets over £10 million and (D) 3 per cent. of the wealth of those with assets over £20 million. [239818]

**Mr. Timms:** An estimate of the number of individuals with wealth above £1 million for the latest year available is provided in footnote 2 to National Statistics Table 13.5

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal_wealth/table13_5.pdf

on the HMRC website.

Equivalent estimates for households and for those with wealth at higher levels are not available.

Estimates of the revenue from an annual levy on wealth are also not available.

### Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

**Mr. Byers:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the level to which the higher threshold for income tax would need to be raised for the same number of people to be paying the higher rate now as in 1997. [229737]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* The point at which tax is paid at 40 per cent., the higher rate threshold, has increased in each year since 1997-98. Changes to taxpayer numbers since 1997 have been the result of changes in employment and income growth. Information on the number of taxpayers for the period 1990-91 to 2008-09 can be found in Table 2.1 "Number of individual income taxpayers" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

### Inheritance Tax

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of raising the individual inheritance tax threshold to £1 million and maintaining the transferability of the allowance between spouses; and if he will make a statement. [234128]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The cost of increasing the inheritance tax nil rate band to £1 million while retaining transferability of the allowance between spouses and civil partners with effect from April 2009 is estimated at £700 million in 2009-10, £1.7 billion in 2010-11 and £1.8 billion in 2011-12.

These estimates are consistent with Budget 2008 forecasts of current receipts.

### Insolvency

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of company insolvencies in which HM Revenue and Customs was a creditor in each of the last four years, broken down by *(a)* compulsory liquidations, *(b)* creditors' voluntary liquidations, *(c)* company voluntary arrangements, *(d)* administrations and *(e)* receiverships; and what projections his Department has made for (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [238837]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* Details of the numbers of company administrations and receiverships in which HM Revenue and Customs was a creditor in England and Wales since 2005-06 are as follows:

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Company administrations | 2,524 | 2,315 | 2,662 | 3,128 |
| Company receiverships | 36 | 27 | 18 | 4 |

[1] Part year to end of October 2008

The other information is not available in the format requested without disproportionate cost.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of individual insolvencies in which HM Revenue and Customs was a creditor in each of the last four years, broken down by *(a)* administration orders, *(b)* individual voluntary arrangements, *(c)* bankruptcies and *(d)* bankruptcies involving trading debts; and what projections his Department has made for (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [238838]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* Details of the total numbers of bankruptcies in which HM Revenue and Customs was a creditor since 2006/07 are as follows:

| | *Bankruptcies* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 12,134 |
| 2007-08 | 20,263 |
| 2008-09[3] | 19,173 |

[1] England, Wales, Scotland
[2] England, Wales and Scotland. Northern Ireland from June 2007
[3] To end October 2008

In the period from 6 April to the end of October 2008, a total of 3,308 individual voluntary arrangements in which HMRC had a claim were recorded. For information on the number of individual voluntary arrangements approved in England and Wales for earlier years, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 250W.

The other information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Interest Rates

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government plans to take to encourage banks and building societies to pass on Bank of England interest rate cuts to their customers. [235372]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* Banks should pass on interest rate cuts to their customers wherever they can. The Chancellor has met with the CEOs of the major UK banks to make this clear.

The Chancellor announced at pre-Budget report 2008 that the Government are establishing a Lending Panel, bringing together Government, regulators, lenders, trade bodies and consumer groups to monitor lending to both households and businesses. The new panel will encourage and drive up best practice in lending decisions and treatment of borrowers.

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria he expects the Bank of England to follow in setting interest rates in circumstances where inflation is below the target figure. [239559]

**Ian Pearson:** The Chancellor wrote to the Governor of the Bank of England on 11 March 2008 to specify the inflation target as 2 per cent. measured by the 12-month increase in the CPI.

The remit of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England sets a symmetric inflation target, in which an undershooting is taken as seriously as an overshooting.

The Bank of England has operational independence in meeting the inflation target set by the Government. It is not the Government's policy to comment on or have input into, individual interest rate decisions taken by the MPC.

### Interest Rates: Borrowing

**Mr. Havard:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to *(a)* raise the limits and *(b)* review the interest rates on prudential borrowing by local authorities. [238054]

**John Healey:** It is for local authorities, under the Local Government Act 2003, to determine and keep under review the amount they can afford to borrow without Government support; and to choose which financial institution to borrow from.

### Interest Rates: Mortgages

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average interest rate payable on mortgages was in each of the last 10 years. [239892]

**Ian Pearson:** The Bank of England publishes the effective interest rate for outstanding UK mortgages for the period from 1999, available at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/index.htm.

This is the weighted average of all interest rates across each type of mortgage of the reporting banks.

The Office for National Statistics publishes the average interest rate for outstanding mortgages with UK building societies, for the period 1984 to 2007, available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/FinStats_AprO7.pdf.

### Interest Rates: Small Businesses

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors HM Revenue and Customs took into account when setting the interest rate it charges to small businesses at 7.5 per cent.; and what consideration was made of the Bank of England base rate. [238550]

**Mr. Timms:** There is no rate of interest for small businesses specifically. Instead there are a number of tax specific rates. All interest rates charged and paid out by HMRC are determined by referenced formulae set out in legislation. This provides that the starting point for these interest rate formulae is the 'reference rate'. This rate is an average of the basic lending rate applied by six of the UK's banks.

HMRC recalculates its interest rates following any rate reduction announced by the MPC in line with the procedures laid down in legislation. As a result of this procedure, from 6 December the rate charged on late payments of the main taxes will reduce to 5.5 per cent.

In July HMRC published "Interest—working towards a harmonised regime" which consulted on harmonising and simplifying the rules for interest on tax paid late and on repayments of tax overpaid. Responses to the July consultation informed the latest consultation on interest that was announced in the pre-Budget report. This seeks views on proposals for greater alignment of the interest rules across the different taxes, including using and tracking the bank of England base rate as a basis for setting HMRC interest rates.

### Kaupthing Bank

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the assets of Kaupthing Bank that were frozen in the UK belonged to Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man). [239285]

**Ian Pearson:** On 8 October, the Treasury made Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008 in order to freeze funds and financial assets relating to Landsbanki. Landsbanki is the only Icelandic bank which has been made the subject of a freezing order.

On the same day, 8 October, the FSA decided that Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd no longer met the FSA's threshold conditions and the firm went into administration.

Under UK insolvency law, KSF IoM ranks like any other creditor of KSF; KSF IoM will have been fully aware of this. It could have chosen to put its money elsewhere and to have diversified the deposits made rather than making a single large deposit, which concentrated the credit risk to which it was exposed.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what level of protection applied to deposits with the Derbyshire (Isle of Man) upon its takeover by Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander Ltd; what action the Government has taken against such deposits; whether any deposits have been transferred to Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man); and if he will make a statement. [239286]

**Ian Pearson:** Derbyshire Offshore (the trading name for Derbyshire Building Society's Isle of Man subsidiary) was established in the Isle of Man in 1990 and was regulated by the Isle of Man Financial Supervision Commission. The transfer of Derbyshire Offshore to Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander Isle of Man (KSF IoM) was a commercial decision for the firms concerned and a matter for the Isle of Man authorities including the financial regulator, Isle of Man's Financial Supervision Commission.

Deposits with both Derbyshire IoM and KSF IoM were subject to the Isle of Man Deposit Compensation Scheme.

### Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander: Isle of Man

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assistance he plans to offer to British citizens with deposits in Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man; and if he will make a statement; [239736]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the number of British citizens who are depositors in Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man; what estimate he has made of the average size of deposits in such cases; and if he will make a statement; [239737]

(3) what recent representations he has received on the possible liquidation of Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man; and if he will make a statement; [239738]

(4) what recent assessment he has made of the situation of British depositors in Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man. [239739]

**Ian Pearson:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for new Forest, West (Mr. Swayne) on 5 November, *Official Report*, column 539W.

### Landfill Tax

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether community sports clubs are eligible to apply to the Landfill Communities Fund for grants. [239231]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]:* Since April 2002 community sports clubs meeting certain requirements have been able to register with HMRC as CASCs and so benefit from a range of reliefs, similar to those normally given to charities.

Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) are eligible to apply under the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) for grants to undertake projects that meet environmental objectives, as defined in the Landfill Tax Regulations 1996. Either the CASC, or an organisation on their behalf, must register with ENTRUST as an Environmental Body (EB) in order to receive funding. ENTRUST is the regulator of the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF).

### Landsbanki

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he had with the Financial Services Authority between March 2008 and October 2008 on its supervisory responsibilities in respect of *(a)* Landsbanki and *(b)* Heritable, with particular reference to the liquidity of both banks. [238062]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* The FSA intensified its supervision of deposit-taking by Icelandic banks (including through increased contact with the banks themselves and the Icelandic regulator) from the beginning of 2008. As the macroeconomic situation deteriorated during the year and particularly since September the FSA has worked increasingly intensively with the banks concerned.

As the Memorandum of Understanding between HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the FSA sets out, the FSA informs the Tripartite of any concerns about individual financial institutions on a regular basis.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what responsibilities the Financial Services Authority had for monitoring the global liquidity position of *(a)* Landsbanki and *(b)* Kaupthing. [238063]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* Under the Banking Consolidation Directive, banks from other EEA member states have the right to "passport" into the UK and to operate here as a branch. These banks are authorised by their home-state regulator. For the UK business of these branches, the FSA has responsibility for the supervision of conduct of business, money laundering and financial crime, and branch liquidity. The FSA exercises supervision of branch liquidity in co-operation with the "home state" authority. The FSA does not supervise the liquidity position of the bank as a whole, which is the responsibility of the home state regulator under the directive.

### Lloyds TSB: Directors

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 932W, on banks: incentives, whether he expects to be consulted on the size of any stock bonuses which may be paid to directors of Lloyds TSB. [239170]

**Ian Pearson:** It has not proved possible to answer the hon. Member's question, of which Treasury Ministers first received notice on 24 November 2008, before Parliament is prorogued later today.

### Local Government Finance

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the annual change was in local government expenditure funded by central Government in each of the last 10 years. [225431]

**Yvette Cooper:** In England, the year on year increase in total Government grant for local authority revenue expenditure on a like for like basis (taking account of changes in finance or function) is as follows:

| | *£ billion* |
|---|---|
| 1998/99 | 0.995 |
| 1999/2000 | 2.053 |
| 2000/01 | 2.195 |
| 2001/02 | 2.984 |
| 2002/03 | 3.308 |
| 2003/04 | 3.819 |
| 2004/05 | 3.737 |
| 2005/06 | 3.550 |
| 2006/07 | 2.667 |
| 2007/08 | 3.082 |

This is the increase in gross aggregate external finance (AEF), and includes Formula Grant, redistributed business rates and specific grants within AEF. It does not include capital grants provided by central Government, and excludes Housing Revenue Account Subsidy.

Spending by local authorities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is a devolved matter for the devolved administrations. However, table 9.13 of 'Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2008' gives information about total local authority identifiable expenditure on services in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

### Mortgages: Interest Rates

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on *(a)* high street banks in which the Government has purchased an interest and *(b)* their subsidiaries passing on reductions in the bank base rate to their mortgage holders; and if he will make a statement. [239003]

**Ian Pearson:** As part of their investment, the Government have agreed a range of commitments with banks accessing the recapitalisation scheme. These include agreements to make available affordable products during this period of global turbulence in financial markets, help individuals struggling with their mortgage payments stay in their homes and support the expansion of financial capability initiatives.

Decisions on lending to individual customers and on mortgage rates remain commercial decisions for the individual banks, based on borrowers' individual circumstances. The banks concerned are expected to review their business strategies in light of the recapitalisations and their commitments.

In addition, the Government's investments will be managed on a commercial basis by an arm's length company, 'UK Financial Investments Limited' (UKR), whose overarching objective will be to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder with due regard to the maintenance of financial stability and to act in a way that promotes competition. More details can be found in the letter to the chairman of the Treasury Committee (the right hon. John McFall) dated on 3 November from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which is available in the House of Commons' Library.

### National Insurance

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue the Exchequer received from employer national insurance contributions in the last tax year; and what proportion of this came from employers running *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large enterprises. [228470]

**Mr. Timms:** Receipts of employer national insurance contributions were £58.1 billion in 2007-08. A breakdown of this total between small, medium and large companies is not available.

### National Insurance Contributions

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to level payments on national insurance between earned and unearned income. [239517]

**Mr. Timms:** There are no plans to charge national insurance on unearned income.

### National Insurance: Exemptions

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the effect on revenue for the Exchequer if his Department ended the exemption from national insurance contributions and tax relief for employers providing qualifying childcare and vouchers towards the cost of childcare in each of the next five years; [225532]

(2) what the cost to the Exchequer has been of exemptions from national insurance contributions and tax relief for employers providing qualifying childcare and vouchers towards the cost of childcare in each year since its introduction. [225533]

**Mr. Timms:** The estimate of the costs to the Exchequer of the tax and National Insurance Contributions reliefs for Employer Supported Childcare is published in Table 7 of Tax Ready Reckoner and Tax Reliefs, a supplementary document to the 2008 pre-Budget report.

The Report and supplementary documents are available on the HM Treasury website, at the following address:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_index.htm

### Northern Rock

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 November 2008, whether it is his policy to treat Northern Rock as a public authority for the purposes of the Human Rights Act 1998. [235565]

**Ian Pearson:** During its period of temporary public ownership Northern Rock is being managed on a commercial basis at arm's length from the Government.

### Northern Rock: Nationalisation

**Anne Main:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the monetary value of compensation to be paid to Northern Rock shareholders in respect of the shares taken into public ownership. [238875]

**Ian Pearson:** An independent valuer has been appointed to assess any compensation that may be payable to those affected by the transfer of Northern Rock to the Treasury on 22 February 2008.

More information is available on the Treasury website at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_91_08.htm and on the valuer's website at http://www.northernrockvaluer.org.uk

### Office of Government Commerce: Health Services

**David Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings officials of OGC Buying Solutions have had with representatives of *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts in (i) the East Midlands and (ii) England in the last two years. [238399]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* The information requested is as follows:

*Number of meetings held*

| | *East midlands* | *England* |
|---|---|---|
| Strategic health authorities | Nil | 11 |
| Primary care trusts | Nil | 5 |

### Office of Government Commerce: Zanzibar

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1017-18W, on the Office of Government Commerce: Zanzibar, how much his Department spent on *(a)* the development and *(b)* the implementation across Government of the Zanzibar eProcurement Service, in each of the last four years. [227155]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* An answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the savings achieved for the use of the Zanzibar eProcurement Service across public sector bodies and Government departments in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and what savings are predicted for (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [227156]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* The information is as follows.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *Estimate of the transaction savings achieved* | |
| 2006-07 | [1]43,328 |
| 2007-08 | 214,879 |
| *Estimate of the transaction savings predicted* | |
| 2008-09 | 240,000 |
| 2009-10 | 400,000 |
| 2010-11 | 750,000 |

[1] The Zanzibar Service went live in October 2006; therefore the estimated savings in 2006-07 only covers the period October 2006 to March 2007

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which organisations have signed memoranda of understanding to implement the Zanzibar eProcurement Service. [227157]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 14 October 2008]:* The following fourteen organisations signed memoranda of understanding to implement the Zanzibar eProcurement Service:

Cabinet Office
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Department for Transport
Department of Health
Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Environment Agency
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)
HM Customs and Excise
Home Office
Inland Revenue
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)
Office of Government Commerce (OGC)
Prison Service
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what initiatives, procedures or training programmes his Department has to ensure the take up of the Zanzibar eProcurement Service by public sector bodies and Government Departments. [227158]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* The following activities are undertaken by OGC.Buying. Solutions to support the take up of the Zanzibar eProcurement Service.

Buying.Solutions organises and chairs the Zanzibar User Group. All customers are invited to this forum with the aim of learning from others experiences, discussing best practice and sharing a common approach to areas such as supplier adoption which benefits the customer base as a whole.

Buying.Solutions provides marketing support for the Zanzibar programme by providing customer questions and answers and case studies on a dedicated web page as part of its corporate website. The eCommerce team provides Zanzibar related content for its Public Sector Procurement magazine which is sent to 27,000 subscribers every quarter. In the current year four Zanzibar related articles have been included in the magazine.

The eCommerce team supports individual customers by participating in their project/programme boards and supports customers at an operational level with regular meetings. The eCommerce team works with customers to ensure that the most strategically important suppliers join the programme and enables the loading of their content to the marketplace.

## Pensions: Police

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what additional funding the Government will make available to the Scottish Executive to meet the cost of pension changes for police and fire and rescue services in Scotland as a result of the recent Ministerial decision. [227818]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Scottish Executive has chosen to manage the costs of the pension payments for police and Fire Fighter pensions within its departmental limits (DEL). In England, following changes in 2005, they came under annually managed expenditure (AME). In these circumstances it is clearly for the Scottish Executive to manage these costs within existing resources. HM Treasury stands ready to assist the Scottish Executive to introduce reformed arrangements as soon as possible, should they choose to proceed along these lines.

## Pensions: Public Sector

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent estimate he has made of the unfunded public sector pensions liability; what the liability was in each year since 1980; on what assumptions his estimates are based; and if he will make a statement; [200831]

(2) when the next estimate of the public sector unfunded pension liability will be available; and if he will make a statement. [200830]

**Yvette Cooper:** As shown on page 38 of the Long Term Public Finance Report published on 12 March 2008, the total unfunded public service liabilities are estimated to be £650 billion at 31 March 2006. The three previous comparable estimates of this total were £530 billion at 31 March 2005, £460 billion at 31 March 2004 and £425 billion at 31 March 2003.

These are notional figures representing all future payments due to individuals who work, have worked, or are dependants of individuals who worked in the public service. The variation in these estimates is primarily due to changes in actuarial assumptions, which are set in line with international standards. As the March 2008

Long Term Public Finance Report showed, expenditure on public service pensions over the next 50 years, remains at a sustainable level between 1.5 and 2 per cent. of GDP.

The estimates for years prior to 2003 were not made on a comparable basis.

The actuarial assumptions used to value the liabilities of individual schemes are set out in the relevant reports by the scheme actuary and have been reported in scheme resource accounts.

An updated estimate will be published in due course.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of revenues to the public purse from public sector pension employee contributions in the latest year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [200832]

**Yvette Cooper:** Rounded to the nearest £0.1 billion, employee contributions to unfunded public service pension schemes are estimated to have been around £5.1 billion and employee contributions to the funded Local Government Pension Schemes are estimated to have been around £2.0 billion in the financial year 2006-07.

The Government do not hold aggregate estimates of employee contributions in the wider pubic sector.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent estimate he has made of the savings likely to be achieved in each year from April 2006 as a result of the Government's reforms to public sector pensions; [224256]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the savings likely to be achieved as a result of the Government's reforms to public sector pensions in each year from April 2006. [233155]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Government are committed to providing good quality public service pension schemes that are affordable and sustainable in the long-term. To achieve this, we have undertaken a programme of reforms that have included mechanisms such as cost sharing and capping, as well as measures such as increases in pension age. The savings resulting from such measures will appear in future pension valuations.

The packages of reforms vary considerably between schemes, as will the effects on employer pension contributions and payments of pension benefits, and the values placed on such effects will depend on the time frames over which they are measured. Detailed questions about the financial effects are for the Departments responsible for the schemes.

However, figures that Departments have already published indicate that employer costs should already be around one and a quarter to one and a half billion pounds a year lower than they would otherwise have been and the long-term annual savings should be substantially more than this.

### Plain English

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231110]

**Angela Eagle:** I very much regret not being in a position to answer the hon. Member's question before prorogation. I will write to the hon. Gentleman and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

### Pool Reinsurance scheme

**Mr. McCartney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Government have received in premiums from the Pool Reinsurance scheme in each year since the scheme's inception. [234049]

**Ian Pearson:** The arrangements under which premium is paid to Government under the Pool Reinsurance scheme are such that Government are not normally entitled to premium payments unless the surplus in Pool Reinsurance Company Limited exceeds £1 billion. As a result, no premium was received by Government in respect of years 1993 to 1997 and a "catch up" premium was due in respect of 1998. Premium, and interest where relevant, received to date by Government in respect of each year of Pool Re's operation have been:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 257.0 |
| 1999 | 6.8 |
| 2000 | 6.3 |
| 2001 | 8.5 |
| 2002 | 17.5 |
| 2003 | 29.4 |
| 2004 | 35.1 |
| 2005 | 37.3 |

Premium is normally paid in arrears, using a three year accounting convention, with interest payable to compensate Government for this delay in payment. As a result, premiums are not yet due in respect of 2006, 2007 or 2008.

### Private Finance Initiative

**David Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures are in place to monitor the *(a)* financial inability and *(b)* ownership of private companies involved in financing public sector projects through the private finance initiative. [236345]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* As the Memorandum of Understanding between HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the FSA sets out, the three authorities meet at a number of levels on a very regular basis to exchange information on issues relating to financial stability which monitor the health of the market as a whole.

With specific reference to PFI, a list of equity holders is available from the Treasury website at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pfi_equityholders_march2008.xls

For each PFI project, this list details the project name, the main equity holders, and the procuring authority.

## Public Expenditure

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what year-on-year change there has been in total Government expenditure in each year since 1997. [239558]

**Mr. Timms:** Expenditure data prior to 2007-08 are in table B1 of the Public Sector Finances Databank. Figures for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are in table B16 of the 2008 pre-Budget Report.

## Public Sector: Pensions

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which pension schemes were covered by the Government Actuary's Department's estimate of unfunded public service occupational pension scheme liabilities as at 31 March 2006, set out on page 38 of the 2008 Long Term Public Finance Report. [233136]

**Yvette Cooper:** The liability estimate covers all unfunded public service occupational pension schemes in the UK. These are defined as pension schemes established by statute or by Ministers exercising statutory powers. The main schemes covered are those for the NHS, teachers, civil service, armed forces, police, firefighters, judiciary and the Atomic Energy Authority.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate on a GAAP basis the aggregate change in liability in respect of the public sector pension schemes not included in table D1 of Public Expenditure: Statistical Analyses in years for which information is available. [233152]

**Yvette Cooper:** Table D1 of Public Expenditure: Statistical Analyses shows the aggregate change in liability for the main central Government unfunded public service pension schemes. Figures for other public sector pension schemes are reported in the accounts of employers participating in those pension schemes. Aggregate figures are not available centrally and could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the aggregate value of contributions received from members of the public sector pension schemes not included in table D1 of Public Expenditure: Statistical Analyses for each year for which information is available since 2007. [233153]

**Yvette Cooper:** Employee contributions to unfunded public service pension schemes not included in table D1 of Public Expenditure: Statistical Analyses are estimated to have been around £0.7 billion and employee contributions to the funded Local Government Pension Schemes are estimated to have been around £2.0 billion in the financial year 2006-07.

The Government do not hold aggregate estimates of employee contributions in the wider public sector.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will prepare and publish an updated version of his Department's March 2006 paper Total liability of Unfunded Public Service Occupational Pension Schemes as at 31 March 2005. [233154]

**Yvette Cooper:** Information relating to the total unfunded public service pensions liability will be published in due course.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which bonds of which durations are considered by the Government Actuary when recommending the discount rates to be used in calculating public sector pension liabilities; and at what dates these are measured. [233156]

**Yvette Cooper:** The main unfunded public service pension schemes prepare their accounts in accordance with the Government Financial Reporting Manual. HM Treasury advises the appropriate discount rate for measuring the pension liabilities of these schemes, based on advice from the Government Actuary's Department. The discount rate used to measure the pension liabilities as at 31 March 2008 is 2.5 per cent. per annum in excess of price inflation (as measured by the Retail Price Index).

The discount rate in excess of price inflation is based on the rate of return on AA-rated corporate bonds, less the market expectation of future inflation.

The rate of return on AA-rated corporate bonds is based on the redemption yield on an index of AA-rated corporate bonds denominated in pounds sterling with 15 years or more to run to maturity.

The market expectation of future inflation is based on the difference between the redemption yield on index-linked Government securities and the redemption yield on fixed-interest Government securities.

The yields were measured as at close of business on 31 January 2008.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assumptions about trends in mortality growth are used to calculate the estimate of public service occupational pension liabilities published in the Long Term Public Finance Report; [233157]

(2) what assumptions about future salary growth are used to calculate the estimate of public service occupational pension liabilities published in the Long Term Public Finance Report. [233158]

**Yvette Cooper:** As page 38 of the Long Term Public Finance Report published on 12 March 2008 explains, the key actuarial assumptions used to value the liabilities of individual schemes are set out in the relevant reports by the scheme actuary as reported in individual scheme resource accounts.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government Actuary's Department plans to update its January 2007 paper Unfunded Public Service Pension Schemes 2006 Cashflow Projections: Methodology, Assumptions and Data. [233239]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Government Actuary's Department will publish a paper, 'Unfunded public service pension scheme 2007-08 cashflow projections methodology, assumptions and data, in due course.

### Redundancy

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (Y) his Department and (Z) each of his Department's agencies; [237343]

(2) how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [239164]

**Angela Eagle:** It has not proved possible to answer the hon. Member's question before Parliament is prorogued later today.

### Repossession Orders: Disadvantaged

**John Bercow:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will issue guidelines to banks and building societies to encourage them to stop the repossession of homes belonging to vulnerable families, including families with members who are autistic. [234677]

**Ian Pearson:** On 22 October, the Government confirmed that the Master of the Rolls had approved a new protocol for mortgage possession cases, which complements existing regulation, and sets out clear standards that judges may expect of lenders bringing repossessions cases in the courts.

Council of Mortgage Lenders guidance also states that lenders following best practice will have an arrears policy which states how the lender treats customers with serious or terminal illness, mental health problems or disability.

On 2 September, the Government announced a significant package of measures to help borrowers in difficulty, help first time buyers and support the house-building industry. This included a £200 million mortgage rescue scheme, through which the Government will support up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable homeowners facing repossession to remain in their home. The scheme is firmly targeted on those families who can no longer afford their repayments, and who would be considered to have a priority need for accommodation under the homelessness legislation. Under the legislation, the priority need categories include, among others, applicants whose household includes a child or pregnant woman and applicants whose household includes someone who is vulnerable for some reason, for example because of mental illness or is ability. In the pre-Budget Report the Chancellor announced an extension of the mortgage rescue scheme to cover second charge lending.

The Chancellor also announced at Pre-Budget Report 2008 a number of policies which will support households facing financial difficulties.

The Government are establishing a Lending Panel bringing together government, regulators, lenders, trade bodies and consumer groups to monitor lending to both households and businesses. There is a commitment for the coming year by the major mortgage lenders on the new panel, not to repossess homes within three months of an owner-occupier going into arrears.

The Government provide direct support to individuals through Support for Mortgage Interest, which is available to those out of work, and pensioners, delivered through social security benefits. At pre-Budget Report the Government announced that it will make the scheme more generous by increasing the size of the mortgage for which support is payable for new working age claimants from £175,000 to £200,000. In addition, Government will increase net support for beneficiaries of Support for Mortgage Interest through maintaining payments at the current interest rate for the next six months for existing claimants.

The Government are also determined to ensure that every household struggling with debts can access free and impartial debt advice. The Chancellor announced in the pre-Budget Report £5.85 million additional investment to march 2011 in telephone advice, and £10m to march 2010 invested in Citizens Advice bureaux to expand face-to-face debt advice capacity, to ensure that advice and support is available for borrowers who may need it.

### Revenue and Customs: Buildings

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent on refurbishment in each HM Revenue and Customs office in the last three years. [221186]

**Mr. Timms:** This information is not available because the HMRC accounting system does not differentiate refurbishment spending from other types of ad hoc expenditure on its estate, such as health and safety changes, security improvements, accommodation changes relating to changes in team structures such as moving office furniture, porterage, repairs to fittings, erection of whiteboards and signage and clearance costs of properties which have been vacated.

### Revenue and Customs: Business Interests

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who in HM Revenue and Customs is responsible for deciding on applications under the business appointments procedures. [237565]

**Mr. Timms:** Managers within each business area are responsible for deciding whether a member of staff should take up a temporary secondment to an outside organisation. Her Majesty's Revenue and Custom's International Relations and Capacity Building (IRCB) team must first give approval if the proposed secondment is with an overseas organisation.

Managers within the business also decide on applications for approval to take up an offer of employment outside the civil service from people leaving HMRC.

In both cases managers' decisions are based on the criteria set out in departmental guidance.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the rules on movements of HM Revenue and Customs officials to commercial companies under the business appointments procedures. [237567]

**Mr. Timms:** The rules on movements of HMRC officials to commercial companies under the business appointments procedures and to other outside organisations are published on HMRC's intranet. A copy of the relevant guidance has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Revenue and Customs: Closures

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to ensure that all HM Revenue and Customs office sites proposed for closure will retain a full-time enquiry centre, open five days a week, after the rationalisation process has been completed. [238741]

**Mr. Timms:** Not all HMRC locations provide Enquiry Centre services. HMRC has already committed to maintaining Enquiry Centre services at or close by to where they are currently located. In response to declining demand for its face to face services, HMRC is testing alternative opening patterns in a number of smaller Enquiry Centres with low customer footfall. The results of these pilots will help inform the future pattern of provision of these services.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the Workforce Change programme on the effectiveness of HM Revenue and Customs' management of tax debt. [239803]

**Mr. Timms:** HMRC believe that by concentrating non location-specific debt management work in fewer locations they will ensure that teams are of a viable size to manage the collection of tax debt more efficiently and effectively and that they will achieve economies of scale. The Workforce Change programme facilitates this business restructuring.

### Revenue and Customs: Databases

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 103-04W, on Revenue and Customs: databases, what procedures exist to establish *(a)* the permission or legal authority of departmental staff to disclose data held on the frameworks database and *(b)* that those receiving the information have the entitlement or legal right to receive it. [237512]

**Mr. Timms:** Section 18 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 (CRCA) makes it clear that the Department must not give ("disclose") HMRC information to anyone, unless it has lawful authority to do so. This includes disclosure to other Government Departments and their agencies, local authorities, the police, any other public bodies, agents and members of the public. All HMRC staff must comply with this and failure to do so may lead to disciplinary (or even criminal) proceedings.

### Revenue and Customs: Devon

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from local authorities on proposed tax office closures in South Devon. [239001]

**Mr. Timms:** Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

### Revenue and Customs: Offices

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what national targets exist for the average distance from customers to HM Revenue and Customs offices; and whether he plans to change these targets as a result of the Workforce Change programme. [238740]

**Mr. Timms:** There are no such targets.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the service offered by HM Revenue and Customs in areas where *(a)* reduced opening hours each day and *(b)* fewer open days per week are being piloted for enquiry centres. [238794]

**Mr. Timms:** HMRC are piloting different opening hours in 10 Enquiry Centres and these will be fully evaluated during January 2009. Early indications are that service levels and customer satisfaction are being maintained. Where any changes to opening days are piloted these will also be fully evaluated.

### Revenue and Customs: South West

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of HM Revenue and Customs staff in offices earmarked for closure in the South West who live within reasonable daily travel of a strategic site; and if he will make a statement. [238723]

**Mr. Timms:** To date it has been decided to vacate only three of HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC's) offices in the South West: those at Royal Mead, Bath, The Pithay Bristol and Woodlands Court Bristol. Decisions have not yet been made on a number of offices for which proposals were published in June under HMRC's regional review programme.

Impact assessments for all buildings it has been decided to vacate are published on the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/better-regulation/regional-reviews.htm.

They include HMRC's initial estimates of how many staff are within reasonable daily travelling time of another HMRC office it has been decided to retain. After decisions have been announced an established process is followed,

starting with one to one meetings between individuals and managers, to determine whether relocation is reasonable in individual circumstances.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of HM Revenue and Customs workforce change programme in *(a)* Somerset and *(b)* the South West; and if he will make a statement; [238727]

(2) whether an assessment has been made of the environmental effects of the HM Revenue and Customs Workforce Change programme; and if he will make a statement. [238738]

**Mr. Timms:** The purpose of the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Workforce Change programme is to match staff and accommodation to future business needs. Its accommodation-related energy requirements will decrease, reflecting the overall reduction in the size of its estate. Any increase in average commuting journey will be more than offset by a reduction in staff numbers resulting in an overall reduction in commuter-generated carbon emissions.

### Revenue and Customs: Surveys

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs customer reviews are *(a)* outstanding and *(b)* expected to be outstanding by 5 April 2009. [238724]

**Mr. Timms:** The total number of customer reviews for the tax years 2006-07 and earlier outstanding on 14 November 2008 was 14,074,742. Employer returns for 2007-08 are not yet fully processed and it is not possible to say precisely how many customer reviews will arise for that year, nor how many will remain outstanding at 5 April 2009. Over 77 per cent. of reviews result in no material tax change for the taxpayer.

### Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what national targets exist for the maximum length of time taken to answer telephone enquiries to HM Revenue and Customs offices; and whether these targets will be revised as part of the Workforce Change programme. [238739]

**Mr. Timms:** No such national targets exist. The Department's Workforce Change programme will not alter this. HMRC's performance against targets is shown in the departmental report 2008.

### Scottish Consolidated Fund: Fossil Fuel Levy

**Mr. Ingram:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions there have been between his Department and the Scottish Executive on the transfer of funds held in the Fossil Fuel Levy account to the Scottish Consolidated Fund; [230030]

(2) what recent representations he has received from the Scottish Executive on the use to which they wish to put the funds held in the Fossil Fuel Levy account; and if he will make a statement. [230031]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Treasury receives representations from time to time from the Scottish Executive on a number of issues.

It is open to the Scottish Executive to draw down funds from the Ofgem fossil fuel account to the Scottish Consolidated Fund. However, this does not lead to an increase in the DEL available to the Scottish Executive.

Funds drawn down from the fossil fuel surplus to the UK Consolidated Fund have been used to finance UK public spending and the Scottish Executive has already received Barnett consequentials as a result.

### Smuggling: Drugs

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated monetary value of illicit drugs seized by HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland was in each of the last 10 years. [239268]

**Mr. Timms:** The approximate values of illicit drugs seized by HM Customs and Excise and HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland in the financial years from 2003-04 to 2007-08 are set out in the following table. HM Revenue and Customs central records do not hold information on the monetary values of illicit drugs seized in Northern Ireland prior to 2003-04.

| *Financial year* | *Value of illicit drugs seized (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 292,000 |
| 2004-05 | 51,000 |
| 2005-06 | 104,000 |
| 2006-07 | 7,689,000 |
| 2007-08 | 186,000 |

### Smuggling: Tobacco

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons are for the decrease in the amount of illegally imported hand-rolling tobacco seized by HM Revenue and Customs since 2001. [234187]

**Angela Eagle:** The following table indicates the volumes of hand-rolling tobacco (HRT) seized between 2001 and 2007.

*Total HRT seized 2001-07*

| | *Tonnes* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 385 |
| 2002-03 | 258 |
| 2003-04 | 185 |
| 2004-05 | 166 |
| 2005-06 | 160 |
| 2006-07 | 228 |
| 2007-08 | 194 |

In any given year changes in the volume of seizures will reflect changes in attempted smuggling and the success of HMRC's policies for tackling it. As the table illustrates, seizures were at their highest in 2001-02 following the launch of the Government's highly successful 'Tackling Tobacco Smuggling' strategy in 2000. However, smugglers adapt quickly to any new measures introduced and HRT seizures levels dropped in subsequent years. As a result of further research, we identified that the

illicit HRT market and the methods used by fraudsters differed significantly from those for cigarettes, and required different responses.

Consequently, in 2006, the Government published "New responses to new challenges: Reinforcing the Tackling Tobacco Smuggling strategy". This set out further measures to clamp down on tobacco smuggling, and, in particular, the persistent problem of smuggled HRT. This resulted in an increase in HRT seizures as shown in the table.

The new measures included the introduction in 2006 of new legislation placing obligations on tobacco manufacturers to control their supply chains. We expect this measure to have a significant impact on the illicit HRT market. However, because its objective is to reduce the availability of hand rolling tobacco to smugglers, it will not necessarily result in greater levels of seizures.

At Budget 2008, the Government announced that the new UK Border Agency, which will be taking on responsibility for Customs detection work at the border, would be developing a strategy for enhancing the detection of tobacco products. This strategy was published alongside the pre-Budget report on 24 November.

### Tax Avoidance Schemes

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tax avoidance schemes his Department has *(a)* disallowed and *(b)* prohibited in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09 to date. [239397]

**Mr. Timms:** Neither HM Treasury nor HMRC have the power to disallow or prohibit tax avoidance schemes. However, where a scheme is covered by anti-avoidance legislation, HMRC will investigate it and recover any tax due, if necessary through the courts. And where an avoidance scheme seeks to obtain an unfair advance by exploiting a loophole in the tax system, the Government will not hesitate to close the loophole.

Recent Finance Acts have all contained measures to close various loopholes in the tax system used by avoiders. The pre-Budget report contained further measures to tackle avoidance, details of which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_press03.htm

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has commissioned on the use of avoidance schemes in respect of *(a)* income tax and *(b)* capital gains tax in the payment of bonuses by companies in the financial services sector in the City of London between 1997-98 and 2007-08; what estimate he has made of the levels of tax avoidance on such bonuses in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [239402]

**Mr. Timms:** The only estimates the Government have made of the cost of direct tax avoidance schemes during the period 1997-98 to 2007-08 are contained in the HMRC paper 'Measuring the tax gap- an update' published in March 2008. This is available on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/measuringtax-gap.pdf

There has been no separate research into, or estimates of, the amount of tax avoidance in the payment of bonuses by companies in the financial services sector in the City of London.

### Tax Credit

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were overpaid tax credits in each of the last five years; what the amount of the average overpayment was in each year; how many of those who received overpayments were asked to repay the additional amount in each year; how many people who were asked to make repayments did so in full in each year; how many of those who declared that they were unable to repay were prosecuted in each year; and how many of those who were asked to make a repayment were informed that the whole or part of the amount due had been received in each year. [237683]

**Mr. Timms:** Information on the number of families who incurred overpayments and on the average overpayment in 2003-04, 2004-05,2005-06 and 2006-07 is provided in Part 2, Figure 10 of the Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General, in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) 2007-08 Accounts. This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-dep-acct0708.pdf

Court proceedings are only used for debt recovery as a last resort. For the number of court actions initiated between April 2006 and October 2008 inclusive I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given earlier today to the hon. Member for Cardiff Central to question 230441.

### Tax Havens: Advisory Services

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to increase penalties on professional advisers who assist clients to access tax havens. [239514]

**Mr. Timms:** HMRC is conducting a wide-ranging review of its powers, deterrents and safeguards. As part of this work HMRC is looking at modernising the penalties charged by HMRC and also looking at the relationship between taxpayers, their advisers and HMRC.

In the pre-Budget report, the Government announced that HMRC will be giving offshore account holders a new opportunity in 2009 to disclose, of their own accord, if they have unpaid tax or duties and to settle debts.

At the same time, the Government announced that they will shortly commission an independent review of British offshore financial centres. The review will include looking at their fiscal arrangements.

### Taxation: Domicile

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of UK residents who are not domiciled in the UK for tax purposes; [239398]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the additional revenue to the Exchequer that would have accrued in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08 in *(a)* income tax and *(b)* capital gains tax from the liability of non-domiciled residents to UK tax at the domiciled rate; [239400]

(3) what estimate he has made of the amount of *(a)* income tax and *(b)* capital gains tax foregone by the Exchequer in respect of UK residents who are not domiciled in the UK for tax purposes in the latest period for which figures are available; [239401]

(4) what research his Department has carried out on the professional status of UK residents who are not domiciled in the UK for tax purposes; and what proportion he estimates (*a*) are employed in financial services in the City of London, (*b*) work in the private equity industry and (*c*) act as business entrepreneurs. [239399]

**Mr. Timms:** The number of residents reporting to be non-domiciled in the UK via self assessment in 2005-06 was published in Table 1 of Annex B by HM Treasury in the consultation document 'Paying a fairer share: a consultation residence and domicile'.

An electronic copy of this document is accessible at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consult_residence_anddomicile061207.pdf

HM Revenue and Customs does not hold information about individual types of employment to the requested level of detail.

No estimate has been made of the income tax or capital gains that would be collected if resident non-UK domiciled individuals were taxed as if they were resident UK domiciled.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to abolish the non-domicile tax rule. [239515]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government legislated changes to the personal tax rules on residence and domicile in Finance Act 2008. At Budget 2008 the Government announced that these reforms would not be revisited for the rest of this Parliament or the next. This position has not changed.

### Taxation: Pensions

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was generated by the application of basic rate tax on personal or occupational pensions in each year since 1997. [231850]

**Ian Pearson:** The amount of revenue from Income Tax charged on personal and occupational pensions at the basic rate depends upon, among other things, the number and value of pensions in payment as well as the of the basic width of the basic rate band. The information requested is provided below. Information prior to 1998-99 is not available.

| | *Tax on personal and occupational pensions (£ billion)*[1] |
|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 2.7 |
| 1999-2000 | 4.7 |
| 2000-01 | 5.0 |
| 2001-02 | 5.0 |
| 2002-03 | 5.5 |
| 2003-04 | 5.5 |
| 2004-05 | 5.9 |
| 2005-06 | 5.9 |
| 2006-07[2] | 6.3 |
| 2007-08[2] | 6.7 |
| 2008-09[2] | 7.4 |

[1] Based on modelled tax liabilities on pensions excluding the effect of tax credits which may reduce tax liability.
[2] Based on the 2005-06 Survey of Personal incomes projected in line with Budget 2008 HMT assumptions.
*Source:*
Survey of Personal incomes

### Taxation: Redundancy Pay

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes have been made to the threshold for the amount of redundancy pay that is tax-free since 1997; and what the current threshold is. [236084]

**Mr. Timms:** Redundancy payments are free of income tax up to £30,000. There have been no changes since 1997.

### Taxation: Small Businesses

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure HM Revenue and Customs implements its flexible policy towards small businesses which are in difficulties as a result of the current business climate and cash flow problems. [236229]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government are determined to support businesses through these challenging economic times.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs is committed to helping businesses that have temporary difficulties in paying the tax they owe. The new dedicated Business Payment Support Service, launched by the Chancellor in his pre-Budget Report, will ensure that businesses needing extra time to pay their tax bill can get a quick decision from HMRC. HMRC will spread payment over a timetable the business can afford. This service will be available for as long as business needs it.

The service is available seven days a week, on 0845 3021435. Lines are open 8am to 8pm during the week and 8am to 4pm at weekends.

### Taxis

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was claimed in expenses for taxi travel by officials from (*a*) his Department and (*b*) its executive agencies in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2003-04 and (v) 2002-03; and if he will make a statement. [227054]

**Angela Eagle:** For HM Treasury spend on taxis, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by the former Financial Secretary, (John Healey), on 28 June 2007 to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois), *Official Report*, columns 873-874W; 7 November 2006 to the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies) and the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois), *Official Report*, columns 1021W-1022W.

Figures relating to the United Kingdom Debt Management Office are set out in the table.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 593 |
| 2005-06 | 648 |
| 2004-05 | 53 |
| 2003-04 | 1,150 |
| 2002-03 | 945 |

### UK Financial Investments

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it a requirement for UK Financial Investments Ltd to report regularly to Parliament. [239651]

**Ian Pearson:** Annual reports on UKFI's performance will be laid before Parliament and the chair and Chief Executive will be available for scrutiny by the relevant parliamentary committees.

### UK Financial Investments Ltd

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether employees of UK Financial Investments Ltd. will be eligible to *(a)* receive bonus payments and *(b)* join the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme. [237301]

**Ian Pearson:** UK Financial Investment's remuneration policy will be set by the Board of UKFI. UKFI employees, except those working on secondment from central Government Departments, will not be eligible to join the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate of the *(a)* staff numbers and *(b)* staffing costs of UK Financial Investments Ltd. in its first year of operation is. [237302]

**Ian Pearson:** UKFI will set out its staff numbers and costs in its annual report, which will be laid before Parliament.

### Valuation Office

**Robert Neill:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2307-8W, on the Valuation Office: travel, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the Dublin meeting on valuation practice. [232656]

**Mr. Timms:** A copy of the minutes, of the 47th meeting of the steering committee on harmonisation (practice and procedure) England Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland held on 7 and 8 May 2008 in London (not Dublin), have been placed in the Library.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 313W, on the Valuation Office, if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on investigative work to assess the market coverage and support the agency's aims. [236034]

**Mr. Timms:** No. The VOA provides valuation services in competition with other providers. The report relates to procurement considerations and to place it in the public domain would weaken the competitive position of the Valuation Office Agency.

### VAT: Bingo

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claims to reclaim overpaid to value added tax HM Revenue and Customs has received from bingo operators in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make statement. [239705]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs does not hold information on overall numbers of claims for overpaid VAT across this business sector.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the European Union's principle of fiscal neutrality applies to main stage bingo operators. [239706]

**Angela Eagle:** The application of VAT is generally subject to the legal principles of fiscal neutrality and equal treatment, under which similar goods or services should not usually be taxed differently where such a difference could impact upon competition. HM Revenue Customs consider that the VAT treatment of main stage bingo complies with these principles.

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether value added tax (VAT) will have to be repaid to bingo operators following the recent VAT and duties tribunal concerning Rank Group. [239709]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) disagree with the decision of the Tribunal in this case, and have submitted an appeal to the High Court. This appeal is due to be heard early next year. Pending the outcome, HMRC does not plan to refund VAT to any other bingo operators.

### VAT: Small Businesses

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many value added tax (VAT) default surcharges have been issued by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) at the *(a)* 2 per cent., *(b)* 5 per cent., *(c)* 10 per cent. and (d) 15 per cent. rate to small and medium-sized businesses as a result of (i) failure of HMRC to receive their VAT return and (ii) failure of HMRC to receive VAT payment in each of the last four financial quarters; and if he will make a statement. [238673]

**Mr. Timms:** Under current legislation HM Revenue and Customs issue VAT Default Surcharges only when tax is paid late. During the last 12 month period for which figures are available, they issued 305,610 surcharges, broken down as follows.

| | *Surcharges issued* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Financial quarter ended* | *2 per cent.* | *5 per cent.* | *10 per cent.* | *15 per cent.* |
| 31 August 2007 | 2,395 | 1,599 | 15,609 | 65,594 |
| 30 November 2007 | 2,541 | 1,241 | 16,971 | 64,967 |
| 29 February 2008 | 2,164 | 1,162 | 16,742 | 67,579 |
| 31 May 2008 | 2,470 | 1,455 | 17,785 | 72,966 |

Reliable information is not readily available on the default surcharges issued to businesses of different size and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

As my right hon. Friend announced in the pre-Budget report that no penalties or surcharges will be applied once a "time to pay" arrangement has been agreed.

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many consultations have been requested by small and medium-sized businesses with HM Revenue and Customs Advice Centre to defer payment of value added tax in each of the last four financial quarters; how many have resulted in payment being deferred in each quarter; and if he will make a statement. [238674]

**Mr. Timms:** The information requested is not available.

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many individuals with an annual income of *(a)* between £30,000 and £40,000, *(b)* between £40,000 and £50,000, *(c)* between £50,000 and £60,000 and *(d)* over £60,000 received tax credits in each year since the introduction of tax credits; and if he will make a statement; [238664]

(2) how much has been claimed in tax credits *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average from individuals with an annual income of (i) between £30,000 and £40,000, (ii) between £40,000 and £50,000, (iii) between £50,000 and £60,000 and (iv) over £60,000 in each year since the introduction of tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [238665]

**Mr. Timms:** Information on the average number of in-work families benefiting from tax credits, in each of the specified bands of income used to taper awards, is provided in the following table, along with the average and total entitlements of these families. This information is based on final family incomes and circumstances for each year.

| | Range of income used to taper awards (£) | Number of families (thousand) | Average entitlement (£) | Total entitlement (£ million) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 30,000 to 39,999 | 779 | 621 | 484 |
| | 40,000 to 49,999 | 363 | 600 | 219 |
| | 50,000 to 60,000 | 110 | 370 | 41 |
| | Over 60,000 | 3 | 479 | 1 |
| 2004-05 | 30,000 to 39,999 | 840 | 670 | 556 |
| | 40,000 to 49,999 | 391 | 605 | 236 |
| | 50,000 to 60,000 | 151 | 389 | 59 |
| | Over 60,000 | 3 | 389 | 1 |
| 2005-06 | 30,000 to 39,999 | 859 | 655 | 563 |
| | 40,000 to 49,999 | 407 | 601 | 245 |
| | 50,000 to 60,000 | 139 | 332 | 46 |
| | Over 60,000 | 3 | 367 | 1 |
| 2006-07 | 30,000 to 39,999 | 846 | 695 | 587 |
| | 40,000 to 49,999 | 401 | 622 | 250 |
| | 50,000 to 60,000 | 122 | 340 | 42 |
| | Over 60,000 | 2 | 337 | 1 |

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's estimate is of the effect on receipts to the Exchequer of increasing the taper rate on tax credits to *(a)* 46 per cent., *(b)* 45 per cent., *(c)* 44 per cent. and *(d)* 43 per cent. in 2009; what his estimate is of the number of people who would no longer be eligible for tax credits in each case; and if he will make a statement. [238778]

**Mr. Timms:** The estimated saving, in 2009-10, of increasing the first taper rate of tax credits to the rates requested, is provided in the following table. No account has been taken of possible behavioural effects.

| First Taper Rate (percentage) | Effect on expenditure (£m) |
|---|---|
| 46 | -1,490 |
| 45 | -1,310 |
| 44 | -1,120 |
| 43 | -920 |

These changes would increase the number of claimants with awards reduced to zero.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individual cases of tax credit overpayments his Department has taken to court to seek recovery in *(a)* each month of 2008-09 to date and *(b)* each year from 2003-04 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [230441]

**Mr. Timms:** HM Revenue and Customs initiates court action only as a last resort where all attempts to contact the customer have failed.

The number of court actions initiated through county court (England and Wales)[1], Sheriffs court (Scotland) and magistrates court (Northern Ireland) for 2006-07, 2007-08 and for each month of 2008-09 to October 2008 for the recovery of tax credit overpayments are in the following table. The information for years prior to 2006-07 is not available.

[1] For England and Wales these figures relate only to actions commenced centrally and exclude actions commenced by local HMRC debt pursuit offices where it is not possible to readily disaggregate tax credit cases from the total number of local initiated court actions.

| | Court cases |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 41,122 |
| 2007-08 | 1024 |
| April 2008 | 450 |
| May 2008 | 461 |
| June 2008 | 922 |
| July 2008 | 943 |
| August 2008 | 1,417 |
| September 2008 | 916 |
| October 2008 | 588 |

The figure for 2006-07 corrects information I gave on 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1810W, in answer to a question from the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws).

The 2006-07 figure includes a total of 1,671 cases where HM Revenue and Customs initiated court action in Northern Ireland for the recovery of tax credit overpayments. This corrects information given on 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1589W, in answer to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson).

I very much regret these inadvertent errors which have only just come to light.

### Working Tax Credit: Luton

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of families claiming working tax credit in Luton South constituency have been asked to repay all or part of the credit received. [240040]

**Mr. Timms:** Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments, by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are available in the HMRC publications 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analyses', for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many and what proportion of persons entitled to *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit in Luton, South constituency claimed each credit in each year since the inception of such tax credits; [240050]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of persons entitled to *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit in Luton, South constituency who have not claimed each credit in each year since the inception of such tax credits; [240051]

**Mr. Timms:** Estimates of tax credit take-up rates are not available at constituency level. However, estimates of take-up rates for in-work families with children, at a country and regional level, for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, are available in Table 9 of the HMRC publication 'Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit Take-up rates', for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm.

Estimates of the average number of families benefiting from tax credits in each constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are available in the HMRC publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised annual awards. Geographical analyses', for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personaltax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Agricultural Products: EU Action

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will assess the effect on small businesses of the proposed EU Regulation on the Placing of Plant Protection Products, with particular reference to business in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [236971]

**Huw Irranca-Davies:** I have been asked to reply.

The Pesticides Safety Directorate's risk assessment published in May this year (a copy of which has been placed in the library of the House) identified the main agronomic impacts of the key 'cut off criteria' provision within the Commission's proposal. That assessment also included an analysis of the amendments proposed at first reading by the European Parliament. The predicted impacts on pesticide availability were significant for all arable farmers, including small farmers.

### Brussels

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on visits by its staff to Brussels in 2007-08; and how many such visits were made by *(a)* air and *(b)* rail. [239423]

**Mr. McFadden:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before prorogation.

### Business

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many new businesses were started in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* the UK in each year since 2001; [238108]

(2) how many VAT registered businesses there were in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* the UK in each year since 1994. [238107]

**Ian Pearson:** The numbers of businesses registering for VAT and the total number of VAT registered businesses in Hemel Hempstead constituency, Hertfordshire county and the UK are shown in the following tables. Data for the number of VAT registrations during 2007 and the total number of VAT registered businesses at the start of 2008 will be available on 28 November 2008.

*VAT registrations (indicator of business start-ups)*

| | *United Kingdom* | *Hertfordshire county* | *Hemel Hempstead constituency* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 170,015 | 3,820 | 285 |
| 2002 | 176,920 | 3,965 | 285 |
| 2003 | 191,220 | 4,300 | 350 |
| 2004 | 183,780 | 4,060 | 325 |
| 2005 | 181,735 | 4,105 | 355 |
| 2006 | 182,205 | 4,105 | 350 |

*Start of year VAT stock*[1]

| | United Kingdom | Hertfordshire county | Hemel Hempstead constituency |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 1,621,760 | 33,375 | 2,725 |
| 1995 | 1,615,735 | 33,395 | 2,695 |
| 1996 | 1,616,940 | 33,625 | 2,665 |
| 1997 | 1,633,410 | 34,320 | 2,710 |
| 1998 | 1,671,850 | 35,720 | 2,960 |
| 1999 | 1,710,645 | 36,915 | 3,165 |
| 2000 | 1,740,745 | 37,715 | 3,235 |
| 2001 | 1,768,405 | 38,380 | 3,215 |
| 2002 | 1,787,690 | 38,880 | 3,235 |
| 2003 | 1,810,025 | 39,395 | 3,230 |
| 2004 | 1,846,940 | 40,290 | 3,300 |
| 2005 | 1,879,415 | 40,740 | 3,290 |
| 2006 | 1,917,615 | 41,690 | 3,375 |
| 2007 | 1,956,750 | 42,480 | 3,480 |

[1] Although start of year stock data is available for 2007, data on new VAT registrations during 2007 will not be available until 28 November 2008.

*Source:*
BERR National Statistics publication "Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 2006" available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

The total number of VAT registered businesses in the UK increased from 1,621,760 at the start of 1994 to 1,956,750 at the start of 2007, an increase of 334,990 (21 per cent.). The total number of VAT registered businesses in Hertfordshire increased from 33,375 at the start of 1994 to 42,480 at the start of 2007, an increase of 9,105 (27 per cent.). The total number of VAT registered businesses in Hemel Hempstead constituency increased from 2,735 at the start of 1994 to 3,480 at the start of 2007, an increase of 755 (28 per cent.).

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (43 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

## Business Link

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding his Government provided to the Business Link network in each year since 1997. [231956]

**Ian Pearson:** From the DTI and HMRC Annual Reports and Accounts the total cost of the Business Link service over the period from 1997 to 2005 was as follows:

| | *Cost of Business Link service (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 129 |
| 1998-99 | 118 |
| 1999-2000 | 126 |
| 2000-01 | 153 |
| 2001-02 | 156 |
| 2002-03 | 167 |
| 2003-04 | 159 |
| 2004-05 | 160 |

In 2005, responsibility for managing Business Link face-to-face services was transferred to the RDAs and the budget of £142 million was added to the Department's contribution towards the RDA "Single-Pot". This allows the regions to draw down as much or as little funding as they see fit to deliver Business Link services in their areas.

In addition to the single pot, the spend on delivering Business Link support services such as the national telephone number, publications, marketing, communications, PR and on-line services since 2005 was as follows:

| | *Spend on delivering Business Link support services (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 31.6 |
| 2006-07 | 23.9 |
| 2007-08 | 22.2 |
| 2008-09 | 23.8 |

In each year, all bar £1.7 million was spent on delivering on-line business support services to customers.

## Business: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many VAT registered businesses there were in the City of York *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority area in each year since 1994. [237057]

**Ian Pearson:** VAT registration data provide the only accurate indicator of the number of VAT-registered business at the start of each calendar year.

The number of businesses registered for VAT in City York constituency and in York unitary authority area between the start of 1997 and at the start of 2007 is shown in the following tables. Data for the number of VAT-registered businesses at the start of 2008 will be available on 28 November 2008.

*City of York constituency: VAT-registered business*

| | *VAT-registered business at start of year* |
|---|---|
| 1994 | 2,120 |
| 1995 | 2,120 |
| 1996 | 2,115 |
| 1997 | 2,095 |
| 1998 | 2,140 |
| 1999 | 2,175 |
| 2000 | 2,215 |
| 2001 | 2,260 |
| 2002 | 2,310 |
| 2003 | 2,315 |
| 2004 | 2,400 |
| 2005 | 2,475 |
| 2006 | 2,560 |
| 2007 | 2,630 |

*York unitary authority: VAT-registered business*

| | *VAT-registered business at start of year* |
|---|---|
| 1994 | 4,055 |
| 1995 | 4,050 |
| 1996 | 4,070 |
| 1997 | 4,090 |

*York unitary authority: VAT-registered business*

| | *VAT-registered business at start of year* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 4,180 |
| 1999 | 4,275 |
| 2000 | 4,360 |
| 2001 | 4,485 |
| 2002 | 4,585 |
| 2003 | 4,695 |
| 2004 | 4,850 |
| 2005 | 4,970 |
| 2006 | 5,090 |
| 2007 | 5,175 |

*Source:*
BERR National Statistics publication 'Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 2006' available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

The number of VAT-registered businesses in City of York constituency rose from 2,120 at the start of 1994 to 2,630 at the start of 2007—a rise of 24 per cent. compared with a rise of 28 per cent. in York Unitary Authority, and an average rise of 21 per cent. across the UK.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (43 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (a) cards, (b) parties and (c) decorations in the last 12 months. [237494]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department expenditure on Christmas cards in 2007 was £1,020.81. This includes purchase and printing. Expenditure on Christmas decorations was £1,804. Staff Christmas parties are not paid for from departmental funds.

The sending of Christmas cards at public expense is governed by the principles of Managing Public Money, regulated by departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety and must be in pursuit of specific departmental objectives.

I have asked the chief executives of Companies House and the Insolvency Service to respond to the hon. Member directly.

*Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 26 November 2008:*

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The amount spent on Christmas cards, parties and decorations in the last twelve months is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Cards | 494 |
| Parties | 11,000 |
| Decorations | 180 |

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 26 November 2008:*

The Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to your question (238074595), how much (a) his Department and (b) its agencies have spent on Christmas (a) cards, (b) parties and (c) decorations in the last 12 months.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform made the following payments towards the cost of Christmas (a) cards, (b) parties and (c) decorations in the last 12 months.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Cards | 0 |
| Parties | 0 |
| Decorations | 150 |

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit to be served by his Department at Christmas functions which will be sourced from British producers. [239545]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

### Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to improve its arrangements for co-ordination with other Government Departments of policy affecting coastal towns in the last two years. [238652]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) leads on sponsorship of the nine English regional development agencies (RDAs). The RDAs have an important role to play, with other partners, in helping coastal areas in their regions to achieve their full economic potential as part of wider regional strategies to deliver sustainable growth.

The Department is contributing to the work of the RDA-led Coastal Towns Network, which includes local authorities and other regeneration practitioners from the public and private sector.

Last year, the then-DTI held a policy seminar on coastal towns, to provide a forum for discussion of the problems facing coastal towns and to investigate the best ways in which those problems might be addressed.

The Department is represented on a cross-departmental working group on coastal towns set up in February 2008 to provide a forum for improving cross-government understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing coastal towns, including economic development outcomes.

### Consumer Council of Water

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) for what reason he has decided to review the Consumer Council for Water; [239405]

(2) what role the Consumer Council for Water has in the regular Ofwat review of charges. [239404]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have been asked to reply.

It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [239665]

**Mr. McFadden:** It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member before Prorogation.

### Debts: Scotland

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent estimate he has made of the level of personal debt in Scotland. [239620]

**Mr. Thomas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

### Departmental Cleaning Services

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what contractors his Department uses to undertake cleaning duties; and what the hourly rates of pay are for cleaners working in the Department. [223281]

**Mr. McFadden:** *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* GBM Services Ltd is the contractor employed on the BERR HQ Estate to undertake cleaning services. The current hourly rate of pay for the cleaning staff is £5.75.

### Departmental Conferences

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what external speakers his Department and its agencies have paid since 1 January 2005; how much each was paid; and on what dates they spoke. [237599]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The External Speaker Programme run by the events team in Internal Communications began in December 2007. Since then we have had 22 external speakers visit BERR.

While we pay for speaker's travelling expenses if requested we do not pay for their services.

We do not keep central records of all the external speakers who have visited the Department since 2005 and to gather this information would mean incurring disproportionate costs.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department, its predecessor and its agencies have spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237438]

**Mr. McFadden:** The following figures show information relating to the purchase and installation of flat screen TVs and associated equipment (which may include some DVD players) by BERR's and its predecessors Estates and Communications teams in 2006, 2007 and 2008 to date. Information is not held centrally for any similar purchases made by other individual Directorates within the Department, nor can we separate purchase from installation costs. To attempt to provide both would incur disproportionate costs.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 4,817 |
| 2007 | 4,029 |
| 2008 | 41,065 |

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies

House and they will respond to you directly.

*Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 26 November 2008:*

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply directly to you in respect of your question (2007/4593) asking how much his Department, its predecessor and its agencies have spent on (a) flat screen televisions, (b) DVD players and (c) stereo equipment in each of the last three years.

The Insolvency Service, an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has spent the following amounts on (a) flat screen televisions, (b) DVD players and (c) stereo equipment in each of the last three years:

| | | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| Flat screen televisions | 6,759.10 | 19,454.55 | 8,256.73 |
| DVD Players | 234.98 | 43.17 | 104.64 |
| Stereo equipment | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 26 November 2008:*

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House has spent £1,789.52 on televisions in 2008. No other televisions, DVD players or stereo equipment have been purchased in the last three years.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many civil servants have been employed by each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [238428]

**Mr. McFadden:** The numbers of civil servants employed in BERR agencies from 1997-08 to 2007-08; these data are already available on the ONS and Cabinet Office websites.

The data for 2007 and 2006 are available on the ONS website in the following links:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

The 2007 data can be found in Civil Service Statistics 2007 First Release (Table 11).

The 2006 data can be found in Civil Service Statistics 2006 (Reconciliation Table).

Prior to 2006 the data was collected by Cabinet Office and can be found in the following link:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/archive/index.asp

The numbers of civil servants employed in BERR is non-departmental public bodies in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08; with only a couple of exceptions, executive NDPBs are non-Crown bodies and employees are not civil servants although civil servants can be seconded or loaned to NDPBs. Information on the number of employees in Executive NDPBs is published in the annual Cabinet Office "Public Bodies" publication. Copies are available from the Libraries of the House.

Advisory NDPBs do not usually employ staff. They are typically supported by civil servants from the sponsoring Department.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [237461]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department has one member of staff responsible for managing the Department's brand. This includes the publication and dissemination of the brand guidelines and advising on their application. It is estimated that 25 per cent. of this person's time is spent on branding related activities. Based on the average pay costs for a member of staff at this grade, this represents a staff cost of approximately £10,512 in 2007-08.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [238163]

**Mr. McFadden:** Nothing. Special advisers in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform are not provided with Government cars.

### Departmental Pensions

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the effect on his Department's expenditure would be of increasing the employee contribution to each pension scheme for which his Department is responsible by one per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [200704]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) is not directly responsible for a public sector pension scheme.

BERR's Accounting Officer has responsibility for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) Pension Scheme. UKAEA's pension expenditure may or may not be affected by increasing the employee contribution by 1 per cent. dependant upon actuarial valuation. In 2007-08 the employee contributions to the UKAEA pension schemes amounted to £24.2million.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**John Thurso:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate has been made of expenditure incurred to date by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies in seeking to achieve public service agreement one as set out in the 2007 comprehensive spending review. [239554]

**Mr. Thomas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Reform how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [238510]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department does not centrally collect the information sought and to provide it would entail disproportionate cost.

Statistical surveys to businesses and local authorities conducted by the Department and its agencies are monitored centrally to facilitate control of compliance costs to business and departmental expenditure on survey activity. It is not possible, however, to determine with any degree of accuracy which surveys fall into the categories of focus groups or market and opinion research, or which contain an element of these. The answer would incur disproportionate cost because of the need to ask all directorates in BERR, plus agencies and associated non-departmental public bodies, to attempt to provide details of each survey and piece of research commissioned since 1997.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of the working week he expects the Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting to spend on his Department's business. [225916]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (joint Minister with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport) expects to spend approximately 50 per cent. of his working week on BERR business.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the transfer of his responsibilities for energy to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on his science budget; and if he will make a statement. [233215]

**Mr. McFadden:** Following a Machinery of Government change announced in June 2007, the responsibility for science and the science budget transferred from the

Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many questions for written answer were tabled to his Department and its predecessor in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235402]

**Mr. McFadden:** The information, which is available on the Parliamentary Information Management System (PIMS) was, at 18 November 2008, as follows:

| *Session* | *Number of written questions tabled* | *Of which Received a Prorogation reply* | *Of which Cited disproportionate cost* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 3,410 | | 117 |
| 2006-07 | [1]2,913 | 44 | 101 |
| 2005-06 | 5,130 | 33 | 151 |
| 2004-05 | 1,333 | 102 | 40 |
| 2003-04 | 3,822 | 104 | 96 |
| 2002-03 | 3,508 | 14 | 90 |

[1] Of which 2,100 DTI and 813 BERR

### Digital Broadcasting

**Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans his Department has to encourage the purchase of television sets which support integrated digital television. [223104]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 10 September 2008]*: By the end of March 2008[1], four out of five of the televisions sold were digital, up from 73 per cent. in December 2007. Major stores have committed to not stocking analogue-only television equipment. The digital switchover certification mark (the 'digital tick' logo), owned by the Secretary of State, indicates products such as integrated digital television sets which are designed to work through switchover. By July 2008 85 per cent. of retailers (by volume of TV and set top box sales) were using the 'digital tick' logo and 76 per cent. of people are aware of the 'digital tick' and what it means. The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations which came into force on 26 May 2008 forbid retailers and manufacturers from misleading consumers, including by omitting information that the average consumer needs to make an informed transactional decision. This would include any retailer not telling a potential purchaser of an analogue-only TV that it would not be capable of handling broadcasts when the analogue transmissions were switched off without the addition of a digital adaptor box. This example is included by the OFT in their guidance on the application of the Consumer Protection Regulations. We will keep the developments in the market under review, but currently do not consider that further action to encourage the purchase of integrated digital television sets (as opposed to analogue-only televisions) is needed.

[1] The UK Communications Market 2008, Ofcom, published 14 August 2008 encourage the purchase of integrated digital television sets (as opposed to analogue-only televisions) is needed.

### Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on the adequacy of the provisions of the waste electrical and electronic equipment directive in preventing electronic goods being discarded in developing nations under the guise of second-hand goods; and if he will make a statement. [236305]

**Ian Pearson:** Article 6(5) of the waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive requires that any movement of WEEE from a member state or out of the Community for recycling be undertaken in line with the requirements of the Waste Shipments Regulation. The environment agencies are the competent authorities for the export of waste controls in the UK and take any necessary enforcement action against illegal exports of WEEE in accordance with its published enforcement and prosecution policy.

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department has spent on ensuring the UK's compliance with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive since it came into effect. [237236]

**Ian Pearson:** The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive was implemented in the UK via the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations. The Regulations came into force in January 2007 and since that date the Department has spent £4.7 million to cover the associated enforcement costs.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consideration his Department has given to the collection of data under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive on the amount of material that goes to landfill. [237859]

**Ian Pearson:** There are no requirements under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive for the collection of data on the amount of material which goes to landfill. However the directive does require member states to maximise the collection of separately collected WEEE, which should result in reduced amounts being sent for landfill. The UK WEEE Regulations reflect this requirement.

### Employment: Environment Protection

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make an assessment of the implications for the UK of the findings of the recent United Nations Environment Programme report on the economic benefits of investing in green jobs. [232158]

**Ian Pearson:** The Government warmly welcome the report "Green Jobs: Towards Decent Work in a Sustainable, Low-Carbon World" by the United Nations Environment Programme.

In the Manufacturing Strategy published in September 2008 the Government committed itself to produce a Low Carbon Industrial Strategy in 2009. The strategy will look at the scale and scope of the low carbon economy, future scenarios and how companies can take advantage of the growing market opportunities.

### EU Grants and Loans

**Adam Price:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what changes have been proposed by other EU member states in EU discussions to the budgets and co-financing rules of the European Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund as a result of the global economic downturn. [239179]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]:* The European Commission intend to publish on the 26 November 2008 a comprehensive EU recovery plan to help address the global economic downturn. An element of this plan will cover proposals for the European Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund which may have implications for budgets and co-financing rules. Member states will subsequently discuss these proposals in the relevant Working Groups before any Council decisions are agreed.

### Fuel Poverty

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require all energy suppliers to offer social tariffs based on minimum standards; and if he will make a statement. [224275]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 17 September 2008]*: I have been asked to reply.

All suppliers now offer programmes of assistance to vulnerable customers. Allowing companies to act voluntarily has encouraged innovation and competition between them to offer the most attractive social programmes to consumers. Mandating a social tariff would stifle this innovation and could increase energy prices for the remaining majority of consumers, including those on low and modest incomes and therefore would need to be considered carefully.

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the rise in the price of domestic energy during 2008 on the effectiveness and operation of the Fuel Poverty Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [224273]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Our latest official figures are for 2006 and although they show a fall in the number of households in fuel poverty by 3 million in the UK since 1996, numbers are now increasing primarily due to energy price rises. The 2006 figures show that across the UK, approximately 3.5 million households were in fuel poverty (of which around 2.75 million were vulnerable households), an increase of around 1 million on 2005. In England in 2006, there were around 2.4 million fuel poor households, of which around 1.9 million were vulnerable. The full report can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file48036.pdf.

The statistical annex to this report gives indicative projections for fuel poverty in England. These show an estimated further 1.2 million households moving into fuel poverty between 2006 and 2008, largely due to fuel price increases.

The Government continue to keep fuel poverty policies under constant review.

### Home Computing Initiative

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many laptops that were leased to employees under the home computing initiative had been upgraded by employers; and what the average cost of upgrading the laptops was. [235151]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department did not require this level of detail on how many laptops leased to employees had been upgraded under the home computing initiative scheme. This information would only be held by employers who ran home computing initiative schemes.

That said, very few employers had the chance to run multiple schemes. As the programme was launched in 2004, most schemes had not ended by the time the 1999 tax exemption was removed in March 2006 (as they ran typically for three years). It is very unlikely that many were upgraded following the removal of the tax exemption.

### Internet: Standards

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to ensure that broadband customers receive the level of service advertised by their broadband provider. [223812]

**Ian Pearson:** The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Motor Vehicles: Contracts

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what role Ministers in his Department had in shortlisting companies bidding to provide electric and low carbon vehicles to public bodies under the Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform. [234717]

**Ian Pearson:** Ministers were not involved in decisions on the shortlisting of companies bidding to provide lower carbon and all-electric vans to the public sector under the Department for Transport's Low Carbon Vehicle Public Procurement Programme.

## Natural Gas: Engineers

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints his Department has received on the quality of work undertaken by gas fitters in each of the last 10 years; how many prosecutions have been brought concerning illegal installations by gas fitters in that time; and how many of those prosecutions have been successful. [237052]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have been asked to reply.

Table 1 shows the number of gas related complaints received by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) since 1999-2000 (the earliest year for which figures are available). These figures include, but do not solely relate to, complaints in relation to poor installation work because HSE has a single recording system for gas safety complaints. Therefore, the figures include:

1. Complaints or concerns received directly from tenants, or indirectly from local authority (LA) housing sector inspectors, Energywatch (the Gas and Electricity Consumers Council) or the gas installer registration body CORGI, about landlords failing to comply with their gas safety duties under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998;

2. Complaints received directly from members of the public about the standards of workmanship of gas fitters (registered or not) who have installed appliances; or indirectly referred by consumer bodies such as Energywatch acting on their behalf;

3. Information and/or complaints from CORGI about the activities of unregistered installers;

4. Complaints or reports that manufacturers of commercial catering equipment or industrial space heaters do not meet the requirements of the Gas Appliances (Safety) Regulations 1995.

*Table 1*

| | *Number of gas complaints* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 1,041 |
| 2000-01 | 1,114 |
| 2001-02 | 1,152 |
| 2002-03 | 1,973 |
| 2003-04 | 2,009 |
| 2004-05 | 2,071 |
| 2005-06 | 1,609 |
| 2006-07 | 2,409 |
| 2007-08 | 2,137 |
| Total | 15,515 |

Table 2 shows the number of prosecution cases and individual offences brought by HSE concerning both illegal gas installations and unregistered gas workers since 1 April 1999 (the earliest date for which figures are available). The prosecutions are for breaches of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998, or their predecessor Regulations. A prosecution case can be brought for more than one offence. A successful prosecution of a case occurs when there is a guilty conviction against one or more of the offences heard by the courts.

*Table 2*

| | *Number of prosecution cases concluded (including for more than one offence)* | *Number of successful prosecutions* | *Number of individual offences prosecuted* | *Number of individual convictions* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 87 | 66 | 210 | 147 |
| 2000-01 | 59 | 55 | 183 | 149 |
| 2001-02 | 59 | 50 | 193 | 142 |
| 2002-03 | 52 | 49 | 120 | 104 |
| 2003-04 | 46 | 39 | 98 | 74 |
| 2004-05 | 32 | 32 | 74 | 69 |
| 2005-06 | 33 | 32 | 82 | 69 |
| 2006-07 | 33 | 30 | 91 | 77 |
| 2007-08 | 30 | 26 | 79 | 64 |
| Total | 431 | 379 | 1130 | 865 |

**Mrs. Maria Miller:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans are in place to inform users of gas and solid fuel energy that the gas fitter registration scheme will from April be run by Capita and not Corgi; what estimate his Department has made of the expenditure required to establish the new registration brand; and what monitoring his Department undertake of awareness of the new registration brand. [237053]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have been asked to reply.

Raising awareness of the new Capita operated gas installer registration scheme is a key feature in the contract the organisation has entered into with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Capita is required to have a clear marketing and communications plan to achieve this. This is in place and a substantial sum has been earmarked for its delivery. Capita will address the cost; there is no cost to public funds. Capita's performance in relation to promoting awareness of the new gas safety brand will be judged by HSE against a key performance indicator agreed in the contract. That performance will be measured by a variety of techniques to determine the unprompted brand awareness of the new registration scheme among gas consumers.

## New Businesses: Kent

**Damian Green:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many new businesses were started in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* Ashford constituency in each year since 2001. [236873]

**Ian Pearson:** The numbers of businesses registering for VAT and the total number of VAT registered businesses in the county of Kent and in Ashford constituency are shown in the following tables.

Data for the number of VAT registrations during 2007 will be available on 28 November 2008.

*VAT registrations*

| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kent county[1] | 4,120 | 4,405 | 4,695 | 4,355 | 4,245 | 4,515 |
| Ashford constituency | 395 | 425 | 470 | 470 | 430 | 455 |

*Start of year VAT stock*[2]

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kent county[1] | 40,705 | 41,465 | 42,325 | 43,520 | 44,335 | 44,855 | 45,980 |
| Ashford constituency | 4,040 | 4,085 | 4,150 | 4,290 | 4,400 | 4,425 | 4,550 |

[1] Kent county excludes Medway unitary authority

[2] Although start of year stock data is available for 2007, data on new VAT registrations during 2007 will not be available until 28 November 2008.

*Source:*

BERR National Statistics publication 'Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 2006' available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

Although the number of new registrations has fluctuated since 2001, the total number of VAT registered businesses in Kent increased from 40,705 at the start of 2001 to 45,980 at the start of 2007, an increase of 5,275 (13 per cent.). The total number of VAT registered businesses in Ashford constituency increased from 4,040 at the start of 2001 to 4,550 at the start of 2007, an increase of 510 (13 per cent.).

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (43 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

### Nominet

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his plans are for the future of Nominet; and if he will make a statement. [239260]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government have no current proposals in relation to Nominet. Officials in the Department have written to the company seeking clarification of how the present governance of the company reflects the wider stakeholder interest in Nominet's activities in regard to the management of .co.uk Domain Name System. We understand that the company has commissioned an independent review in order to reply fully to that request. We look forward to the outcome of that review.

### Non-Profit Making Associations: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many social enterprises there were in each of the principal seaside towns on the latest date for which figures are available; and what percentage of all businesses in each town this represents. [238666]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

The most recent figures suggest there are at least 55,000 social enterprises in the UK. However, social enterprises are not defined by particular legal forms and as a result are not required to register with any one body. Information on the number of social enterprises in each of the principal seaside towns; and what percentage of all businesses this represents in each town, is therefore unavailable.

### Post Office Card Account

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much compensation the private firms affected by the Government's decision to withdraw the Post Office Card Account contract from tender will receive. [237569]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I have been asked to reply.

The other bidders who were still in the competition at the point at which it was halted will be reimbursed for their reasonable bid costs. The precise amounts payable will be subject to commercial confidentiality.

### Postage Stamps

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department issues guidance to the Stamp Advisory Committee on its work. [233090]

**Mr. McFadden:** Operational matters, which include decisions relating to Royal Mail's stamps, are the direct responsibility of the company's management.

The Department for Business (BERR) does not issue any guidance to Royal Mail's Stamp Advisory Committee. Royal Mail's special stamps are governed in accordance with criteria which have been developed and established by the company. As the Government Department responsible for postal affairs, BERR would, as a matter of course, review any proposed changes to the criteria before progressing the company's proposal to Buckingham Palace for formal agreement.

The Stamp Advisory Committee is run by Royal Mail to review stamp designs commissioned by the company under themes for its stamps programme. The Committee includes representatives of the stamp collecting community, of the design and arts community, of the public, and a representative from BERR.

### Small Businesses: Government Assistance

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many applications for funding under the Government's Small Firms Guarantee Scheme have been refused in each year since 2003. [233662]

**Ian Pearson:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 762W, Small Firms Loan Guarantee.

### Small Businesses: Hampshire

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small to medium-sized enterprises were registered in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* the Test Valley borough and *(c)* Eastleigh borough and *(d)* Romsey constituency in each of the last five years. [239843]

**Ian Pearson:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

## Small Businesses: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small to medium sized enterprises were registered in the Leeds, West constituency between 1997 and 2008. [238803]

**Ian Pearson:** VAT registration data provide the only accurate indicator of the number of VAT-registered business at the start of each calendar year.

The number of businesses registered for VAT in Leeds, West constituency for the start of 1997 to at the start of 2007 is shown in the table below. Data for the number of VAT-registered businesses at the start of 2008 will be available on 28 November 2008.

Only data for businesses of all sizes registered for VAT is published by BERR. However, it is estimated that the majority (97.9 per cent) of these will be small (with fewer than 50 employees) and 1.7 per cent will be medium-sized (with 50-249 employees).

*Number of VAT-registered businesses in Leeds West parliamentary constituency*

| | *Start of year stock of VAT-registered businesses* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 1,285 |
| 1998 | 1,295 |
| 1999 | 1,335 |
| 2000 | 1,355 |
| 2001 | 1,400 |
| 2002 | 1,415 |
| 2003 | 1,440 |
| 2004 | 1,470 |
| 2005 | 1,515 |
| 2006 | 1,575 |
| 2007 | 1,645 |

*Source:*
BERR National Statistics publication 'Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 2006' available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

The number of VAT-registered businesses in Leeds, West parliamentary constituency rose from 1,285 at the start of 1997 to 1,645 at the start of 2007—a rise of 28 per cent. compared with an average rise of nearly 20 per cent. across UK.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £61,000 at the start of 2007. Only 1.96 million out of 4.7 million UK enterprises (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2007.

## Small Businesses: North East

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of businesses in *(a)* the north-east and *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in the north-east are small businesses. [235901]

**Ian Pearson:** BERR SME Statistics provide the most comprehensive data on the number of small businesses in the UK. These statistics include VAT and PAYE-registered employers as well as estimates of the unregistered business population.

Businesses are classified as small if they have between zero and 49 employees. The following table the number of small business and the proportion of businesses which are small in the north-east at the start of 2007. Data for 2008 will be available in summer 2009.

*Small Businesses in the North East*

| | *Number/percentage* |
|---|---|
| Number of (registered and unregistered) small businesses | 132,480 |
| Proportion of businesses which are small (percentage) | 99.1 |

*Source:*
BERR SME Statistics 2007 http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/sme/

Since 1997, the number of small business in the north-east has increased by 38 per cent.

A breakdown by parliamentary constituency is not available from BERR SME Statistics. However, The Office for National Statistics UK Business publication provides a breakdown of businesses registered for VAT and/or PAYE by size and parliamentary constituency. Since ONS statistics include only the registered business population, they exclude the very smallest businesses. The figures are therefore lower than the BERR SME statistics.

The following table shows the number and proportion of small business in the north-east and in each parliamentary constituency in the north-east as of March 2008.

| *Region or parliamentary constituency* | *Number of registered small businesses* | *Proportion of registered businesses which are small (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| North East Region | 55,765 | 97.5 |
| Berwick-upon-Tweed | 2,990 | 99.0 |
| Bishop Auckland | 2,865 | 98.6 |
| Blaydon | 1,895 | 97.7 |
| Blyth Valley | 1,475 | 97.0 |
| City of Durham | 1,975 | 96.8 |
| Darlington | 1,880 | 96.9 |
| Easington | 1,215 | 97.2 |
| Gateshead East and Washington West | 1,335 | 97.4 |
| Hartlepool | 1,660 | 96.8 |
| Hexham | 3,795 | 99.2 |
| Houghton and Washington East | 1,580 | 97.8 |
| Jarrow | 1,320 | 97.4 |
| Middlesbrough | 1,775 | 96.5 |
| Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland | 1,625 | 98.2 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne Central | 2,370 | 96.9 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend | 1,310 | 97.8 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne North | 1,285 | 97.3 |
| North Durham | 1,590 | 97.5 |
| North Tyneside | 1,335 | 95.7 |
| North West Durham | 2,365 | 97.7 |
| Redcar | 1,365 | 97.2 |
| Sedgefield | 2,290 | 97.7 |
| South Shields | 1,150 | 97.5 |
| Stockton North | 1,580 | 96.6 |

| Parliamentary constituency | Number of registered small businesses | Proportion of registered businesses which are small (percentage) |
|---|---|---|
| Stockton South | 2,465 | 97.6 |
| Sunderland North | 1,540 | 97.2 |
| Sunderland South | 1,120 | 97.4 |
| Tyne Bridge | 1,010 | 95.3 |
| Tynemouth | 2,065 | 97.6 |
| Wansbeck | 1,540 | 98.4 |

Source:
Office for National Statistics "UK Business: Activity, Size and Location – 2008"
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=933

**Small Firms Loan Guarantee**

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what the total value of loans *(a)* applied for and *(b)* made under the Small Firms Loan Guarantee was in each of the last five years; and what the average value of such loans was in each year; [229866]

(2) how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful applications for the Small Firms Loan Guarantee have been submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises in each of the last five years. [229865]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 22 October 2008]:* For figures on the value and volume of loans made under the Small Firms Loan Guarantee in each of the last five years, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 942W, to the hon. Member for Manchester, Withington (Mr. Leech).

Small Firms Loan Guarantee Annual Reports to Parliament 2006-07 and 2007-08, set out the average loan value for these years. The Industrial Development Act 1982 Annual Report for the years ended 31 March 2004 (HC 787), 31 March 2005 (HC 707), 31 March 2006 (HC 1292) sets out the value and volume of lending for 2003-04; 2004-05; 2005-06 inclusive. Copies of both reports have been placed in the Library of the House.

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many successful applications for the Small Firms Loan Guarantee have been made in each of the last five years in the *(a)* communication and IT, *(b)* construction, *(c)* hotels and catering, *(d)* manufacturing and production, *(e)* property and business services, *(f)* sport, health and education, *(g)* wholesale and retail and *(h)* other sectors. [229862]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 22 October 2008]:* Figures on the number of loans by sector made under the Government's Small Firms Loan Guarantee during 2006-07 and 2007-08 are published in the SFLG Annual Report to Parliament 2007-08. Copies of the reports have been placed in the Library of the House.

**Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme**

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the economic impact evaluation of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee referred to in his Department's Annual Report 2008 has been completed; and when it will be published. • [217409]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* The latest economic impact evaluation of SFLG is in progress. The results will be published in spring 2009.

**Smarta**

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects Smarta to go live. [231954]

**Ian Pearson:** The Smarta website is a private sector enterprise, of which the Department is aware but has no direct involvement in its day-to-day operations.

**Textiles: Industry**

**Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of the economy the clothing and textiles industry accounts for. [223632]

**Ian Pearson:** The clothing and textiles industry contributed £3.4 billion gross valued added to the UK economy in 2006, which is 0.3 per cent. of the total.

**Trading Funds**

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Shareholder Executive's assessment of trading funds will be published; and if he will make a statement. [236338]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The ministerial policy decision on the first phase of the Trading Funds Assessment—together with the basis for that decision—will be communicated by the end of the year.

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions Ministers and officials in his Department have had with the Shareholder Executive on their assessment of trading funds. [236339]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* Officials from different parts of BERR are working closely with the Shareholder Executive on the Trading Funds Assessment and are represented on the Trading Funds Assessment Steering Group. There have been regular discussions on the Assessment between officials and BERR and other Ministers.

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Shareholder Executive's assessment of trading funds is intended to provide a clear definition of the public task of trading funds. [236340]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The Trading Funds Assessment is intended to clarify government policy on re-use of information produced by the Trading Funds under consideration—both within and outside their public task—taking into account any impact on

the business model of the organisations concerned. In some cases, the assessment may recommend change to the public task of the organisation or change to the governance mechanism by which it is defined.

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Shareholder Executive team carrying out the assessment of trading funds has discussed that assessment with the Office of Fair Trading. [236341]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* The Office of Fair Trading is represented on the Trading Funds Assessment Steering Group and the Shareholder Executive team is working closely with the OFT throughout the Assessment.

## VAT: Vale of Clwyd

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses based in Vale of Clwyd constituency were registered for VAT in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [235558]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 12 November 2008]:* The number of businesses registered for VAT in Vale of Clwyd at the start of 1997 and at the start of 2007 is shown in the following table. Data for the number of VAT-registered businesses at the start of 2008 will be available 28 November 2008.

*Number of VAT-registered businesses*

| | *1997* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|
| Vale of Clwyd | 1,650 | 1,735 |

*Source:*
BERR National Statistics publication 'Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 2006' available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

The number of VAT-registered businesses in Vale of Clwyd rose from 1,650 at the start of 1997 to 1,735 at the start of 2007—a rise of 5 per cent. compared with an average rise of nearly 10 per cent across UK.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £61,000 at the start of 2007. Only 1.96 million out of 4.7 million UK enterprises (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2007.

## VAT: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many VAT *(a)* registrations and *(b)* de-registrations there were in the City of York (i) constituency and (ii) local authority area in each year since 1994. [237056]

**Ian Pearson:** VAT registration data provide the only accurate indicator of the number of VAT-registered business at the start of each calendar year.

The number of businesses registering for VAT and the number of businesses de-registering in City of York constituency and in York Unitary Authority are shown in the following tables. Data for the number of VAT registrations and VAT de-registrations during 2007 will be available on 28 November 2008.

*City of York constituency: VAT registrations and de-registrations*

| | *Registrations* | *De-registrations* |
|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 210 | 210 |
| 1995 | 230 | 225 |
| 1996 | 195 | 215 |
| 1997 | 235 | 185 |
| 1998 | 215 | 180 |
| 1999 | 235 | 195 |
| 2000 | 235 | 190 |
| 2001 | 225 | 175 |
| 2002 | 205 | 200 |
| 2003 | 260 | 170 |
| 2004 | 250 | 175 |
| 2005 | 280 | 200 |
| 2006 | 245 | 175 |

*York unitary authority: VAT registrations and de-registrations*

| | *Registrations* | *De-registrations* |
|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 370 | 370 |
| 1995 | 410 | 390 |
| 1996 | 395 | 375 |
| 1997 | 435 | 340 |
| 1998 | 415 | 325 |
| 1999 | 430 | 340 |
| 2000 | 460 | 335 |
| 2001 | 440 | 345 |
| 2002 | 490 | 380 |
| 2003 | 520 | 365 |
| 2004 | 465 | 345 |
| 2005 | 525 | 410 |
| 2006 | 475 | 380 |

*Source:*
BERR National Statistics publication 'Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 2006' available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

The number of new VAT registrations exceeded the number of de-registrations in every year since 1997 in both the City of York constituency and in York Unitary Authority.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (43 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 26 November 2008*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will respond to the letter to the Secretary of State dated 8th September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms H. Mooney. [238192]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I have been asked to reply.

I apologise for the delay in responding. A reply was sent on 28 October 2008.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Rape Crisis Centres

5. **Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what progress she has made on providing emergency funding support for rape crisis centres. [238086]

**Maria Eagle:** Nineteen rape crisis centres have been awarded grants from the second and final round of this special fund, to a total of nearly £700,000, ensuring that they have been able to remain open.

The Government continue to step up on action to tackle the menace of rape and bring offenders to justice. The latest figures show that in 2006 there were nearly 800 convictions for rape, compared to just over 500 in 1997, an increase of over 45 per cent.

### Domestic Violence

9. **John Robertson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps she plans to take to encourage individuals who are victims of domestic violence to seek assistance to prevent continued abuse. [238096]

**Maria Eagle:** Providing support services for victims of domestic violence is central to the Government's National Domestic Violence Plan. Services include provision of Government funding for a network of national telephone helplines as well as ensuring that multi-agency risk assessment conferences are established across England and Wales by 2011.

### Children

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether the plans outlined in section seven of the Government's Draft Legislative Programme in relation to improved data collection on equality include collecting data on discrimination based on age, with particular reference to children and young people under 18; and if she will make a statement. [221127]

**Maria Eagle:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation. I will write when the information is available.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) her Department and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since its inception; what the target rates set for her Department are in each case; and if she will make a statement. [238928]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office (GEO) was established on 12 October 2007. Since its inception the GEO has a sick absence rate of 6.6 average working days lost per year. This figure also includes staff working in the Women's National Commission. As a new Department we do not yet have sufficient data or trends to set a realistic target for our sick absence rate but as an interim measure we are working towards the cabinet office guideline of 6.5 average working days lost per year. The Department does not keep any central records which record the rates of other, non-sickness-related absences. Absence on holidays and any special leave are managed between individuals and their line managers, against individually contracted allowances.

The rate of sickness absence for the Equality and Human Rights Commission since 1 October 2007 is an average of 7.71 working days lost per employee per year. This is against a target rate for the Commission of seven working days per employee. The Commission is introducing a number of attendance management initiatives to reduce its sickness absence level in line with the target. The EHRC is undergoing a period of change and transition. In such circumstances absences may be higher than expected.

As context for these figures, the 2008 survey of absence from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) shows a Public Sector absence average of 9.8 working days lost.

### Departmental Civil Servants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many civil servants have been employed by each of the Government Equalities Office and non-departmental bodies in each year since its inception; and if she will make a statement. [239097]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office (GEO) sponsors the Equality and Human Rights Commission, an executive non-departmental public body (NDPB). Executive NDPBs are non-Crown bodies and employees are not civil servants—although civil servants can be seconded or loaned to NDPBs. Information on the number of employees in executive NDPBs is published in the annual Cabinet Office "Public Bodies" publication. Copies are available from the Libraries of the House.

The GEO also sponsors the Women's National Commission, an advisory NDPB. Advisory NDPBs do not usually employ staff. They are typically supported by civil servants from the sponsoring Department.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much *(a)* the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in each year since its inception; and if she will make a statement. [239055]

**Maria Eagle:** Since its inception on 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office (GEO) has spent £31,991 on external consultancy costs, the details of which are tabled below:

| *Date* | *Consultancy* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| April to May 2008 | Single Equality Scheme | 10,389 |
| May 2008 | Research Strategy and Seminars | [1]9,847 |
| September 2008 | Women's National Commission Memorandum of Understanding | 1,755 |
| Total | - | 31,991 |

[1] Costs to date

The GEO also sponsors the Equality and Human Rights Commission. The Commission has spent a total of £213,650 on external consultancy since 1 October 2007.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work and *(b)* provide assistance for the Government Equalities Office. [237572]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office currently has one permanent, full-time press officer, and one temporary press officer.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality (1) how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by the Government Equalities Office in each year since its inception; and at what cost in each year; [239077]

(2) how many press officers were employed in the Government Equalities Office in each year since its inception; what the total cost was in each year; and if she will make a statement. [239111]

**Maria Eagle:** The hon. Member for Taunton has tabled two similar questions and I will answer for both 239077 and 239111.

Since its establishment on 12 October 2007 the Government Equalities Office established two press office posts and has employed one special adviser. The costs for the special adviser in 2007-08 were £58,597 and to date in 2008-09 the costs are £35,735.

The GEOs press office posts have been staffed by four individual employees, the cost of these staff are detailed as follows:

| | *Number of press office posts* | *Total cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 2 | 36,267 |
| 2008-09 | 2 | 84,311 |

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much *(a)* the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in each year since its inception; and if she will make a statement. [238945]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. No expenditure was incurred on publicity and advertising in the financial year 2007-08. In 2008-09 the costs to date, have been as follows:

| *Description* | *Supplier* | *Description* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Publicity | Sugar Media plc | Guide to International Women's Month | 822.50 |
| Advertising | Guardian News and Media Ltd | Recruitment of Commissioners to the Women's National Commission | 4,382.75 |
| Advertising | Guardian News and Media Ltd | GEO Job Advertisements | 10,634.93 |

The Government Equalities Office sponsors an executive non-departmental public body, the Equality and Human Rights Commission. In 2007-08 the Commission spent £72,864 on publicity, and £237,963 on advertising. These figures incorporate spending from the legacy Commissions in the financial year leading to the creation of the Commission. They also take into account the additional costs connected to the establishment of the new Commission and should therefore be treated as exceptional rather than the norm. In 2008-09 to date, the Commission has spent £6,312 on publicity and £77,812 on advertising.

### Equality

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will place in the Library the responses to the discrimination law review consultation. [220202]

**Maria Eagle:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation. I will write when the information is available.

### Hotels

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much was spent on hotel bills by the Government Equalities Office in 2007-08. [237574]

**Maria Eagle:** The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007. In 2007-08 a total of £1,514 was spent on hotel bills by staff who record their expenses against the GEO's travel and subsistence IT systems. Of GEO's 91 staff, 19 are on loan to GEO from the Department for Work and Pensions and their travel and subsistence costs are logged against DWP's IT

systems. DWP then invoice GEO for these costs, but do not separate out the element relating to hotel bills. Based on the pattern of costs incurred elsewhere in the GEO, these hotel bills can be estimated at a further £350.

### Revenue and Customs: Disabled

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will hold discussions with HM Treasury over allegations of discrimination concerning the relocation of disabled staff from the Kettering Tax Office to the tax office in Northampton. [225988]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

While I cannot intervene in operational decisions taken by another Government Department, I will ensure that the Financial Secretary to the Treasury fully understands that employees of Her Majesty's Treasury are protected by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Brussels

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on visits by its staff to Brussels in 2007-08; and how many such visits were made by *(a)* air and *(b)* rail. [239420]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following table shows the Department's spend and number of return trips to Brussels in the period April 2007 to March 2008.

*Return trips to Brussels—April 2007 to March 2008*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| | 18,735.04 |
| No. return trips to Brussels by Rail | 273 |
| No. return trips to Brussels by Air | 164 |

All travel by Civil Servants is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code and departmental staff handbooks.

### Carers' Benefits

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time carers receive benefits. [238374]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Family Resources Survey does not define full-time and part-time carers. However, it does collect information on the number of hours people provide care. Information about the percentage of adult carers providing care for 35 hours or more and less than 35 hours who are also in receipt of benefits is in the following table.

*Percentages of carers who receive benefits*

| *Total hours providing care* | *Not in receipt of any benefits* | *In receipt of benefits* |
|---|---|---|
| Less than 35 hours | 46 | 54 |
| 35 or more hours | 20 | 80 |
| All carers | 40 | 60 |

*Notes:*
1. Carers are defined as 'people involved in the provision of any regular service or help to someone in or outside their household who is sick, disabled or elderly'.
2. This only covers adult carers. Adults are all individuals aged 16 and over, unless defined as a dependent child. A dependent child is defined as those aged under 16 and those aged 16 to 19 providing they are: not married nor in a civil partnership, living with their parents and either in full time non-advance education or unwaged Government training.
3. 35 hours is the minimum hours of care that need to be supplied to qualify for Carer's Allowance.
4. The Family Resources Survey collects information on the incomes and circumstances of private households in the United Kingdom. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample, covering approximately 26,000 households in 2006-07, the latest survey year.
5. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to Government Office Region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.

*Source:*
Family Resources Survey, 2006-07

### Cemeteries

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter from the Chair of the Health and Safety Commission to local authority chief executives in 2004 on memorial safety. [238815]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The letter sent from the Chair of the Health and Safety Commission to local authority chief executives on 1 June 2004 has been placed in the Library. The Health and Safety Executive continues to stress the need for a sensible, proportionate and risk-based approach to managing memorial safety. The Health and Safety Executive is supporting the Ministry of Justice and representatives from across the burial industry in finalising guidance on how to manage the risk associated with unstable memorials. It is expected that the advice will be published and circulated in the next few weeks.

### Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission are employed in its face-to-face service; and what training they have received. [240037]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Child Support Agency: Debt Collection

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will break down by *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority the debt owed to the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years. [226161]

**Kitty Ussher:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and arrange for a copy of the table to be placed in the Library.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will break down by (a) parliamentary constituency and (b) local authority the debt owed to the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years. [226161]

Such information as is available is included in the tables which have been placed in the Library, which show the total debt owed by non-resident parents by Parliamentary Constituency and Local Authority for cases held on the CS2 computer system. This information is not available for cases held on the CS2 computer system prior to 2007 and is not available for any of the cases held on the CSCS computer system.

Child maintenance debt is owed by non-resident parents as a result of their failure to meet their financial responsibilities to their children. Some non-resident parents do their utmost to avoid these responsibilities, for example by moving house or changing jobs whenever the Child Support Agency tries to collect maintenance. Over its 15 year life, the Agency has collected and arranged over £7.5 billion in child maintenance with over £1 bn collected in the last year alone.

The Agency has been successful in slowing significantly the rate at which debt accrues. In the twelve months to March 2008, debt grew by an average of £10 million per month half the rate of accrual for the year to March 2006.

The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act strengthens the range of enforcement and debt management powers available to the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. These will enable the Commission to recoup more effectively outstanding debt.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Children: Maintenance

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of Child Support Agency payments have been paid *(a)* incorrectly and *(b)* late in the last period for which figures are available. [238377]

**Kitty Ussher:** I have consulted with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission who have confirmed that the information requested is not available.

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* parents with care and *(b)* non-resident parents the Child Maintenance Option Service contact centre has assisted with (i) benefit cases and (ii) other cases since July 2008. [240018]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Coastal Areas: Departmental Coordination

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to improve its arrangements for co-ordination with other Government Departments of policy affecting coastal towns in the last two years. [238654]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Department for Work and Pensions works closely with a range of other Departments on policy affecting people in coastal towns. This includes working in partnership with the regional development agencies coastal towns network to improve analysis and evidence on the challenges and opportunities facing coastal towns as well as exploring the scope of local area agreements, and possibly multi-area agreements, as strategic mechanisms for improving coastal town regeneration outcomes. The Department is also closely involved in work examining employment and skill levels and what can be done to improve outcomes in these areas.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since its inception; what the target rates set for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [238938]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information is either not available or not held centrally, and could be provided incompletely and only at a disproportionate cost.

Information about sickness absence rates for the years from 2001 to 2005 and for 2006-07 has been published and can be obtained from the civil service website at the following Internet address:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Information about the rate of sickness absence for the year 2007-08 has also been published and can be obtained from this Department's website at the following Internet address:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/aboutus/news/archive/english/2008/digest/jun08.asp

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [239070]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Details of the Department's total expenditure on external consultancy for each year from its inception in 2001-02 is provided in the following table. Separate figures of expenditure by agency are not available. The Department's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) procure consultancy separately via their own de-centralised procurement functions and related details of expenditure are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*DWP external management and IT consultancy spend from 2001-02 (inclusive of VAT)*

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| | *Consultancy expenditure* |
| 2001-2 | 94.46 |
| 2002-3 | 139.04 |
| 2003-4 | 306.72 |
| 2004-5 | 168.37 |
| 2005-6 | 130.29 |
| 2006-7 | 162.62 |
| 2007-8 | 76.43 |

## Departmental Early Retirement

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees in his Department took early retirement in each of the last five financial years; and at what total cost. [238974]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The number of staff from the Department for Work and Pensions and its Agencies who took early retirement in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

*Staff taking early retirement*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 73 |
| 2004-05 | 179 |
| 2005-06 | 1,221 |
| 2006-07 | 779 |
| 2007-08 | 1,187 |

*Note:*
Figures for 2003-04 do not include The Rent Service.

Information on total cost of early retirements could only be provided by checking individual staff records as the Department's accounting systems do not differentiate between the costs of early retirements (staff aged over 50) and early severances (staff aged under 50). This would be possible only at a disproportionate cost.

## Departmental ICT

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost and (ii) stolen from his Department in each year since 1997. [234089]

**Kitty Ussher:** The following table shows the number of *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones which were recorded as lost or stolen, together with the average number of employees of the Department in each of the relevant years to 31 December. Information is not available for the years prior to 2001, and such details could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

| | *Employees* | *(a) Memory sticks* | *(b) Laptop computers* | *(c) Desktop computers* | *(d) Hard drives* | *(e) Mobile telephones* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | [1]86,806 | 0 | 23 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 2002 | 124,117 | 0 | 42 | 412 | 0 | 3 |
| 2003 | 131,409 | 0 | 42 | 149 | 1 | 30 |
| 2004 | 130,786 | 2 | 75 | 156 | 11 | 34 |
| 2005 | 126,988 | 3 | 46 | 64 | 0 | 31 |
| 2006 | 119,972 | 4 | 28 | 28 | 0 | 15 |
| 2007 | 114,500 | 4 | 15 | 13 | 1 | 14 |

[1] Figure relates to the former Department of Social Security only.

We have taken steps to improve data security, including encryption.

## Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work and *(b)* provide assistance for his Department. [237577]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department has 42 full-time equivalent press officers.

Of this, 25 are based across the English regions and in Scotland and Wales.

In addition to our responsibilities to the Department for Work and Pensions, the press office provides services for Jobcentre Plus and the Pension, Disability and Carers Service.

We do not receive assistance from any additional press officers.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on employing press and communications officers in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies in each of the last three years. [239674]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Press officers and communications officers are employed across the organisation and paid for out of many different budgets. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Internet

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for which Government websites his Department is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [235039]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following tables outline the information available about the Department for Work and Pensions websites.

The lists reflect the sites that the Department was responsible for in the financial year 2007-08. DWP, in common with the rest of Government, is part-way through closing many of its websites and moving content on to Directgov and Business Link in order to improve the way services are delivered online; so a number of the sites detailed here have since closed.

Maintenance of DWP websites is mostly carried out by the Department's own in-house digital media team. Apart from one site—Health and Safety Executive—it is not possible for us to quantify internal staff costs, because in most cases, staff are engaged in more than one role. In addition, we are unable to establish accurately our infrastructure costs because they form part of a wider departmental IT contract. We have therefore detailed

only quantifiable costs for each site—these include payments to suppliers for services such as research, testing and site builds. Figures for the Jobcentre Plus website include the costs of maintaining some online services, since these figures are quantifiable.

DWP is currently working with the COI to develop a standardised method for quantifying website costs across Government. We will be implementing this standard from March 2009 in line with the current timetable.

Table A lists those websites operated by Department for Work and Pensions where the Department is responsible for the content.

*Table A*

| *Website name* | *Website address* | *Visitors* | *Unique visitors* | *Quantifiable maintenance costs (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Department for Work and Pensions | www.dwp.gov.uk | 9,979,110 | 6,034,988 | 25,666 |
| Jobcentre Plus | www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk | 106,893,014 | 59,230,177 (page tagging) | Employer Direct online (FEDon) 390,684<br>Internet Job Bank (IJB) 1,645,752<br>Tactical e-services 1,014,816<br>Site Accessibility 58,000<br>Total: 3,109,252 |
| The Pension Service | www.thepensionservice.gov.uk | 4,165,097 | 2,529,353 | 10,429 |
| Child Support Agency | www.csa.gov.uk | 1,826,977 | 1,060,891 | £2,334 |
| Directgov Disabled People and Carers Sections | www.direct.gov.uk/disability | 3,761,636 | 3,199,716 | 1437,848 |
| | www.direct.gov.uk/carers | 957,352 | 854,087 | |
| Directgov Over 50s Section | www.direct.gov.uk/over50s | 1,353,765 | 1,278,863 | |
| Directgov Jobseekers | www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Jobseekers | | | |
| Age Positive | www.agepositive.gov.uk | 239,375 | 126,335 | |
| Benefit Fraud Inspectorate | www.bfi.gov.uk | 191,722 | 93,109 | |
| Office for Disability Issues | www.officefordisability.gov.uk | 126,284 | 52,630 | 149,466 |
| European Social Fund | www.esf.gov.uk | 276,020 | 135,866 | |
| Health and Safety Executive | www.hse.gov.uk | 20,645,945 | | 140,350 |

Table B lists those websites operated by the Department for Work and Pensions where the Department is not responsible for the content.

*Table B*

| *Website name* | *Website address* | *Visitors* | *Unique visitors* | *Quantifiable maintenance costs* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Disability Employment Advisory Committee | www.deac.org.uk | 11,979 | 5,325 | |
| Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board | www.dlaab.org.uk | 33,703 | 20,023 | |
| Employer Task Force | www.employertaskforce.org.uk | | | Any costs for this site are included in the figure for the Pensions Service in Table A |
| Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force | www.emetaskforce.gov.uk | n/a | n/a | |

*Table B*

| *Website name* | *Website address* | *Visitors* | *Unique visitors* | *Quantifiable maintenance costs* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Images of Disability | www.imagesofdisability.gov.uk | 23,890 | 14,796 | Any costs for this site are included in the figure for Office for Disability in Table A |
| Independent Case Examiner | www.ind-case-exam.org.uk | 35,914 | 16,763 | — |
| Industrial Injuries Advisory Council | www.iiac.org.uk | 41,096 | 17,826 | — |
| National Employment Panel | www.nationalemploymentpanel.gov.uk | [1]43,444 | [1]18,121 | — |
| Pensions At Work | www.pensionsatwork.org | 48,943 | 21,529 | Any costs for this site are included in the figure for the Pensions Service in Table A |
| Pensions Commission | www.pensionscommission.org.uk | [2]13,518 | [2]6,799 | Any costs for this site are included in the figure for the Pensions Service in Table A |
| Fair Cities | www.faircities.net | [1]8,146 | [1]2,853 | — |
| Social Security Advisory Committee | www.ssac.org.uk | 30,426 | 10,493 | — |

n/a = Not available.
[1] July 2007 to March 2008 only.
[2] April 2007 to August 2007 only

The following websites have been built by DWP but are managed independently, so no financial or statistical information is available.

Independent Living Funds;

Pension Protection Fund;

Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman;

Pensions Ombudsman;

Remploy;

The Pensions Regulator;

The Pensions Advisory Service; and

The Rent Service.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many civil servants have been employed by each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental bodies in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [239104]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001. Staffing information for the Department and its predecessors together with non departmental bodies can be found on the civil service statistical website through the attached link as follows:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237496]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Two civil servants support the special advisers in this Department, providing administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers".

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and at what cost in each year. [239092]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department for Work and Pensions was formed on 8 June 2001 from parts of the former Department of Social Security, the former Department for Education and Employment and the Employment Service. Information on costs is not held centrally and could be obtained at disproportionate cost only.

A regional network of press officers across the English regions, Scotland and Wales was established in 2002/03 dealing with regional media.

In addition to its responsibilities to the Department for Work and Pensions, the press office provides services for Jobcentre Plus, The Pension, Disability and Carers Service and Child Support Agency.

| | *Press Officers* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 21 |
| 2002-03 | 29 |
| 2003-04 | 40 |
| 2004-05 | 42 |
| 2005-06 | 45 |
| 2006-07 | 44 |
| 2007-08 | 40 |
| 2008-09 (as at 24 November) | 42 |

For Special Advisers, I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-150WS.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed by *(a)* Jobcentre Plus, *(b)* the Health and Safety Executive, *(c)* the Pensions Regulator and *(d)* the Pension Protection Fund in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [238202]

**Mr. McNulty:** The following table shows the number of staff employed at 31 March for each of the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 at Jobcentre Plus and the Health and Safety Executive. For the Pension Regulator and the Pensions Protection Fund the table shows an average of headcount for each of the aforementioned years as this is the normal basis on which these units report staffing information.

| *Business area* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jobcentre Plus | 79,366 | 75,906 | 74,341 |
| Health and Safety Executive | 4,006 | 3,797 | 3,805 |
| Pensions Regulator | 288 | 325 | 328 |
| Pensions Protection Fund | 64 | 99 | 151 |

*Notes:*
1. HSE figures include agency staff and staff in the Health and Safety Laboratory which is an in-house agency of HSE.
2. HSE figures at 1 April 2007 include staff in the Office for Civil Nuclear Security and the UK Safeguards Office who transferred from DTI on that date.
3. HSE figures at 1 April 2008 include staff in the Pesticides Safety Directorate who transferred to HSE from DEFRA on that date.

## Departmental Pay

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [239660]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The information requested is as follows.

*End of Year Performance Bonuses*

DWP employees in pay bands below the senior civil service are eligible for an annual individual performance bonus if they attain a "Top", "Higher" or "Majority" rating under the annual Performance and Development System. The amount of bonus awarded is differentiated on the basis of employee's pay band and the performance level achieved.

For the senior civil service end of year bonuses are determined on an individual basis by the relevant DWP SCS Pay Committee.

Performance awards from the year 2006-07 are paid in the financial year 2007-08.

A total of £36.61 million was paid in performance bonuses in the 2007-08 financial year broken down as follows:

*Table 1: Departmental total*

| *Financial year* | *Total paid (£ million)* | *Total number of recipients* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 36.61 | 113,425 |

*Table 2: Total at grades below SCS*

| *Financial year* | *Total paid (£ million)* | *Total number of recipients* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 34.88 | 113,223 |

*Table 3: Total at SCS*

| *Financial year* | *Total paid (£ million)* | *Number of recipients* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 1.73 | 202 |

*Notes:*
1. The information in tables 1 and 2 is based on the numbers of employees recorded on the DWP payroll systems as having received a qualifying performance mark. These are headcount.
2. Some individuals may have received more than one type of bonus payment in the year, which is why the information has been presented separately and not as an aggregated total.
3. The performance bonus is paid in the financial year following the performance year of 1 April to 31 March.
4. The total amount paid includes Employers National Insurance Contribution (ERNIC).

Individuals may also be entitled to special bonus payments either as cash or vouchers. These are one-off recognition awards, payable at any time during the performance year and are not linked to the annual pay award.

The cost in a typical year for cash bonuses is around £2.7 million with payments made to approximately 11,250 individuals.

The cost for voucher payments was £1.77 million in 2007-08. 31,237 vouchers were issued, but some individuals might have received more than one voucher.

## Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [239646]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, announced on 13 November that the Government had decided to award a contract for a successor to the current Post Office card account to Post Office Ltd.

I shall write to the hon. Member with an estimate of the costs of the staff directly involved in the procurement and will place a copy of my letter in the Library. Some of these costs would have been necessary in any event to put in place a new contract with the Post Office so have not been 'abortive'.

No other tender processes undertaken by my Department in the last three years have been cancelled prior to the award of a contract.

## Departmental Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239054]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Focus group research is often an integral part of the development of communications campaigns. However the cost of such is often included within those campaign development costs and the specific costs are not held separately. disproportionate costs would be incurred to cover 10 years of expenditure.

Focus groups are also used as elements within the Department's larger evaluations but as above, specific costs are not always held separately and disproportionate costs would be incurred to cover 10 years of expenditure.

The Department has conducted omnibus surveys on public attitudes to the Government's welfare reform programme since 2001. To date in 2008, the Department has conducted omnibus surveys designed to raise awareness of the change to state retirement age for women, to encourage planning and saving for retirement and on young people's attitudes to work and benefits.

Details per financial year are provided in the following table.

| | Cost (£) |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 Public Attitudes Wave 1 | 9,350 |
| 2001-02 Public Attitudes Wave 2 | 9,600 |
| 2002-03 Public Attitudes Wave 3 | 10,450 |
| 2003-04 Public Attitudes Wave 4 | 11,100 |
| 2004-05 Public Attitudes Wave 5 and new 1 and Public Awareness | 86,000 |
| 2005-06 Public Attitudes | 50,000 |
| 2006-07 Public Attitudes | 32,030 |
| 2007-08 Public Attitudes | 40,850 |
| 2008-09 Public Attitudes (includes predicted costs until end of the financial year) | 90,000 |
| 2007-08 Attitudes to pension saving | 1,550 |
| 2007-08 Attitudes to retirement | 4,480 |
| 2008-09 Young people's attitudes to work and benefits | 25,665 |
| Total costs | 371,075 |

This research was limited between 2001 and 2004. In 2005 an increased number of new attitude statements were included in omnibus research and we also conducted a piece of research to monitor public awareness of the Department and its responsibilities. This year, we have increased the frequency of the surveys in order to most effectively inform the development of our communications activity.

The Department does not conduct opinion polling since the quick turn around necessary to reflect the pressing issues of the day often involves:

quota or other non-random sampling methods (i.e. less rigorous and giving less certainty who the results are actually representative of)

smaller sample sizes (greater confidence intervals and difficulty supplying estimates for small groups)

single questions or short questionnaire (meaning views given often lack context)

lack of methodological rigour, particularly in terms of question design (raising risk that answers are influenced by question wording.

## Departmental Translation Services

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on providing translation services for customers in each of the last five years. [226157]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The DWP provides a range of language translation services for customers across the UK, namely:

Face to Face

Telephone

Welsh

Braille

Audio.

We are also able to offer a service to convert documents into Easy Read format.

The contractual arrangements for the services have been developed over a number of years and as a result spend has not been applicable for some of these services in each of the last five years or data has not been able to be gathered for spend during some years. Disproportionate cost would be incurred in trying to identify such spend.

The range of services also includes the translation of departmental information leaflets that are provided to customers into a range of ethnic languages, as well as all publications for Welsh speaking customers.

The following table contains the spend across the DWP for all translation services as recorded on a number of departmental systems and as reported in previous parliamentary questions or freedom of informations requests.

| Type of translation service | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Face to Face and Telephone | 2,643,448 | 2,967,756 | 3,443,334 | 4,496,008 | 3,515,722 | 1,452,800 |
| Ethnic | [2] | [2] | 120,720 | 267,500 | 134,945 | 159,166 |
| Welsh | 24,973 | 30,855 | 20,766 | 50,759 | 65,789 | 40,787 |
| Braille | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | 45,309 | 44,879 |
| Audio | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | 35,572 | 14,977 |
| Easy Read | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] | [2] |
| Totals | 2,668,421 | 2,998,611 | 3,584,820 | 4,814,267 | 3,797,337 | 1,712,609 |

[1] Year to date August 2008.

[2] Not available without disproportionate cost as data not held centrally.

## Disability Living Allowance

**Sir Peter Viggers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims have been made for disability living allowance following a diagnosis of phenylketonuria in the last 12 months; and how many were granted. [239962]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

## Disability Living Allowance: Chronically Sick

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed the higher rate care component of disability living allowance on the ground of terminal illness in 2007-08, broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available. [239396]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Disability Living Allowance: Sight Impaired

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many registered blind people receive the *(a)* low and *(b)* middle rate mobility component of the disability living allowance (i) in each (A) region and (B) constituency and (ii) nationwide. [235887]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The available information has been placed in the Library.

### Disability Living Allowance: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in receipt of disability living allowance in York are in paid employment. [237603]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The information is not available.

### Employee Assistance Programme

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 77W, on the Employee Assistance Programme, how many requests from staff for services have been received by the Department's Employee Assistance Programme in each category of reason recorded in each year since the programme was established; and if he will make a statement. [238226]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following table provides the information requested for DWP usage of the Employee Assistance Programme. The numbers relate to issues raised under a particular category. An individual may have presented with more than one issue under different categories.

There have been several changes in how the information is captured throughout the three years.

| *Personal presenting issues* | *July 2005 to June 2006* | *July 2006 to June 2007* | *July 2007 to Jun 2008* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Finance | 230 | 143 | 48 |
| Housing | 83 | 73 | 13 |
| Information | 413 | 591 | 155 |
| Legal | 1,477 | 61 | 14 |
| Emotional/Personal[1] | — | — | 1643 |
| Relationship/Family Issues | 2,343 | 2,255 | 388 |
| Work/Career[1] | — | — | 929 |
| Drugs/Alcohol | 154 | 128 | 72 |
| Work-Life balance[1] | — | — | 138 |
| Health Related issues | 1,443 | 1,704 | 1027 |
| Bereavement | 477 | 567 | 515 |
| Domestic Violence | 84 | 221 | 62 |
| *Work/Career Related* | | | |
| Absence/Attendance | 60 | 73 | 32 |
| Abuse Violence—Public | 76 | 71 | 21 |
| Abuse Violence—Colleague | 34 | 29 | 8 |
| Bullying/Harassment | 268 | 238 | 53 |
| Changes at work | 349 | 780 | 99 |
| Discipline/Grievance | 229 | 171 | 82 |
| Health | 456 | 625 | 184 |
| Information | 77 | 115 | 39 |
| Performance | 283 | 300 | 133 |
| Relationships at work | 383 | 357 | 79 |
| *HSE Categories from September 2007*[2] | | | |
| Relationship Dissatisfaction | — | — | 112 |
| Role Performance | — | — | 259 |
| Organisational Changes | — | — | 166 |
| Unclear Role definition | — | — | 48 |
| Control Overwork (Internal) | — | — | 135 |
| External Pressures | — | — | 55 |
| Inappropriate Work Demands | — | — | 83 |
| Bullying/Harassment/ Aggression | — | — | 258 |
| Racism/Discrimination | — | — | 16 |
| Resources & Training | — | — | 34 |
| Support from Management | — | — | 174 |
| Support Systems | — | — | 150 |
| *Helpline Information & Advice*[1] | | | |
| Childcare/Eldercare | — | — | 3 |
| Health Related | — | — | 58 |
| Information re Corecare Services | — | — | 479 |
| Signposted to External Support | — | — | 213 |
| Signposted to Payplan | — | — | 18 |
| Referred back to Employer | — | — | 113 |
| Referred to GP | — | — | 34 |
| Other | — | — | 71 |
| *Face to Face Counselling* | | | |
| Finance | 210 | 114 | 49 |
| Housing | 102 | 55 | 146 |
| Information | 20 | 22 | 5 |
| Legal | 59 | 79 | 7 |
| Emotional/Personal[1] | — | — | 1,774 |
| Relationship/Family Issues | 2,163 | 1,683 | 1,813 |
| Work/Career[1] | — | — | 1,009 |
| Drugs/Alcohol | 155 | 109 | 122 |
| Work-Life balance[1] | — | — | 298 |
| Health Related issues | 1,296 | 1,320 | 1,030 |
| Bereavement | 502 | 396 | 594 |
| Domestic Violence | 92 | 85 | 113 |
| *Work/Career Related* | | | |
| Absence/Attendance | 168 | 65 | 110 |
| Abuse Violence—Public | 68 | 57 | 31 |
| Abuse Violence—Colleague | 31 | 22 | 10 |
| Bullying/Harassment | 152 | 166 | 34 |
| Changes at work | 550 | 319 | 79 |
| Discipline/Grievance | 152 | 105 | 54 |
| Health | 435 | 473 | 147 |
| Information | 37 | 48 | 63 |
| Performance | 318 | 301 | 113 |
| Relationships at work | 322 | 226 | 62 |

| *Personal presenting issues* | *July 2005 to June 2006* | *July 2006 to June 2007* | *July 2007 to Jun 2008* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *HSE Categories from September 2007*[2] | | | |
| Relationship Dissatisfaction | — | — | 184 |
| Role Performance | — | — | 355 |
| Organisational Changes | — | — | 268 |
| Unclear Role definition | — | — | 95 |
| Control Over Work (Internal) | — | — | 238 |
| External Pressures | — | — | 144 |
| Inappropriate Work Demands | — | — | 188 |
| Bullying/Harassment/ Aggression | — | — | 263 |
| Racism/Discrimination | — | — | 45 |
| Resources & Training | — | — | 82 |
| Support from Management | — | — | 298 |
| Support Systems | — | — | 159 |
| *Legal Helpline Statistics*[1] | | | |
| Financial/debt | — | 593 | 540 |
| Employment Law | — | 1,369 | 1,252 |
| Marital Family | — | 1,654 | 1,319 |
| Consumer/Credit | — | 521 | 377 |
| Motor | — | 155 | 168 |
| Landlord Tenancy | — | 549 | 493 |
| Personal Injury | — | 133 | 399 |
| other | — | 715 | 648 |

[1] New category from July 2007
[2] From September 2007 presenting categories brought in line with HSE Management Standards .
*Note:*
Information collected only from July 2006.

### Employment and Support Allowance

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what performance measures have been established for employment and support allowance. [238385]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Employment and support allowance was introduced on 27 October 2008 for new customers claiming on the grounds of disability or ill health. Employment and support allowance will be woven into the existing performance framework for Jobcentre Plus. It is already built into the customer service target. From April 2009, employment and support allowance will feature within the job outcome and fraud and error targets. At the same time, employment and support allowance performance will also be measured through Jobcentre Plus internal targets for claim clearance and delivery of work focused interviews.

### Employment and Support Allowance: Manpower

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many additional staff were operating in benefit delivery centres specifically to implement the new employment and support allowance on 27 October 2008, broken down by *(a)* fixed-term employees, *(b)* full-time employees and *(c)* casual staff; and how many additional staff in each category he expects to be operating in this capacity at the end of each of the next six months. [233307]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many additional staff he expects to operate in benefit delivery centres specifically to implement the new employment and support allowance (a) at 27th October 2008 and (b) at the end of each of the next six months, broken down by (i) fixed-term employees, (ii) full-time employees and (iii) casual staff. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has not recruited additional staff specifically to administer Employment and Support Allowance. We have, however, recruited additional customer facing staff so that experienced staff could be released to undertake the training required to deliver Employment and Support Allowance. Of the 2,125 people recruited, 982 will work within the Benefit Delivery Centre network.

Information broken down by full and part-time or contract type could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

### Employment Schemes

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what guidance is given by Jobcentre Plus to staff on how long a work-focused interview should be and how much time should be taken to follow up each work-focused interview; and how many work-focused interviews were carried out in each Jobcentre Plus *(a)* district and *(b)* region in each of the last 12 months, broken down by benefit claimed; [235346]

(2) what estimate he has made of the maximum number of work-focused interviews that can be carried out in each month with current staffing levels at Jobcentre Plus in each *(a)* district and *(b)* region, broken down by benefit claimed; [235348]

(3) what the average number of work-focused interviews attended by claimants was in each of the last five years, broken down by benefit claimed. [235473]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the acting chief executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to the questions you asked in relation to Work Focused Interviews. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. The questions are as follows:

What guidelines are given by Jobcentre Plus to staff on how long a work-focused interview should be and how much time should be taken to follow up each work-focused interview; how many work-focused interviews were carried out in each Jobcentre Plus (a) district and (b) region in each of the last 12 months broken down by benefit claimed.

What estimate he has made of the maximum number of work-focused interviews that can be carried out in each month with current staffing levels at Jobcentre Plus in each (a) district and (b) region broken down by benefit claimed.

What the average number of work-focused interviews attended by claimants was in each of the last five years broken down by benefit.

Jobcentre Plus conducts a wide range of different interviews to meet both business and customer needs. Guidance to staff outlines the purpose and content of each interview type and the average length of time these should take, but this will vary in practice

depending upon individual customer needs. Advisers also have guidance on pre-and post-interview activities. The actual time taken for these activities will also vary, depending upon the type of interview and the needs of the individual. However, our 2008/09 resource allocation allows an average of 10 minutes per interview.

In terms of the specific interview times, these are derived from work measurement studies, which are used to assess the range of activities that must be undertaken and/or could be undertaken. These result in average interview times, which are used as part our resource allocation methodology.

The information on the number of work-focused interviews that have been carried out in each Jobcentre Plus District and Region in the last 12 months broken down by benefit claimed has been placed in the Library.

It is not possible to state the maximum number of work focused interviews that can be carried out each month. Benchmark numbers are used because we have numerous different interview times for each client group/activity and the mix of clients at any given time will be variable.

The table below contains the average number of Jobcentre Adviser interviews conducted each month in the last five years, broken down by benefit type. For 2004/05 only 2 months data is available. Therefore the figures for 2004/05 reflect the monthly average based on 2 months available.

*Average monthly interviews attended by year*

| *Benefit* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *2008-09** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Incapacity benefit | 36,732 | 60,984 | 82,588 | 99,274 | 98,064 |
| Jobseekers allowance | 216,159 | 370,635 | 541,367 | 612,766 | 724,263 |
| Income support | 31,586 | 58,247 | 82,241 | 101,910 | 127,928 |
| Total | 284,477 | 494,948 | 706,196 | 813,950 | 949,255 |

* 2008-09 monthly average is based on seven months available data

*Source:*
Business Information System (Customer Meetings—interview type—all)

## Employment Services: Disabled

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled people in York have been assisted to find work *(a)* by disability advisers employed by Jobcentre Plus and *(b)* through other publicly-funded initiatives to assist disabled people in the last 12 months. [237605]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the Acting Chief Executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many disabled people have been assisted to find work in York (a) by disability advisers employed by Jobcentre Plus and (b) through other publicly-funded initiatives to assist disabled people in the last 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus uses information from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs systems to identify when our customers move into work. The data for the 12 month period ending April 2008, the latest for which data is complete, shows that 746 customers with a health condition or disability moved into work from wards in the York Local Authority District.

More detailed information on these results is not reported in relation to the degree of disability or which advisory group or other initiative supported customers into work.

## Employment: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unfilled job vacancies at York Jobcentre there were on *(a)* 1 January and *(b)* 1 July in each year since 2004. [236870]

**Mr. McNulty:** The preferred source of information on job vacancies is the Office for National Statistics vacancy survey, which provides comprehensive estimates of all vacancies in the economy, not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.

The figures available are the numbers of vacancies notified by employers to Jobcentre Plus. The available information is in the following table.

*Number of live unfilled job vacancies at York Jobcentre*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| July 2004 | 4,500 |
| January 2005 | 3,650 |
| July 2005 | 3,181 |
| January 2006 | 2,653 |
| July 2006 | 1,575 |
| January 2007 | 1,190 |
| July 2007 | 1,850 |
| January 2008 | 1,993 |
| July 2008 | 1,672 |

*Notes:*
1. Jobcentre Plus handles only a proportion of vacancies notified by employers. Consequently the figures do not represent the total number of job vacancies available in York. The proportion of vacancies which are notified by employers to Jobcentre Plus varies over time, according to the occupation and industry of the vacancies and also by geographical area.
2. Interpretation of the Jobcentre vacancy data should take account of changes in recent years to Jobcentre Plus procedures for taking and handling vacancies. The figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate changes in labour demand.
3. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.
4. This information is published at www.nomisweb.co.uk.

*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in City of York constituency have found employment through each of the Government's new deal programmes since their inception. [236866]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available information up to May 2008 is in the following table.

*Number of people who have found work through the new deal programmes in city of York constituency since their inception*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| New Deal for Young People | 1,250 |
| New Deal 25-Plus | 610 |
| New Deal for Lone Parents | 1,260 |
| New Deal for Disabled People | 270 |
| New Deal 50-Plus | 120 |
| New Deal for Partners | 10 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. New deal for young people started January 1998.
3. New deal 25-plus started July 1998.
4. New deal for lone parents started October 1998.
5. New deal for disabled people started July 2001.
6. New deal 50-plus information available from April 2003.
7. New deal for partners information available from April 2004.

*Source:*
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

### Housing Benefit: Age

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of abolishing the single-room rent and paying housing benefit claimants the same rate of benefit irrespective of their age. [238227]

**Kitty Ussher:** The cost of abolishing the housing benefit single-room rent and shared-room rate has been broadly estimated to be at least £20 million per year.

It is important to note that these are indicative estimates only. They are based on analysis of the pre-local housing allowance system of housing benefit and may be subject to change as more up-to-date information becomes available.

### Housing Benefit: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of people were in receipt of housing benefit in each *(a)* ward and *(b)* lower layer super output area of each principal seaside town in each year for which figures are available. [239004]

**Kitty Ussher:** The information is not available in the format requested; we do not have housing benefit data below local authority level.

### Housing Benefit: Disqualification

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals in each local authority area have had their housing benefit withdrawn because of their antisocial behaviour under the Government's Respect Agenda housing benefit trials. [226199]

**Kitty Ussher:** As yet, none of the local authorities participating in the pilot for the antisocial behaviour-related sanction in housing benefit has applied the sanction.

Assessment of the deferred effect of the availability of the sanction will be taken in due course.

### Illegal Immigrants: Employment

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the letter of 14 July 2008 from the Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform to the hon. Member for Hertsmere, how many illegal migrant workers have been removed; how many illegal migrant workers have been prosecuted for use of a false or hijacked national insurance number; and how many employers have been prosecuted as a result of the UK Borders Agency enforcement campaign against illegal working in the security industry. [222341]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** *[holding answer 6 October 2008]* I have been asked to reply.

I will write to the honourable Member.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1202W, on unemployment benefits, what his Department's forecast was for expenditure on incapacity benefit in each of the next five years had the employment and support allowance not been introduced. [235623]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* Expenditure on incapacity benefits/employment and support allowance payable at employment and support allowance rates or alternatively at incapacity benefit rates are tabled as follows. These are based on latest pre-Budget report projections and exclude housing benefit/council tax benefit impacts, which add further to the cost of paying employment and support allowance as opposed to incapacity benefit rates.

*Benefit expenditure, (nominal terms), Great Britain*

£ millions

| | *Incapacity benefits/ employment and support allowance* | *Incapacity benefits/ employment and support allowance payable at incapacity benefit rates* | *Impact of employment and support allowance rates* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 12,644 | 12,646 | -2 |
| 2009-10 | 12,872 | 12,840 | 32 |
| 2010-11 | 12,645 | 12,558 | 87 |
| 2011-12 | 12,800 | 12,718 | 82 |
| 2012-13 | 12,956 | 12,898 | 58 |
| 2008-09 to 2012-13 | 63,918 | 63,661 | 257 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures include incapacity-related income support directed at the short-term sick and long-term sick and disabled and severe disablement allowance.
2. Figures for 'incapacity benefits/employment and support allowance', 2008-09 to 2010-11, underlie the 2008 pre-Budget report Government spending plans. Figures for 2011-12 and 2012-13 are projections.
3. Figures for the impacts of employment and support allowance rates exclude the additional annually managed expenditure impacts on housing benefit and council tax benefit.
4. Figures relate to expenditure on working-age adult claimants.
5. Figures are on a resource accounting and budgeting basis. There may be differences between figures quoted in these tables and those quoted in Department for Work and Pensions Accounts.

*Source:*
DWP autumn 2008 forecasts and projections.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much incapacity benefit was paid on average in each week of the last period for which figures are available. [238388]

**Jonathan Shaw:** As at May 2008, the average weekly amount of incapacity benefit in payment was £89.63.

### Incapacity Benefit: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in York moved off incapacity benefit into work in each of the last five years. [237604]

**Mr. McN' lty:** The information is not available.

### Income Support

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what modelling his Department has carried out on different economic and labour market conditions in assessing the potential effect on *(a)* lone parents and *(b)* people claiming employment support allowance of changes in eligibility for income support; and if he will make a statement. [235923]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Department continues to assess the impact of an economic downturn on all our customers and our activities, and is developing plans right across its areas of responsibility to manage this. This includes those for whom the benefit arrangements are changing.

The Department's active labour market policies help these groups every working day and these remain just as important in the current economic circumstances.

### Income Support: Mortgages

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 704W, on income support: mortgage costs, what estimate his Department has made of the number of households that will not be eligible under the proposed new arrangement due to a partner or spouse working 24 hours or more a week. [237257]

**Kitty Ussher:** We estimate that, on average over the past three years for which figures are available (2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07), there were 30,000 couples each year who interest but for the fact that their partner was in remunerative work of 24 hours or more a week.

These estimates are for those people whose circumstances are that: they are not working; they are members of a couple; they are owner-occupiers; they have a mortgage; they have a partner who works 24 hours a week, or more; and they would otherwise have had entitlement to income support or income-based jobseekers allowance. No account has been taken of the duration of claim, or the support for mortgage interest qualifying period.

*Notes:*

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.

*Source:*

DWP Take Up 2006-07, 2005-06 and 2004-05 datasets

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are receiving income support for mortgage interest payments; and how many received such payments in each of the last 10 years. [239884]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what changes have been made to *(a)* the conditions for claiming income support for mortgage interest payments and *(b)* the levels of income support mortgage interest payments since 1997. [239885]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the rules are for eligibility for income support mortgage interest payments; and what changes to those rules the Government plans to introduce. [239886]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claiming jobseeker's allowance have been claiming support for mortgage interest payments for two years or more. [239887]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been claiming support for mortgage interest payments for *(a)* less than six months, *(b)* between six months and one year, *(c)* between one and two years and *(d)* two or more years. [239888]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the two year time limit on claims for income support for mortgage interest for jobseeker's allowance claimants will apply to new claimants. [239889]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were receiving income support mortgage interest payments in each month in each of the last five years. [239890]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average payment was to people receiving income support mortgage interest payments in the last 12 months. [239891]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation: Conferences

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the speech and presentation of his Department's Programme Manager on the Tell Us Once Project, made at the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation Annual Conference on 1 October 2008. [238817]

**Mr. McNulty:** The presentation given by the Tell Us Once Programme Manager at the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation Annual Conference on 1 October 2008 has been placed in the Library. There is no written speech available.

### Jobcentre Plus: Closures

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what date the review of the closure plan for Jobcentre Plus offices will be completed; and if he will make a statement. [239326]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking by what date the review of the closure plan for Jobcentre Plus offices will be completed. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In the light of the current economic conditions and the welfare reform changes planned for the next two to three years, I have asked the Customer Service Directors in each of our Regions and Countries to review their service delivery plans for every Jobcentre Plus District. This exercise will be completed by early 2009.

As an immediate measure, I have decided to suspend the 25 proposed Jobcentre closures while the current economic uncertainties exist, which will allow us to increase our capacity to deliver services to those in need of help finding a job.

### Jobcentre Plus: Complaints

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many formal complaints were received by Jobcentre Plus in each region in each of the last five years. [237947]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many formal complaints were received by Jobcentre Plus in each region in each of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Comparable information is not available prior to 2005/06. The available information is in the tables below.

*Level 1 and 2 complaints received by Jobcentre Plus*

| *Jobcentre Plus region* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 1,544 | 1,124 | 1,038 |
| East of England | 2,471 | 4,436 | 4,997 |
| London | 1,891 | 1,469 | 1,468 |
| North West | 2,685 | 1,915 | 2,589 |
| North East | 1,359 | 1,822 | 1,917 |
| Scotland | 2,291 | 3,428 | 5,174 |
| South East | 3,362 | 4,231 | 4,518 |
| South West | 3,192 | 5,361 | 4,875 |
| West Midlands | 2,835 | 4,456 | 4,152 |
| Wales | 2,029 | 2,206 | 2,630 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 2,613 | 3,006 | 3,294 |

*Level 3 complaints received by Jobcentre Plus*

| *Jobcentre Plus region* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 160 | 167 | 172 |
| East of England | 243 | 364 | 393 |
| London | 537 | 715 | 737 |
| North West | 227 | 302 | 307 |
| North East | 79 | 111 | 130 |
| Scotland | 143 | 162 | 229 |
| South East | 447 | 543 | 569 |
| South West | 247 | 249 | 272 |
| West Midlands | 159 | 226 | 206 |
| Wales | 141 | 136 | 190 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 143 | 182 | 187 |

*Notes:*
Jobcentre Plus operates a three-level feedback process in response to issues raised by customers. Level 1—feedback received by a specific business area that relates solely to Jobcentre Plus business, ie. Contact Centre Directorate, Customer Services Directorate and Benefits and Fraud Directorate. Level 2—feedback received direct by the district manager or feedback received by Jobcentre Plus but which also relates to another business area, eg. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs local authorities or feedback not resolved at Level 1. Level 3—feedback received direct by the chief executive or feedback not resolved at Level 2.

### Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been employed by Jobcentre Plus in each year since 1 April 2002, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* pay grade. [230288]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many people have been employed by Jobcentre Plus in each year since 1 April 2002, broken down by (a) region and (b) pay grade. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The requested information is not available prior to April 2003 and the information is not available between 2003 and 2007 broken down by region.

The tables below provide the number of full-time equivalents employed in each pay grade and for March 2008, the number of full-time equivalents in each region by pay grade.

*Full-time equivalents in Jobcentre Plus by pay grade from April 2003 to March 2007*

| *Grade* | *April 2003* | *March 2004* | *March 2005* | *March 2006* | *March 2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SCS | 54.83 | 52 | 52 | 41 | 57.92 |
| Grade 6 | 152.57 | 157.65 | 151.78 | 142.59 | 142.86 |
| Grade 7 | 340.18 | 388.46 | 382.97 | 338.55 | 358.73 |

*Full-time equivalents in Jobcentre Plus by pay grade from April 2003 to March 2007*

| Grade | April 2003 | March 2004 | March 2005 | March 2006 | March 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SEO | 1,073.16 | 1,329.55 | 1,352.82 | 1,185.07 | 1,129.34 |
| HEO | 3,649.77 | 4,341.07 | 4,238.85 | 3,741.58 | 3,841.83 |
| EO | 28,775.81 | 29,113.26 | 28105.85 | 26,730.43 | 25,594.83 |
| AO | 41,384.53 | 39,091.56 | 35,860.46 | 35,151.11 | 33,762.07 |
| AA | 7,473.05 | 5,623.22 | 4,329.74 | 3,991.09 | 3,057.99 |
| Total | 82,903.9 | 80,096.77 | 74,474.47 | 71,221.42 | 67,945.57 |

*Full-time equivalents in Jobcentre Plus by pay grade and region for March 2008*

| Grade | East Midlands | East of England | London | North East | North West | Scotland |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SCS | 1 | 2 | 13 | 2 | 9.92 | 0 |
| Band G/G6 | 8 | 7 | 15 | 7 | 30 | 8.9 |
| Band F/G7 | 12 | 12.97 | 41.22 | 15.88 | 69.1 | 12.5 |
| Band E/SEO | 50.01 | 57.25 | 133.4 | 49.44 | 154.83 | 89.17 |
| Band D/HEO | 222.1 | 220.32 | 491.98 | 227.1 | 570.12 | 352.59 |
| Band C/EO | 1,562.39 | 1,614.8 | 3,671.09 | 1,633.57 | 3,916.5 | 2,860.89 |
| Band B/AO | 2,316.32 | 2,165.9 | 2,925.12 | 2,218.01 | 5,382.62 | 4,030.13 |
| Band A / AA | 169.74 | 121.6 | 116.61 | 160.12 | 527.95 | 422.1 |
| Total | 4,341.56 | 4,201.84 | 7,407.42 | 4,313.12 | 10,661.04 | 7,776.28 |

*Full-time equivalents in Jobcentre Plus by pay grade and region for March 2008*

| Grade | South East | South West | Wales | West Midlands | Yorkshire & Humberside | Not known |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SCS | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 16.97 | — |
| Band G/G6 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 9.99 | 36.7 | — |
| Band F/G7 | 15.41 | 10 | 11.93 | 20.95 | 123.03 | — |
| Band E/SEO | 67.33 | 51.36 | 59.61 | 84.55 | 270.71 | [1]2 |
| Band D/HEO | 277.89 | 230.46 | 205.77 | 323.9 | 635.86 | [1]2 |
| Band C/EO | 2,000.27 | 1,637.54 | 1,506.95 | 2,379.68 | 2,662.76 | [1]4 |
| Band B/AO | 2,536.35 | 2,206.5 | 2,595.64 | 3,324.61 | 3,368.33 | — |
| Band A/AA | 210.45 | 132.18 | 174.35 | 245.57 | 245.89 | — |
| Total | 5,117.7 | 4,275.04 | 4,562.25 | 6,391.25 | 7,360.25 | [1]8 |

[1] The Management Information Portal does not contain information on the regional location of all staff

*Notes:*

1. Data for March 2008 is provided from "Dataview", an electronic extract from Resource Management. This information is not available for previous years due to data capacity issues.
3. Headcount figures are quoted in full-time equivalents using the Office for National Statistics criteria for counting headcount and details the position at March in each year.

*Source:*

Jobcentre Plus Management Information Portal. For data capacity reasons the portal only provides information from April 2003 onwards.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* Jobcentre Plus staff and *(b)* customer-facing Jobcentre Plus staff there were (i) in total, (ii) in each region and (iii) in each Jobcentre Plus district in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [230432]

(2) how many *(a)* Jobcentre Plus staff and *(b)* customer-facing Jobcentre Plus staff there are (i) in total, (ii) in each region and (iii) in each Jobcentre Plus district; and if he will make a statement. [230433]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking:

how many (a) Jobcentre Plus staff and (b) customer facing Jobcentre Plus staff there were (i) in total, (ii) in each region and (iii) in each Jobcentre Plus district in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement.

how many (a) Jobcentre Plus staff and (b) customer-facing Jobcentre Plus staff there are (i) in total (ii) in each region and (iii) in each Jobcentre Plus district; and if he will make a statement.

This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The staffing information broken down by customer facing roles is not available prior to April 2003 as data is deleted from our information source prior to this date for capacity reasons. It is not available from 2003 to 2007 broken down by region and Jobcentre Plus district as the data source containing this level of data is not available prior to 2008.

The tables below provide the number of full-time equivalent staff employed in each Region and District for September 2008, and separately identify the number in customer facing roles.

*Total Jobcentre Plus staff by region and district at September 2008*

| Region | District | Total |
|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | Derbyshire | 1,443.61 |
| | Leicestershire and Northamptonshire | 1,127.23 |
| | Lincolnshire and Rutland | 629.85 |
| | Nottinghamshire | 1,265.84 |
| East Midlands Total | | 4,466.53 |
| East of England | Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire | 1,003.42 |
| | Cambridgeshire and Suffolk | 1,288.23 |
| | Essex | 1,367.15 |

*Total Jobcentre Plus staff by region and district at September 2008*

| Region | District | Total |
|---|---|---|
| | Norfolk | 723.54 |
| East of England Total | | 4,382.34 |
| London | Central London | 984.38 |
| | City and East London | 1,574.87 |
| | Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth | 1,052.08 |
| | North and North East London | 1,644.94 |
| | South London | 1,195.63 |
| | West London | 1,049.62 |
| London Total | | 7,501.52 |
| North East | Northumbria | 1,548.39 |
| | South Tyne and Wear Valley | 1,395.45 |
| | Tees Valley | 1,368 |
| North East Total | | 4,311.84 |
| North West | Cheshire and Warrington | 534.58 |
| | Cumbria | 541.74 |
| | Greater Manchester Central | 1,532.07 |
| | Greater Manchester East and West | 2,650.65 |
| | Greater Mersey | 1,030.77 |
| | Lancashire | 1,987.77 |
| | Liverpool and Wirral | 1,912 |
| | Unknown[1] | 133.49 |
| North West Total | | 10,323.07 |
| Scotland | Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde | 981.51 |
| | Edinburgh and Lothian and Borders | 845.33 |
| | Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside | 1,286.26 |
| | Glasgow | 2,539.64 |
| | Highland, Islands and Clyde Coast and Grampian | 1,450.53 |
| | Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire | 819.1 |
| Scotland Total | | 7,922.37 |
| South East | Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire | 941.55 |
| | Hampshire | 1,370.3 |
| | Kent | 1,455.74 |
| | Surrey and Sussex | 1,507.32 |
| South East Total | | 5,274.91 |
| South West | Devon and Cornwall | 1,800.71 |
| | Dorset and Somerset | 850.06 |
| | Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon | 725.95 |
| | West of England | 979.44 |
| South West Total | | 4,356.16 |
| Wales | North and Mid Wales | 1,164.02 |
| | South East Wales | 1,083.91 |
| | South Wales Valleys | 1,362.6 |
| | South West Wales | 997.06 |
| Wales Total | | 4,607.59 |
| West Midlands | Birmingham and Solihull | 2,212.12 |
| | Black Country | 1,539.3 |
| | Coventry and Warwickshire | 659.08 |
| | Staffordshire | 1,082.94 |
| | The Marches | 1,024.73 |
| West Midlands Total | | 6,518.17 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | North and East Yorkshire and The Humber | 1,708.76 |
| | South Yorkshire | 2,536.31 |
| | West Yorkshire | 2,938.37 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber Total | | 7,183.44 |
| Unknown[1] | | 127.21 |
| Unknown Total | | 127.21 |
| Jobcentre Plus staff total | | 66,975.15 |

*Jobcentre Plus staff in customer facing roles by region and district*

| Region | District | Total |
|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | Derbyshire | 1,255.75 |
| | Leicestershire and Northamptonshire | 1,027.89 |
| | Lincolnshire and Rutland | 563.65 |
| | Nottinghamshire | 1,020.54 |
| East Midlands Total | | 3,867.83 |
| East of England | Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire | 870.38 |
| | Cambridgeshire and Suffolk | 1,079.13 |
| | Essex | 1,198.63 |
| | Norfolk | 638.32 |
| East of England Total | | 3,786.46 |
| London | Central London | 487.48 |
| | City and East London | 1,324.61 |
| | Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth | 878.96 |
| | North and North East London | 1,451.04 |
| | South London | 980.83 |
| | West London | 803.45 |
| London Total | | 5,926.37 |
| North East | Northumbria | 1,289.29 |
| | South Tyne and Wear Valley | 1,162.9 |
| | Tees Valley | 1,220.46 |
| North East Total | | 3,672.65 |
| North West | Cheshire and Warrington | 475.41 |

*Jobcentre Plus staff in customer facing roles by region and district*

| Region | District | Total |
|---|---|---|
| | Cumbria | 503.46 |
| | Greater Manchester Central | 1,183.15 |
| | Greater Manchester East and West | 2,396.34 |
| | Greater Mersey | 963.73 |
| | Lancashire | 1,657.83 |
| | Liverpool and Wirral | 1,715.54 |
| | Unknown[1] | 90.17 |
| North West Total | | 8,985.63 |
| Scotland | Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde | 914.03 |
| | Edinburgh and Lothian and Borders | 699.78 |
| | Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside | 1,150.63 |
| | Glasgow | 2,203.4 |
| | Highland, Islands and Clyde Coast and Grampian | 1,337.11 |
| | Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire | 751.35 |
| Scotland Total | | 7056.3 |
| South East | Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire | 804.48 |
| | Hampshire | 1,247.21 |
| | Kent | 1,310.82 |
| | Surrey and Sussex | 1,203.84 |
| South East Total | | 4,566.35 |
| South West | Devon and Cornwall | 1,619.84 |
| | Dorset and Somerset | 713.56 |
| | Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon | 636.73 |
| | West of England | 723.56 |
| South West Total | | 3,693.69 |
| Wales | North and Mid Wales | 1,089.94 |
| | South East Wales | 809.41 |
| | South Wales Valleys | 1,268.09 |
| | South West Wales | 866.44 |
| Wales Total | | 4,033.88 |
| West Midlands | Birmingham and Solihull | 1,723.31 |
| | Black Country | 1,403.12 |
| | Coventry and Warwickshire | 580.14 |
| | Staffordshire | 972 |
| | The Marches | 940.64 |
| West Midlands Total | | 5,619.21 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | North and East Yorkshire and The Humber | 1,548.04 |
| | South Yorkshire | 1,739.42 |
| | West Yorkshire | 2,205.73 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber Total | | 5,493.19 |
| Unknown[1] | | 105 |
| Customer facing staff total | | 56,806.56 |

[1] Unknown: A missing payroll code can prevent identification of the exact location and therefore the district and/or region of individuals who have recently moved within DWP. While we know that they are still employed within DWP, we cannot report their exact location.

*Notes:*

1. Headcount figures are quoted in full-time equivalents using the Office for National Statistics criteria for counting headcount and details the position at September 2008.
2. Customer facing roles include staff in Jobcentres, Benefit Delivery sites and Contact Centres, but excludes staff in District and Regional Offices, Fraud staff, central support teams and National Directorates.

*Source:*

Information about staffing levels is usually obtained from the Jobcentre Plus Management Information Portal. This does not contain the level of data requested and therefore data has been taken from an alternative source known as Dataview, extracted from the DWP Resource Management system. For data capacity reasons this information is available for this year only. Information may not be consistent with information previously supplied from the Management Information Portal due to differences in organisational descriptions.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants there were per customer-facing Jobcentre Plus staff member in each region in each quarter of each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [230439]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not available.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* frontline and *(b)* other staff employed by Jobcentre Plus and its predecessor in each year since 1997; and how many he expects to be employed in each of the next five years. [235350]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus. I have asked the acting chief executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what estimate his Department has made of the number of (a) frontline and (b) other staff employed by Jobcentre Plus and its predecessor in each year since 1997; and how many he expects to be employed in each of the next 5 years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The staffing information broken down by frontline and other staff is not available prior to April 2003 as data is deleted from our information source prior to this date for capacity reasons.

The table below provides the number of full-time equivalent staff employed in (a) frontline offices and (b) other staff at March in each year from March 2004 to March 2008.

| | Frontline staff | Other staff |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 76,243.45 | 3,853.32 |
| 2005 | 70,993.25 | 3,481.22 |
| 2006 | 66,017.17 | 5,204.25 |
| 2007 | 64,426.36 | 3,519.21 |
| 2008 | 63,587.82 | 2,827.93 |

Frontline staff includes all operational staff in Jobcentres, Benefit Delivery and Contact Centres, including support staff. Other staff includes staff in National Directorates providing

general support. In 2006, some operational support functions such as Human Resource and Finance were centralised into National Directorates, resulting in an increase in "Other staff".

Our plans for future years are under active review. We have already allocated an additional 2,200 staff to the frontline for the remainder of 2008/09. By March 2009 Jobcentre Plus expects to have employed 67,653 full-time equivalent staff and we expect to increase frontline staffing further in 2009/10 and 2010/11 in light of the rising economic challenges.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff were employed in Jobcentre Plus offices in each month of the last five years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [239312]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many a) full time and b) part time staff were employed in Jobcentre Plus offices in each month of the last 5 years i) in total and ii) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We are able to provide the information you requested from April 2005 to date, and broken down by Government Office region. Details can be found on the attached Annex. Data capacity limitations mean that earlier information is not available and, given the major restructuring across Jobcentre Plus in recent years, the Government office region is the smallest area for which consistent information can be shown.

The Secretary of State recently announced plans for Jobcentre Plus to have 6,000 more staff than the original assumption to enable us to respond to increasing numbers of customers. We do not yet have the detailed plans which describe the revised numbers for this year below a national level.

## Jobcentre Plus: Pay

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average salary of personal advisers in Jobcentre Plus has been in each year since the role was created, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* sex. [230286]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the average salary of personal advisers in Jobcentre Plus has been in each year since the role was created, broken down by (a) region and (b) sex. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The requested information is not available prior to April 2003. Information since April 2003, broken down by gender, could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The table below provides the average staff costs of personal advisers for each financial year from 2003-04, broken down by region.

*Average staff costs of personal advisers by region*

£000

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | 24 | 24 | 25 | 27 | 30 | 31 |
| East Midlands | 22 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 29 | 29 |
| London | 25 | 27 | 28 | 30 | 31 | 32 |
| North East | 22 | 23 | 25 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| North West | 19 | 22 | 24 | 26 | 28 | 29 |
| Scotland | 21 | 23 | 25 | 27 | 29 | 30 |
| South East | 25 | 25 | 26 | 28 | 30 | 31 |
| South West | 21 | 23 | 25 | 27 | 28 | 30 |
| Wales | 20 | 24 | 25 | 27 | 28 | 30 |
| West Midlands | 22 | 23 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 28 |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 21 | 23 | 25 | 27 | 28 | 28 |
| Total | 22 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 29 | 30 |

*Notes:*

1. The average staff costs for 2008-09 are based on the first six months of the year (April to September 2008).
2. The staff costs are the costs incurred by Jobcentre Plus in employing the staff and include superannuation and employer related NI contributions. The average staff costs shown will therefore be higher than the average salary that individuals actually received.
3. The adviser numbers used in calculating the average are the full-time equivalents (FTEs) and not an actual count of advisers i.e. one FTE could be one full-time adviser or two or more part-time advisers.

*Source:*

Jobcentre Plus Activity Based Management (ABM) database for 2006-07 to 2008-09 and the Activity Based Information database (ABI) for prior years 2005-06 to 2003-04. Data prior to this year is unavailable.

4. The costs used in the calculation of the average staff costs are apportioned costs, not actual costs i.e. if the actual salaries for the advisers were added up they would produce a different figure. The costs used are derived from the percentage of FTE carrying out the adviser role at an office level i.e. if 10 per cent. of staff are advisers in a particular office then 10 per cent. of the total salary for that office would be classified as adviser costs.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average salary was for Jobcentre Plus employees in each year since 1 April 2002, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* sex. [230287]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the average salary was for Jobcentre Plus employees in each year since 1 April 2002, broken down by (a) region and (b)

sex. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Whilst we do have average staff cost information for the whole of Jobcentre Plus the information is not readily available by region or sex. This information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The table below provides the average staff cost for Jobcentre Plus for each year since 1 April 2002.

*Average staff cost for Jobcentre Plus employees*

| *Financial year* | £000 *Average staff costs* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 20 |
| 2003-04 | 21 |
| 2004-05 | 23 |
| 2005-06 | 26 |
| 2006-07 | 26 |
| 2007-08 | 27 |

*Notes*

1. The staff costs are the costs incurred by Jobcentre Plus in employing the staff and include superannuation and earnings related NI contributions. The average staff costs shown will therefore be higher than the average salary that individuals actually received.
2. The employee numbers used in calculating the average are the full-time equivalents (FTEs) and not an actual count of employees, i.e. 1 FTE could be one full-time member of staff or two or more part-time members.
3. Staff costs are rounded to the nearest thousand.

*Source*

Jobcentre Plus Statutory Accounts for 2002-03 through to 2007-08.

## Jobcentre Plus: Standards

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what national performance targets have been set for Jobcentre Plus offices; and what the performance of Jobcentre Plus Torquay was against these targets in 2007-08. [237948]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what national performance targets have been set for Jobcentre Plus offices; and what the performance of Jobcentre Plus Torquay was against these targets in 2007-08. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The table below details the targets set for Jobcentre Plus Devon and Cornwall District for the performance year April 2007 to March 2008. Torquay Jobcentre is one of the offices within this district. Some of these targets are set and measured at district/regional or national level only. However, where possible I have included details specific to Torquay Jobcentre.

*Torquay Jobcentre Plus performance summary*

| *Target name* | *Measured at level* | *Target* | *Performance* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Job outcome target | District | 288,645 | 275,464 |
| Monetary value of fraud and error (Percentage) | National | 5 | 4.9 |
| Customer service (Percentage) | Torquay Jobcentre | 84 | 96.3 |
| Employer outcome target (Percentage) | District | 84 | 87.6 |
| Interventions delivery target Incapacity benefit work focused interviews (Percentage) | Torquay Jobcentre | 80 | 89.9 |
| Interventions delivery target Income support lone parents (Percentage) | Torquay Jobcentre | 85 | 87 |
| Interventions delivery target Jobseeker's allowance advisory interviews (Percentage) | Torquay Jobcentre | 85 | 100 |
| Interventions delivery Jobseeker's allowance labour market interventions Interventions | Torquay Jobcentre | 90 | 96.4 |
| Average actual clearance time—incapacity benefit (days) | Plymouth Benefit Delivery Centre | 18 | 9.4 |
| Average actual clearance time—income support (days) | Plymouth Benefit Delivery Centre | 11 | 10 |
| Average actual clearance time—jobseeker's allowance (days) | Plymouth Benefit Delivery Centre | 12 | 10 |

Notes:

1. *Job outcome target* To achieve a total score of 288,645 points based on the job outcomes Devon and Cornwall achieves via the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) database.
2. *Monetary value of fraud and error target* (MVFE) By March 2008 to continue to ensure that losses from fraud and error in working age income support and jobseeker's allowance amount to less than current levels of loss, as expressed in the new 2005-06 baseline.
3. *Customer service target* To achieve an 84 per cent. customer service level in the delivery of specified standards across our business delivery channels. Our customer service is measured under three headings: Professionalism, Timeliness and Information.
4. *Employer outcome target* At least 84 per cent. of employers placing their vacancies with Jobcentre Plus will have a positive outcome based on the employer's opinion of the service received. Floor target—performance should not fall below 82 per cent. in any delivery unit.
5. *Interventions delivery target* To ensure that specified key Jobcentre Plus labour market interventions take place within set timescales in 85 per cent. of cases measured. Floor target—performance should not fall below 83 per cent. The four components of this target and their individual target levels are: 80 per cent. of initial incapacity benefit work focused interviews are conducted after the end of the 8th week and up to the end of the 13th week stage of the claim. 85 per cent. of income support lone parent work focused interview reviews that become due are conducted within three months. Jobseeker's allowance labour market interventions (LMI) and follow-up activity are conducted in 90 per cent. of cases. 13 and 26-week jobseeker's allowance advisory interviews that become due are conducted within six weeks in 85 per cent. of cases.
6. *Average actual clearance time target* To process claims to certain benefits within the specified average actual clearance time (AACT): for incapacity benefit (18 days), income support (11 days) and jobseeker's allowance (12 days). Plymouth Benefit Delivery Centre processes claims from clients serviced by Torquay Jobcentre.

## Jobcentre Plus: Torbay

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many clients used Jobcentre Plus services at Torquay jobcentre between *(a)* 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007 and *(b)* 1 April 2001 and 31 March 2008. [237941]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not available.

## Jobcentre Plus: Wales

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the service made available by the Jobcentre Plus rapid response service for Wales; and what steps he takes to ensure service provision reflects local rates of unemployment. [238555]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what assessment has been made of the adequacy of the service made available by the Jobcentre Plus Rapid Response Service for Wales and what steps are taken to ensure service provision reflects local rates of unemployment. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus will offer a Rapid Response Service to all employers declaring 20 or more redundancies. It will also offer support where there are clusters of redundancies which require extra measures to help people find work. It was announced on 12 November that the DWP is doubling the funding for Jobcentre Plus' Rapid Response Service from £3m to £6m for this financial year. Wales will have direct access to the funding.

Through the Rapid Response Service, Jobcentre Plus and Welsh Assembly Government colleagues can help workers with information about other jobs within the labour market, including: matching them to known vacancies; helping them to draw up CVs and improve their job search skills; providing information about how to claim benefits until they do find work; and, with local partners, providing advice on skills and training. We will keep under review the level of take up of the Rapid Response Services, making sure we meet the needs of local business.

## Jobcentres

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* jobcentre and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus offices there are in each (i) region and (ii) parliamentary constituency; and how many of each in each area there were in each year since 1997. [236961]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many (a) Jobcentre and (b) Jobcentre Plus offices there are in each (i) region and (ii) parliamentary constituency; and how many of each in each area there were in each year since 1997. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I am only able to provide information on Jobcentre Plus offices since April 2002, when Jobcentre Plus was created by the merger of the former Employment Service and Benefits Agency, as information on the separate networks operated prior to 2002 is not available. Historical information on which constituencies were serviced by individual Jobcentres is not held. The available information on the Jobcentre Plus customer-facing service delivery network is attached at Annex 1.

Jobcentre Plus inherited around 1,500 offices from the Benefits Agency and the Employment Service. Customers had to attend one office to look for work and then walk to another to deal with changes in their benefit claim. We have modernised our Jobcentre network to improve customer service, rationalising our estate to provide excellent High Street coverage and a single, integrated customer facing office, at the same time reducing cost to the tax payer. We remain the largest office network in Government with 747 modern Jobcentres which are supported by 31 contact centres and 79 main benefit processing centres. This has brought our customer facing services together in a more coherent and integrated network.

Our network is further supplemented by flexible service delivery or outreach options, to provide customer services currently in 146 locations where maintaining a full Jobcentre service is not viable. Such options include for example delivering services from partners' sites or local community premises, delivery using specialised vehicles, and home visits.

In the light of the current economic conditions and the welfare reform changes planned for the next two to three years, I have asked the Customer Service Directors in our regions to review their service delivery plans for every Jobcentre Plus district. This exercise will be completed by early 2009.

Additionally, as an immediate measure, I have decided to suspend 25 proposed Jobcentre closures while the current economic uncertainties exist, which will allow us to increase our capacity to deliver services to those in need of help finding a job.

*Jobcentre Plus offices open to the public: 1 January 2002 to 1 October 2008*

| Region | 1 October 2008 | 1 January 2008 | 1 January 2007 | 1 January 2006 | 1 January 2005 | 1 January 2004 | 1 January 2003 | 1 January 2002 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Of England | 57 | 60 | 65 | 72 | 84 | 85 | 90 | 90 |
| East Midlands | 53 | 59 | 56 | 69 | 71 | 75 | 83 | 83 |
| London | 77 | 80 | 90 | 114 | 121 | 132 | 138 | 139 |
| North East | 45 | 45 | 49 | 53 | 60 | 64 | 65 | 65 |
| North West | 97 | 101 | 112 | 129 | 139 | 153 | 160 | 160 |
| Scotland | 99 | 101 | 103 | 125 | 139 | 150 | 153 | 153 |
| South East | 76 | 81 | 82 | 97 | 107 | 121 | 123 | 123 |
| South West | 57 | 64 | 83 | 91 | 102 | 114 | 118 | 118 |
| Wales | 63 | 63 | 64 | 87 | 95 | 108 | 111 | 111 |
| West Midlands | 63 | 64 | 79 | 98 | 105 | 108 | 115 | 116 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 60 | 65 | 61 | 68 | 79 | 87 | 88 | 88 |
| Totals of all regions | 747 | 783 | 844 | 1,003 | 1,102 | 1,197 | 1,244 | 1,246 |

*Note:*
Prior to implementing our network of benefit delivery centres, from April 2006, many sites delivered both customer facing and benefit processing services.

*Current Jobcentre Plus customer-facing offices*

| Regions | Benefit delivery centres | Customer facing Jobcentres | Contact centres |
|---|---|---|---|
| East Of England | 6 | 57 | 2 |
| East Midlands | 7 | 53 | 3 |
| London | 7 | 77 | 0 |
| North East | 3 | 45 | 2 |
| North West | 12 | 97 | 6 |
| Scotland | 9 | 99 | 3 |

*Current Jobcentre Plus customer-facing offices*

| Regions | Benefit delivery centres | Customer facing Jobcentres | Contact centres |
|---|---|---|---|
| South East | 8 | 76 | 0 |
| South West | 6 | 57 | 4 |
| Wales | 5 | 63 | 4 |
| West Midlands | 8 | 63 | 3 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 8 | 60 | 4 |

*Current Jobcentre Plus customer-facing offices*

| Regions | Benefit delivery centres | Customer facing Jobcentres | Contact centres |
|---|---|---|---|
| Totals of all regions | 79 | 747 | 31 |

Note:
The Jobcentre Plus customer facing service delivery network comprises of Jobcentres, benefit delivery centres, and contact centres. Head office, regional offices and district offices are not included. Contact centres operate nationally and their location bears no relation to the customers they serve.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobcentres there were in each of the last 10 years. [238378]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I have asked the Acting Chief Executive, Mel Groves to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentres there were in each of the last 10 years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I am only able to provide information on Jobcentres since April 2002, when Jobcentre Plus was created by the merger of the former Employment Service and Benefits Agency, as information on the separate networks operated prior to 2002 is not available. The available information is in the table below.

*Jobcentre Plus Offices open to the Public*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1 January 2002 | 1,246 |
| 1 January 2003 | 1,244 |
| 1 January 2004 | 1,197 |
| 1 January 2005 | 1,102 |
| 1 January 2006 | 1,003 |
| 1 January 2007 | 844 |
| 1 January 2008 | 783 |
| 1 October 2008 | 747 |

*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus

From the former Benefits Agency and Employment Service, Jobcentre Plus inherited around 1,500 offices. Often customers would have to walk from one office to the next to look for work then deal with changes in their benefit claim. As we have modernised to improve customer service, we have been able to rationalise this estate to provide excellent high street coverage and reduce cost to the tax payer.

We remain the largest office network in Government.

### Jobseeker's Allowance

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of people flowing off jobseeker's allowance moved *(a)* into employment, *(b)* onto other benefits and *(c)* to an unknown destination in each year since 1997. [226187]

**Mr. McNulty:** The total number of people flowing off jobseeker's allowance is decreasing in line with the numbers claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. The percentage of people leaving with an unknown destination recorded has increased over the last 10 years. This is because the completion levels of the JSA40 form (forms filled in by people leaving jobseeker's allowance) have decreased over this period. This should be taken into account when interpreting these statistics, as many of these 'unknown' leavers will have moved into employment.

The available information is in the tables.

*Numbers of people leaving Jobseeker's Allowance by year and destination*

| | Employment | Other Benefit | Other reason | Not known or not recorded | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 1,661,115 | 247,965 | 362,095 | 765,630 | 3,036,805 |
| 1999 | 1,620,690 | 241,315 | 404,580 | 842,535 | 3,109,120 |
| 2000 | 1,513,330 | 233,530 | 395,650 | 848,380 | 2,990,890 |
| 2001 | 1,365,610 | 209,605 | 333,440 | 823,180 | 2,731,835 |
| 2002 | 1,290,665 | 199,425 | 364,155 | 866,775 | 2,721,020 |
| 2003 | 1,207,220 | 194,900 | 364,050 | 869,690 | 2,635,860 |
| 2004 | 1,078,390 | 180,815 | 344,215 | 857,735 | 2,461,155 |
| 2005 | 957,985 | 169,355 | 311,640 | 886,720 | 2,325,700 |
| 2006 | 957,400 | 180,790 | 316,135 | 1,013,985 | 2,468,310 |
| 2007 | 931,615 | 193,025 | 363,450 | 1,065,035 | 2,553,125 |
| 2008[1] | 738,870 | 150,300 | 318,350 | 888,390 | 2,095,910 |

[1] January to October.

*Percentage distribution by destination of all people leaving Jobseeker's Allowance*

| | Employment | Other Benefit | Other reason | Not known or not recorded |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 54.7 | 8.2 | 11.9 | 25.2 |
| 1999 | 52.1 | 7.8 | 13.0 | 27.1 |
| 2000 | 50.6 | 7.8 | 13.2 | 28.4 |
| 2001 | 50.0 | 7.7 | 12.2 | 30.1 |
| 2002 | 47.4 | 7.3 | 13.4 | 31.9 |
| 2003 | 45.8 | 7.4 | 13.8 | 33.0 |
| 2004 | 43.8 | 7.3 | 14.0 | 34.9 |
| 2005 | 41.2 | 7.3 | 13.4 | 38.1 |
| 2006 | 38.8 | 7.3 | 12.8 | 41.1 |
| 2007 | 36.5 | 7.6 | 14.2 | 41.7 |
| 2008[1] | 35.2 | 7.2 | 15.2 | 42.4 |

[1] January to October.

*Percentage distribution by destination of people leaving Jobseeker's Allowance to known destinations*

| | *Employment* | *Other benefit* | *Other* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 73.1 | 10.9 | 15.9 |
| 1999 | 71.5 | 10.6 | 17.8 |
| 2000 | 70.6 | 10.9 | 18.5 |
| 2001 | 71.5 | 11.0 | 17.5 |
| 2002 | 69.6 | 10.8 | 19.6 |
| 2003 | 68.4 | 11.0 | 20.6 |
| 2004 | 67.3 | 11.3 | 21.5 |
| 2005 | 66.6 | 11.8 | 21.7 |
| 2006 | 65.8 | 12.4 | 21.7 |
| 2007 | 62.6 | 13.0 | 24.4 |
| 2008[1] | 61.2 | 12.4 | 26.4 |

[1] January to October.

*Notes:*

1. Figures are for Great Britain and are rounded to the nearest 5.
2. The percentage of claimant off-flows with no destination recorded has increased over the last 10 years, which should be taken into account when interpreting these statistics.
3. This information is published on the Nomis website at www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Source:*

Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only).

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of new jobseeker's allowance claimants who will move onto the benefit as a result of (i) losing employment, (ii) moving off income support, (iii) failing a work capability assessment and (iv) other reasons in each of the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [233253]

**Mr. McNulty:** Updated planning assumptions were published at the pre-Budget report.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of non-UK EU citizens who are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance while resident in another EU member state; what discussions he has had with other EU member states about the payment of jobseeker's allowance to non-UK EU citizens who are resident in such states; and if he will make a statement. [234432]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* It is not possible to estimate the number of non-UK EU citizens who are in receipt of contribution based jobseeker's allowance while resident in another EU member state. Contribution-based jobseeker's allowance is only payable abroad for up to three months. From the available information it is not possible to differentiate between UK EU citizens and non-UK EU citizens.

The UK contribution based jobseeker's allowance is payable by the foreign Employment Services only if the jobseeker remains unemployed, continues to register as a person seeking work and continues to comply with the control procedures in the country where they are seeking work.

Modernisation of the EU social security regulations coordinating unemployment benefits was discussed at the December 2007 EU Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) in Brussels.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants there were in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Wellingborough constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [238334]

**Mr. McNulty:** In October 2008 there were 980,900 jobseeker's allowance claimants in the UK, with 1,730 in Wellingborough parliamentary constituency.

*Notes:*

1. Data is rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures for Wellingborough parliamentary constituency are seasonally unadjusted and exclude clerical cases.
3. Data is published at www.nomisweb.co.uk

*Source:*

ONS

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants moved off JSA and into employment in each month of the last five years, broken down by age; and if he will make a statement. [239310]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information has been placed in the Library.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants were enrolled in an outsourced skills training and support programme to which they had been referred by Jobcentre Plus in each month of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [239311]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information is not collected centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed jobseekers' allowance between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008; and how much was spent on jobseekers' allowance claims in that period. [238793]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available information on the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance each month in 2007-08 is in the table.

*Jobseeker's allowance claimant count - seasonally adjusted*

| | *Great Britain* |
|---|---|
| March 2007 | 879,500 |
| April 2007 | 863,500 |
| May 2007 | 852,600 |
| June 2007 | 839,000 |
| July 2007 | 830,200 |
| August 2007 | 825,200 |
| September 2007 | 811,700 |
| October 2007 | 802,600 |
| November 2007 | 790,900 |
| December 2007 | 784,000 |
| January 2008 | 771,200 |
| February 2008 | 771,600 |
| March 2008 | 775,000 |
| April 2008 | 785,800 |

*Notes:*

1. Data have been rounded to the nearest 100. Figures are a monthly snapshot and cannot be added together to give an annual total.
2. Expenditure for jobseeker's allowance in 2007-08 was £2,210 million.
3. The figure is for Great Britain and is in cash terms. It does not include any administration costs related to the processing of jobseeker's allowance claims.

*Sources:*

100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems.
DWP accounting data.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what information his Department holds on the amount of time each jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimant has received JSA in the last *(a)* two and *(b)* five years; [236860]

(2) what data his Department holds in respect of repeat jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants on *(a)* the periods between different claims, *(b)* whether a claimant finds employment between different claims of JSA and *(c)* when people spent time on the New Deal Training Allowance between claims. [236868]

**Mr. McNulty:** The source of much of the published data on benefit claims is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). It links benefit and programme information from administrative datasets held by DWP on its customers with employment records from Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC), and is used within the Department in a wide range of projects for example research, policy evaluation, modelling and forecasting, and in the Job Outcome Target to measure how many people JobCentre Plus have helped into work. Further details on WPLS and its uses are published at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/longitudinal_study/ic_longitudinal_study.asp.

The amount and quality of information held on the WPLS varies by benefit group; the datasets themselves are complex, and can be complicated to analyse and quality assure. Where quality assurance has been carried out to National Statistics standards, statistics from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study are published on the Department's website via the Tabulation Tool (www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp) and the Nomis website, the Office for National Statistics website of official labour market statistics (www.nomisweb.co.uk), both of which allow users to construct their own tables.

The preferred source of information on JSA claimants is the monthly claimant count which is published on Nomis. This includes a breakdown of destination for claimants leaving JSA, but this information is incomplete and should be treated with caution. The percentage of claimant off-flows with no destination recorded has increased over the last 10 years, which should be taken into account when interpreting these statistics. For example, 25 per cent. of off-flows in December 1998 had no destination recorded, compared to 38 per cent. of off-flows in December 2007.

Statistics on new deal are published on the Tabulation Tool, including information on immediate destination on leaving, whether employment, benefits or other destinations.

Work is continuously ongoing to improve the range of published information.

The published data does not include information on the amount of time each jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimant has received JSA in the last *(a)* two and *(b)* five years; or, in respect of repeat jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants, on *(a)* the periods between different claims, *(b)* whether a claimant finds employment between different claims of JSA and *(c)* when people spent time on the new deal training allowance between claims. It could be obtained only after a complex analysis of the available data and a comprehensive assurance process to ensure that the data was correct. As a result it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Jobseeker's Allowance: Females**

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of people who started to claim jobseeker's allowance in each of the last 12 months were women, broken down by *(a)* profession, *(b)* region and *(c)* age. [231657]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available information has been placed in the Library.

**Local Housing Allowance**

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households are receiving local housing allowance at a rate of *(a)* under £5,000, *(b)* between £5,001 and £7,000, *(c)* between £7,001 and £10,000, *(d)* between £10,001 and £15,000 and *(e)* over £15,000 per month. [236862]

**Kitty Ussher:** This information is not currently available at a national level.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the maximum level of local housing allowance in each broad market rental area is for a *(a)* one bedroom, *(b)* two bedroom, *(c)* three bedroom, *(d)* four bedroom, *(e)* five bedroom, *(f)* six bedroom, *(g)* seven bedroom, *(h)* eight bedroom, *(i)* nine bedroom and *(j)* 10 bedroom property. [236863]

**Kitty Ussher:** The local housing allowance rates for property sizes up to five bedrooms are published by The Rent Service. The most easily accessible version of this information can be found on the Rent Service's internet site at:

https://lha-direct.therentservice.gov.uk/Secure/LHARateSearch.aspx?SearchType=LA.

Rates for six through to 10 bedrooms are not published as they are calculated individually by rent officers where a claim for benefit requiring these rates has been made.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what circumstances local housing allowance may be paid at a rate above the average market rent in a given area. [236864]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Local Housing Allowance (LHA) is not paid at rates above average market rents. The amount a tenant can receive is subject to the overall limit of the average market rent appropriate for their area and household size.

An LHA rate is a median value calculated from a list of rents, for a given number of bedrooms, collected from the private rented sector in a broad rental market area. As the LHA is a median value, the middle value from the list of rents held in ascending order, it should ensure that half of the properties in the broad rental market area will be affordable for housing benefit customers.

The Rent Service determines the median rents for each broad rental market area using information about actual confirmed tenancies. Details of average market rents in Broad Market Rent Areas are published on a monthly basis by The Rent Service online at

www.therentservice.gov.uk/.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what process was used to set area boundaries for local housing allowance; and if he will make a statement. [237646]

**Kitty Ussher:** The area boundaries, or broad rental market areas (BRMAs), used to determine local housing allowance, are set by rent officers in the three national rent services. BRMAs are intended to reflect the patterns of areas in which people live and enjoy a range of services, and the rental values within those areas.

Specifically, rent officers took account of health, education, recreation, banking and finance facilities in each area reviewed. Local authorities were consulted on the proposed changes in advance of area boundaries being implemented.

### Mortgages: Interest Rates

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will introduce a system of variations to the standard rate of interest as applied to claims made for mortgage interest payments to allow for the fact that some lenders do not pass on Bank of England interest rate cuts to their borrowers. [238646]

**Kitty Ussher:** We continue to keep under review the support available for mortgage interest. We have already announced that, for working age people, there will be an increase in the upper mortgage limit from £100,000 to £200,000, and a decrease in the waiting period from 39 weeks to 13 weeks, both from January next year.

We also announced that the standard interest rate which is used as part of the calculation of support for mortgage interest will be maintained at its current level for the next six months, rather than reflecting the 1.5 per cent. reduction in the Bank of England Base Rate.

### National Insurance

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new National Insurance numbers, excluding those generated automatically on reaching the age of 16 years, have been issued in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* county of England in each of the last five years. [238236]

**Mr. McNulty:** The requested information is not available.

### New Deal for 50 Plus

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on the New Deal 50 Plus Programme, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [230561]

**Mr. McNulty:** Due to the reorganisation of Jobcentre Plus over the past five years it is not possible to provide comparable data at district level. The available information is in the table.

*Expenditure on New Deal 50 Plus broken down by nation and Government office region*

*£ million*

| | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-5* | *2005-6* | *2006-7* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 0.006 | 0.060 | 0.061 | 0.061 | 0.072 | 0.078 | 0.009 | 0.009 | 0.013 |
| East of England | 0.000 | 0.049 | 0.042 | 0.085 | 0.118 | 0.140 | 0.017 | 0.018 | 0.017 |
| London | 0.000 | 0.116 | 0.228 | 0.190 | 0.203 | 0.217 | 0.011 | 0.015 | 0.018 |
| North East | 0.000 | 0.072 | 0.104 | 0.072 | 0.111 | 0.178 | 0.002 | 0.010 | 0.012 |
| North West | 0.001 | 0.065 | 0.119 | 0.096 | 0.138 | 0.202 | 0.026 | 0.025 | 0.012 |
| Scotland | 0.000 | 0.036 | 0.121 | 0.158 | 0.189 | 0.213 | 0.015 | 0.025 | 0.013 |
| Wales | 0.000 | 0.271 | 0.028 | 0.068 | 0.098 | 0.129 | 0.013 | 0.017 | 0.013 |
| South East | 0.000 | 0.040 | 0.065 | 0.092 | 0.122 | 0.179 | 0.018 | 0.029 | 0.019 |
| South West | 0.001 | 0.260 | 0.079 | 0.178 | 0.063 | 0.208 | 0.023 | 0.036 | 0.027 |
| West Midlands | 0.007 | 0.026 | 0.099 | 0.106 | 0.136 | 0.183 | 0.012 | 0.021 | 0.019 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 0.000 | 0.268 | 0.095 | 0.143 | 0.153 | 0.181 | 0.011 | 0.016 | 0.017 |
| Non regional/ national level | 0.567 | 43.357 | 81.072 | 80.380 | 39.976 | 0.873 | 0.826 | 0.026 | 0.007 |
| Total | 0.581 | 44.620 | 82.111 | 81.630 | 41.379 | 2.782 | 0.983 | 0.247 | 0.187 |

*Notes:*
1. New Deal 50 plus started in 2000.
2. Expenditure figures exclude admin costs as they cannot be identified since 2002-03 when ringfences were removed with agreement from HM Treasury.
3. All the above figures are confirmed spend and are quoted in cash terms.
4. The source of the above data is from the DWP financial systems. The New Deal 50 plus totals agree to the departmental report.
5. New Deal 50 plus costs reduce after 2002-03 as the 50 plus element of the working tax credit transferred to HMRC.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants on the New Deal 50 Plus entered sustainable employment immediately in each month since May 2007, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district; and if he will make a statement. [231131]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not available.

### New Deal for 50 Plus: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of Crosby constituency are enrolled in the New Deal 50 plus programme. [236689]

**Mr. McNulty:** Statistics relating to current participants on New Deal 50 Plus are not available.

## New Deal for Disabled People

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of (1) leavers from the New Deal for Disabled People Programme entered immediately into sustainable employment in each month since March 2006, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district; and if he will make a statement; [230533]

(2) claimants on the New Deal for Disabled People Programme entered sustainable employment immediately in each month since March 2006, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district; and if he will make a statement. [231130]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not available.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the annual cost was of the New Deal for Disabled People Programme in each year since establishment, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district; and if he will make a statement. [231078]

**Mr. McNulty:** Due to the re-organisation of Jobcentre Plus over the past five years it is not possible to provide comparable data at district level. The available information is in the table.

*Expenditure on new deal for disabled people broken down by nation and Government office region*

| | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | £million 2002-03 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.003 | 0.001 | 0.000 |
| East of England | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.028 | 0.002 | 0.000 |
| London | 0.000 | 0.168 | 0.370 | 0.099 | 0.029 |
| North East | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.006 | 0.001 | 0.072 |
| North West | 0.000 | 0.172 | 0.294 | 0.117 | 0.116 |
| Scotland | 0.003 | 0.079 | 0.221 | 0.082 | 0.134 |
| Wales | 0.004 | 0.075 | 0.296 | 0.290 | 1.441 |
| South East | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.086 | 0.002 | 0.011 |
| South West | 0.000 | 0.037 | 0.215 | 0.196 | 0.352 |
| West Midlands | 0.000 | 0.041 | 0.186 | 0.070 | 0.015 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.002 | 0.002 | 0.004 |
| Non regional/national level | 0.000 | 14.141 | 5.039 | 3.268 | 13.309 |
| Total | 0.008 | 14.713 | 6.651 | 4.071 | 15.363 |

*Expenditure on new deal for disabled people broken down by nation and Government office region*

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | £million 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 0.057 | 0.139 | 0.081 | 0.041 | 0.002 |
| East of England | 0.079 | 0.194 | 0.081 | 0.035 | 0.007 |
| London | 0.123 | 0.206 | 0.069 | 0.008 | 0.013 |
| North East | 0.373 | 0.605 | 0.239 | 0.425 | 0.367 |
| North West | 0.234 | 0.307 | 0.164 | 0.109 | 0.004 |
| Scotland | 0.408 | 0.727 | 0.283 | 0.232 | 0.386 |
| Wales | 1.039 | 1.507 | 0.835 | 0.865 | 1.139 |
| South East | 0.046 | 0.099 | 0.067 | 0.005 | 0.005 |
| South West | 0.396 | 0.486 | 0.171 | 0.143 | 0.036 |
| West Midlands | 0.346 | 0.698 | 0.508 | 0.412 | 0.008 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 0.033 | 0.083 | 0.045 | 0.005 | 0.005 |
| Non regional/national level | 25.320 | 59.677 | 66.115 | 70.754 | 78.476 |
| Total | 28.452 | 64.764 | 68.397 | 72.981 | 78.448 |

*Notes:*
1. *New deal for disabled people started in 2001.*
2. *Expenditure figures exclude admin. costs as they cannot be identified since 2002-03 when employees were removed with agreement from HM Treasury.*
3. *All the above figures are confirmed spend and are quoted in cash terms.*
4. *The source of the above data is from the DWP financial systems. The new deal for disabled people totals agree to the departmental report.*

## New Deal for Lone Parents

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what employment programmes lone parents with children under the age of 12 years will be eligible to take part in once the flexible new deal has been implemented nationally and employment zone contracts have ended; and if he will make a statement. [230216]

**Kitty Ussher:** All lone parents will have voluntary access to new deal for lone parents from the start of their jobseeker's allowance claim. After six months, the full range of new deal for lone parents help will be available to all lone parents as part of the Supported Jobsearch. Those lone parents who reach 12 months on jobseeker's allowance will switch to flexible new deal provision.

The flexible new deal is contracted, personalised provision. Providers will ensure that job-search support is tailored to the specific needs of lone parents and address related barriers to employment.

However, we expect the large majority of all jobseekers to have left jobseeker's allowance within the first 12

months, before entering the flexible new deal. The reformed jobseeker's allowance from next April will contain escalating support and conditionality which is designed to encourage all jobseekers to seek sustained work actively, including help with skills needs and practical help with job search.

### New Deal for Musicians

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants on New Deal for Musicians Programme entered immediately into sustainable employment in each month since establishment, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district; and if he will make a statement. [231079]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not available. New deal for musicians is delivered as part of the mainstream new deal for young people and new deal 25-plus programmes; job outcomes for new deal for musicians are now incorporated into statistics for these mainstream programmes.

### New Deal for Partners

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of (1) leavers from the New Deal for Partners Programme entered immediately into sustainable employment, in each month since May 2007, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district; and if he will make a statement; [230531]

(2) claimants on New Deal for Partners Programme entered immediately into sustainable employment in each month since May 2007, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district; and if he will make a statement. [231080]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not available.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the annual cost of the New Deal for Partners Programme was in each year since establishment, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district; and if he will make a statement. [231083]

**Mr. McNulty:** Due to the re-organisation of Jobcentre Plus over the past five years it is not possible to provide comparable data at district level. The available information is in the table.

*Expenditure on new deal for partners broken down by nation and Government office region*

*£million*

| | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.031 | 0.271 | 0.018 |
| East of England | 0.000 | 0.001 | 0.077 | 0.081 | 0.054 |
| London | 0.000 | 0.001 | 0.082 | 0.178 | 0.015 |
| North East | 0.000 | 0.001 | 0.046 | 0.036 | 0.003 |
| North West | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.039 | 0.026 | 0.028 |
| Scotland | 0.000 | 0.001 | 0.042 | 0.039 | 0.014 |
| Wales | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.035 | 0.015 | 0.005 |
| South East | 0.000 | 0.003 | 0.035 | 0.081 | 0.032 |
| South West | 0.000 | 0.001 | 0.039 | 0.023 | 0.004 |
| West Midlands | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.060 | 0.076 | 0.003 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 0.000 | 0.002 | 0.012 | 0.007 | 0.002 |
| Non regional/national level | 0.000 | 0.175 | 0.560 | 1.017 | 0.002 |
| Total | 0.000 | 0.185 | 1.058 | 1.850 | 0.180 |

*Expenditure on new deal for partners broken down by nation and Government office region*

*£million*

| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 0.005 | 0.032 | 0.031 | 0.026 | 0.017 |
| East of England | 0.005 | 0.019 | 0.035 | 0.010 | 0.032 |
| London | 0.205 | 0.142 | 0.140 | 0.037 | 0.059 |
| North East | 0.004 | 0.047 | 0.054 | 0.179 | 0.060 |
| North West | 0.017 | 0.072 | 0.065 | 0.023 | 0.032 |
| Scotland | 0.008 | 0.055 | 0.004 | 0.219 | 0.017 |
| Wales | 0.009 | 0.033 | 0.031 | 0.023 | 0.015 |
| South East | 0.002 | 0.027 | 0.077 | 0.032 | 0.007 |
| South West | 0.006 | 0.051 | 0.049 | 0.009 | 0.010 |
| West Midlands | 0.005 | 0.038 | 0.029 | 0.011 | 0.012 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 0.004 | 0.035 | 0.087 | 0.030 | 0.073 |
| Non regional/national level | 0.000 | -0.002 | 0.088 | 0.015 | 0.020 |
| Total | 0.260 | 0.549 | 0.690 | 0.613 | 0.354 |

Notes:
1. New deal for partners started in 1999 and was re-launched in 2004.
2. Expenditure figures exclude administration costs as they cannot be identified since 2002-03 when ringfences were removed with agreement from HM Treasury.
3. All the above figures are confirmed spend and are quoted in cash terms.
4. Where negative figures are shown against non regional/national level spend, this reflects minor accounting adjustments made as a result of audit, which are credited at national rather than regional level.
5. The source of the above data is from the DWP financial systems. The new deal for partners totals agree to the departmental report.

## New Deal for Young People

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the cost of the New Deal for Young People programme has been, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement; [230562]

(2) what the annual cost of the New Deal 25 Plus programme was in each year since its inception, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district; and if he will make a statement. [231132]

**Mr. McNulty:** Due to the re-organisation of Jobcentre Plus over the past five years it is not possible to provide comparable data at district level. The available information is in the table.

*Expenditure on New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 Plus broken down by nation and Government office region*

*£ million*

| | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 7.4 | 16.5 | 17.0 | 19.0 | 19.7 |
| East of England | 6.6 | 14.4 | 13.5 | 12.0 | 12.7 |
| London | 10.4 | 31.4 | 34.3 | 37.9 | 48.3 |
| North East | 12.0 | 25.4 | 27.3 | 30.7 | 29.3 |
| North West | 14.0 | 36.4 | 38.4 | 41.9 | 40.4 |
| Scotland | 10.0 | 34.4 | 38.3 | 36.5 | 42.1 |
| Wales | 7.2 | 20.4 | 21.7 | 20.2 | 21.8 |
| South East | 6.0 | 12.4 | 12.4 | 10.6 | 13.2 |
| South West | 9.2 | 17.0 | 18.1 | 16.8 | 16.9 |
| West Midlands | 7.8 | 19.4 | 21.4 | 29.0 | 29.2 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 18.0 | 36.4 | 37.4 | 34.6 | 36.3 |
| Non regional/national level | 70.0 | 88.3 | 55.4 | 70.2 | 77.8 |
| Total | 178.6 | 352.5 | 335.1 | 359.5 | 387.8 |

*Expenditure on New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 Plus broken down by nation and Government office region*

*£ million*

| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 19.1 | 18.5 | 15.6 | 23.0 | 28.4 |
| East of England | 14.7 | 15.7 | 11.7 | 18.8 | 26.3 |
| London | 62.2 | 71.4 | 54.0 | 65.5 | 80.9 |
| North East | 30.1 | 27.5 | 17.5 | 24.1 | 32.9 |
| North West | 47.1 | 39.7 | 28.6 | 35.3 | 46.7 |
| Scotland | 42.1 | 37.5 | 33.5 | 24.1 | 30.6 |
| Wales | 20.2 | 19.1 | 14.8 | 17.4 | 18.5 |
| South East | 16.8 | 20.6 | 17.9 | 15.8 | 25.8 |
| South West | 16.9 | 19.0 | 12.5 | 15.4 | 18.3 |
| West Midlands | 30.9 | 28.0 | 17.2 | 27.8 | 42.6 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 35.0 | 29.2 | 24.1 | 33.2 | 44.2 |
| Non regional/national level | 118.0 | 107.2 | 75.0 | 6.2 | 3.0 |
| Total | 453.1 | 433.5 | 322.6 | 306.6 | 398.3 |

*Notes:*
1. New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 Plus started in 1998.
2. New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 Plus are not accounted for separately at a regional level so the combined totals are shown.
3. Expenditure figures exclude admin costs as they cannot be identified since 2002-03 when ringfences were removed with agreement from HM Treasury.
4. All the above figures are confirmed spend and are quoted in cash terms.
5. The source of the above data is from the DWP financial systems. The totals agree to the Departmental Report.

## New Deal Schemes

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 7W, which potential bidders *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have met in the last six months to discuss the flexible new deal. [230032]

**Mr. McNulty:** DWP Ministers and officials have had regular meetings with a wide range of diverse organisations interested and involved in bidding for flexible new deal, both before and after the formal start of the competition. Further details of these organisations is commercially and business sensitive.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what modelling his Department has carried out on different economic and labour market conditions in assessing the *(a)* funding and *(b)* central employment estimates for the flexible new deal contracts; and if he will make a statement. [235924]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Department for Work and Pensions published its CSR2007 three year spending plan in February 2008. Copies of this are available in the Library. The Department has been planning for the impact of higher levels of jobseeker's allowance claims as a result of potential changes in the labour market in the coming months. We are developing plans right across our areas of responsibility including contracted employment provision to assess and manage the impact of an economic downturn.

### New Deal Schemes: Expenditure

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on the New Deal programme from its inception to August 2008. [238380]

**Mr. McNulty:** Audited figures are only available for the period to 31 March 2008. Expenditure from the inception of the programme in April 1998 to that date was £3,527 million.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average expenditure has been on each person who has found employment through the New Deal programme. [238381]

**Mr. McNulty:** Data is only available for the New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25+ and for the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2008 inclusive. For these programmes, over this period the average expenditure on each person who has found employment is £3,321.

### New Deal Schemes: Greater London

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* people, *(b)* young people, *(c)* lone parents, *(d)* people over 25 years and *(e)* people over 50 years participated in the New Deal in (i) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, (ii) the London Borough of Bexley and (iii) Greater London in 2007. [215079]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available information on the number of New Deal starts is shown in the following table.

*Starts on new deals in Bexley (local authority), London (Government Office Region), Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency: 2007*

| *New Deal (NDP)* | *Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency* | *Bexley (local authority)* | *London (Government Office Region)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ND for Young people | 200 | 590 | 28,630 |
| ND For 25 plus | 110 | 410 | 24,860 |
| ND for Lone Parents | 430 | 1,220 | 31,340 |

*Note:*
Figures are rounded to the neatest 10.
*Source:*
New Deal Evaluation Database, Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions (May 2008 extract)

Precise information on starts for New Deal 50 Plus is not available. The number of individuals to have started on New Deal for 50 Plus excluding those who have returned to the New Deal in 2008 is however available. If this measure is used then in 2007, 2,010 individuals are shown as starting New Deal 50 Plus in London (Government Office Region) and 30 in Bexley local authority area. As noted this may undercount the number of people starting as only the latest start is counted and some may have returned to the New Deal in 2008.

### Occupational Health and Safety: Retail Trade

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to promote the use of the Health and Safety Executive toolkit to help employers reduce the risk of violence against shopworkers. [238770]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Local authorities (LAs) are responsible for enforcing health and safety legislation in retail and licensed premises. HSE and LACORS (the Local Authority Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services) have disseminated the toolkit and its accompanying summary leaflet to all LAs in England, Scotland and Wales, and encouraged them to promote the toolkit, which is freely available, to relevant employers in their own areas.

HSE is targeting promotional activity in the retail and hospitality sectors to encourage use of the toolkit, by publishing information in sector-based websites, newsletters and journals, and through direct contact at relevant conferences and seminars.

Additionally, HSE is encouraging members of the stakeholder Partnership on Work-related Violence (which includes the TUC, CBI, USDAW—Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers and BRC—British Retail Consortium) to promote the toolkit from within their own networks.

### Occupational Pensions

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many occupational pension schemes have fully wound up since 1997; how many are in the process of winding up; and what the membership of such schemes was in each year since 1997. [226171]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The following information was provided by the pensions regulator.

(a) The number of schemes in the UK that have wound up for a variety of reasons since 2 April 1997 is 76,675

(b) The number of schemes that have been winding up since 2 April 1997 is 7,590. The total membership of these schemes is 358,871.

*Notes:*

1. The data supplied by the pensions regulator is current as at 9 October 2008. It has been enhanced and updated with information received via the new scheme returns, which includes new data for small defined contribution schemes.
2. A wound up scheme is one which has notified the pensions regulator that it has completed winding up procedures. In some cases schemes notify the pensions regulator that they have completed winding up procedures without having previously notified the regulator that they have commenced winding up procedures.
3. A winding up scheme is one which has notified the pensions regulator that it has commenced winding up procedures.
4. Total membership includes active, deferred and pensioner members. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of these numbers.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Pensions Regulator on the ability of companies with final salary pension schemes to make up the shortfalls in assets following the credit crunch. [239893]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

## Pathways to Work

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on the Pathways to Work programme in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08, broken down by district; how many customers on the programme in each district were in employment for 13 consecutive weeks or more in each year from 2003-04 to 2007-08; and how much he plans to spend on the programme in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [234059]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The available information about past and planned expenditure on Pathways to Work is in the tables. Information about past expenditure by district could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information on how many customers on the Pathways programme were in employment for 13 consecutive weeks or more in each year from 2003-04 to 2007-08 is not available.

*Pathways to work past expenditure*

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | £millions 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| East of England | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| London | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North East | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North West | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scotland | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wales | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South East | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South West | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Midlands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non regional | 0 | 0 | 24 | 39 | 70 |

*Notes:*
1. Pathways to Work started in October 2003 in five districts. Consequently, expenditure was low in 2003-04 and has increased as the programme has rolled out nationally.
2. Expenditure figures exclude administration costs as they cannot be separately identified at a programme level.
3. All figures are confirmed spend and are quoted in cash terms.
4. A full regional breakdown of Pathways to Work spend is not available after 2004-05 as Pathways to Work was managed centrally as a project and spend was captured at a national level.
5. Figures of zero represent costs of less than £0.5 million and therefore round to zero.
6. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1 million and are all subject to rounding differences.

*Source:*
DWP financial systems.

## Pension Credit

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when it became possible for an out-of-work man aged between 60 to 64 years old to claim pension credit instead of jobseeker's allowance; [236959]

(2) what benefits an unemployed man aged between 60 and 64 years old was entitled to claim before the introduction of pension credit. [236960]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Pension Credit was introduced on the 6 October 2003, prior to its introduction men aged between 60 and 64 were able to choose whether they claimed the Minimum Income Guarantee (Income Support for those aged 60 or over) or Jobseekers Allowance—provided they met the eligibility criteria. When Pension Credit replaced the Minimum Income Guarantee, men in this group could continue to choose between claiming Pension Credit or Jobseekers Allowance, again provided they met the eligibility criteria.

The age from which people can get Pension Credit will gradually increase from 60 to 65 between 2010 and 2020. This is in line with women's state pension age which is increasing to 65, the same as for men.

Before Pension Credit was introduced, unemployed men aged between 60 to 64 may have been eligible for one or more of the following benefits dependant on their circumstances: Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, DLA, Incapacity Benefit, Bereavement Allowance, Widowed Parent's Allowance, Carer's Allowance and Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit. These benefits remain available to men in this age group, with the exception of Income Support.

## Pension Credit: Housing

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of pension credit claimants received a premium for each type of housing cost in each year since pension credit was introduced. [238212]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information that is available is in the following table.

*Pension credit household recipients with an additional amount for housing costs 2003-08*

| | Total household recipients with an additional amount for housing costs | Proportion of total pension credit caseload (percentage) | Households recipients with an additional amount for mortgage interest payments | Proportion of total pension credit caseload (percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| November 2003 | 136,400 | 6.5 | 88,900 | 4.3 |
| May 2004 | 172,200 | 6.9 | 105,700 | 4.2 |

*Pension credit household recipients with an additional amount for housing costs 2003-08*

| | *Total household recipients with an additional amount for housing costs* | *Proportion of total pension credit caseload (percentage)* | *Households recipients with an additional amount for mortgage interest payments* | *Proportion of total pension credit caseload (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 2005 | 187,800 | 7.0 | 115,100 | 4.3 |
| May 2006 | 190,500 | 7.0 | 117,500 | 4.3 |
| May 2007 | 186,400 | 6.8 | 115,500 | 4.2 |
| May 2008 | 181,800 | 6.7 | 112,500 | 4.1 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim Pension Credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
3. Column 4 represents those households that receive an additional amount for housing costs in respect of mortgage interest payments. These figures form part of the total housing costs figures in column 2

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of the housing cost premium paid out to pension credit claimants in each year since it was introduced. [238213]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Pension Credit recipients may be eligible to additional help with certain housing costs which they are liable to pay, that are not covered by Housing Benefit. Housing costs include mortgage interest payments, and other allowable charges such as ground rents and certain service charges. The Pension Credit standard minimum guarantee of £124.05 for single pensioners (£189.35 for couples) is increased by the relevant amount of the housing cost where the customer is entitled to an additional amount for housing. In the 2008 Pre-Budget Report the Chancellor announced that from April 2009 the Pension Credit standard minimum guarantee will rise to £130 a week for single pensioners, £198.45 for couples, which represents the largest increase since its introduction.

The guarantee element of Pension Credit tops income up to the appropriate guarantee level, which means that people entitled to an additional amount for housing costs could receive either more or less than the additional amount for housing costs depending on their circumstances. It is not possible to specify what element of a Pension Credit payment relates specifically to the additional amount for housing costs, therefore the following table contains Pension Credit expenditure where there is entitlement to an additional amount for housing costs.

*Expenditure on pension credit customers entitled to an additional amount for housing costs*

| | *Expenditure in cash terms (£)m* | *Expenditure in 2008-09 prices (£m)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 (part year) | 217 | 249 |
| 2004-05 | 539 | 601 |
| 2005-06 | 588 | 643 |
| 2006-07 | 619 | 659 |
| 2007-08 | 658 | 680 |

*Notes:*
[1]. Pension Credit was introduced October 2003, so expenditure figures for 2003-04 are part year figures.
[2]. Estimates represent the expenditure on total Pension Credit for those claimants who are entitled to an additional amount for housing costs. Depending on the customer's income, this may be either higher or lower than the nominal value of the additional amount for housing costs. It is not possible to specify what part of expenditure relates to the additional amount for housing costs.
[3]. Expenditure has been converted from cash terms to 2008-09 prices using GDP Deflators which were published alongside the 2008 pre-Budget Report.

*Source:*
DWP: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data, five per cent. sample data and DWP Accounting Systems.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* minimum amount was that can be paid to claimants of the additional housing cost premium of pension credit in each year since its introduction. [238214]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Pension Credit recipients may be eligible to additional help with certain housing costs which they are liable to pay, that are not covered by Housing Benefit. Housing costs include mortgage interest payments, and other allowable charges such as ground rents and certain service charges.

No minimum or maximum thresholds are applied to housing costs with the exception of mortgage interest and interest on loans. Generally there is a £100,000 limit on the outstanding capital of a loan. If the loan is for more than £100,000 then only the interest on £100,000 can be included in an assessment of an additional amount for housing costs.

The £100,000 limit does not apply if the loan was taken out and used in full, or in part, to adapt their home for the special needs of a disabled person.

The £100,000 limit was introduced on 10 April 1995.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average amount is of the additional housing cost premium of pension credit which has been paid to claimants in receipt of it in each year since its introduction; and if he will make a statement. [238215]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Pension Credit recipients may be eligible to additional help with certain housing costs which they are liable to pay, that are not covered by Housing Benefit. Housing costs include mortgage interest payments, and other allowable charges such as ground rents and certain service charges. The Pension Credit standard minimum guarantee of £124.05 for single pensioners (£189.35 for couples) is increased by the relevant amount of the housing cost where the customer is entitled to an additional amount for housing.

The guarantee element of Pension Credit tops income up to the appropriate guarantee level, which means that people entitled to an additional amount for housing costs could receive a Pension Credit payment of either more or less than the additional amount for housing depending on their circumstances. It is not possible to specify what element of a Pension Credit payment relates specifically to the additional amount for housing costs.

The average weekly additional amount for housing costs included in Pension Credit assessments is shown in the following table. This does not equate to a payment of Pension Credit, rather it reflects the average amount by which people's appropriate minimum guarantee has been increased to take account of relevant housing costs.

*Average Weekly Amount of Housing Costs*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| November 2003 | 15.01 |
| May 2004 | 14.09 |
| May 2005 | 17.11 |
| May 2006 | 17.98 |
| May 2007 | 20.84 |
| May 2008 | 22.24 |

*Note:*
1. Average amounts are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate five per cent sample.

### Pension Credit: Mortgages

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people over working age with fixed rate mortgages and in receipt of pension credit who will fall into mortgage arrears in the next 12 months following reductions in the standard interest rate component of their benefit. [238340]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This information is not available.

### Pension Credit: Overpayments

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much in overpaid pension credits was recovered by his Department in each *(a)* month of 2008-09 to date and *(b)* year from 2003-04 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [230484]

**Mr. McNulty:** *(a)* Pension Credit recovered each month 2008-09 to date:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| April | 2.4 |
| May | 2.4 |
| June | 2.5 |
| July | 2.9 |
| August | 3.0 |
| September | 2.7 |
| Total to date | 15.9 |

*Note:*
Rounded to the nearest decimal point

*(b)* Pension credit recovered each year from 2003-04 to 2007-08:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 0.14 |
| 2004-05 | 2.8 |
| 2005-06 | 2.9 |
| 2006-07 | 20.6 |
| 2007-08 | 30.0 |

*Note:*
Rounded to the nearest decimal point

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average amount per case of overpaid pension credits was clawed back by his Department in *(a)* each month of 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [231028]

**Mr. McNulty:** It is not possible to provide information in the format requested as some overpayments are paid back by lump sum. Where a customer repays an overpayment by weekly deductions from their pension credit, regulations limit the amount that can be deducted to a maximum of £9.15, and £12 in fraud related cases.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average amount per case of overpaid pension credits was clawed back by his Department per case taken to court over repayment in *(a)* each month of 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [231030]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Information is not available on the amount recovered in pension credit cases where civil enforcement action has been taken.

It is not normal practice to pursue enforcement of an overpayment through civil proceedings where a customer is in receipt of benefit. Typically people over pension age would be in receipt of benefit from which compulsory deductions can be taken to repay an overpayment.

Where the customer is in receipt of benefit, deductions from benefit will be arranged compulsorily to recover an outstanding debt.

In the exceptional circumstances, where a person is no longer in receipt of benefit we would normally seek an agreement to pay by instalments. If no such agreement can be reached, then only as a last resort would civil proceedings be considered.

### Pension Credit: Wales

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in each constituency in Wales claimed pension credit in each year since it was introduced. [238634]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is in the following tables.

*Household recipients of pension credit in parliamentary constituencies in Wales: November 2003 to May 2005*

| Constituency | November 2003 | May 2004 | May 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aberavon | 3,330 | 4,030 | 4,380 |
| Alyn and Deeside | 2,470 | 3,050 | 3,360 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 3,800 | 4,430 | 4,740 |
| Brecon and Radnorshire | 2,310 | 2,910 | 3,110 |
| Bridgend | 2,920 | 3,540 | 3,790 |
| Caernarfon | 3,060 | 3,550 | 3,760 |
| Caerphilly | 3,560 | 4,280 | 4,720 |
| Cardiff Central | 2,050 | 2,340 | 2,490 |
| Cardiff North | 2,110 | 2,520 | 2,770 |
| Cardiff South and Penarth | 4,310 | 4,860 | 5,260 |
| Cardiff West | 3,510 | 4,030 | 4,340 |
| Carmarthen East and Dinefwr | 2,800 | 3,410 | 3,770 |

*Household recipients of pension credit in parliamentary constituencies in Wales: November 2003 to May 2005*

| Constituency | November 2003 | May 2004 | May 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire | 2,940 | 3,680 | 4,040 |
| Ceredigion | 2,370 | 2,990 | 3,270 |
| Clwyd South | 3,020 | 3,630 | 3,880 |
| Clwyd West | 3,320 | 4,010 | 4,370 |
| Conwy | 3,000 | 3,530 | 3,840 |
| Cynon Valley | 2,990 | 3,620 | 3,970 |
| Delyn | 2,680 | 3,230 | 3,470 |
| Gower | 2,760 | 3,280 | 3,520 |
| Islwyn | 2,800 | 3,390 | 3,720 |
| Llanelli | 4,170 | 4,890 | 5,250 |
| Meirionnydd Nant Conwy | 1,750 | 2,180 | 2,390 |
| Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney | 3,440 | 4,150 | 4,520 |
| Monmouth | 2,480 | 3,020 | 3,340 |
| Montgomeryshire | 1,940 | 2,440 | 2,680 |
| Neath | 3,270 | 4,070 | 4,410 |
| Newport East | 2,570 | 3,190 | 3,530 |
| Newport West | 3,350 | 3,940 | 4,280 |
| Ogmore | 2,880 | 3,550 | 3,890 |
| Pontypridd | 3,190 | 3,840 | 4,270 |
| Preseli Pembrokeshire | 2,750 | 3,540 | 3,910 |
| Rhondda | 4,130 | 4,910 | 5,360 |
| Swansea East | 3,700 | 4,290 | 4,620 |
| Swansea West | 3,740 | 4,300 | 4,530 |
| Torfaen | 3,620 | 4,270 | 4,590 |
| Vale of Clwyd | 3,800 | 4,400 | 4,740 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 3,030 | 3,510 | 3,900 |
| Wrexham | 2,870 | 3,380 | 3,580 |
| Ynys Mon | 3,100 | 3,730 | 4,010 |
| Total | 121,890 | 145,900 | 158,370 |

*Household recipients of pension credit in parliamentary constituencies in Wales: May 2006 to May 2008*

| Constituency | May 2006 | May 2007 | May 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aberavon | 4,520 | 4,530 | 4,530 |
| Alyn and Deeside | 3,400 | 3,410 | 3,450 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 4,780 | 4,840 | 4,820 |
| Brecon and Radnorshire | 3,170 | 3,160 | 3,250 |
| Bridgend | 3,890 | 3,910 | 3,880 |
| Caernarfon | 3,760 | 3,780 | 3,620 |
| Caerphilly | 4,830 | 4,920 | 5,030 |
| Cardiff Central | 2,550 | 2,580 | 2,550 |
| Cardiff North | 2,880 | 2,910 | 2,870 |
| Cardiff South and Penarth | 5,360 | 5,410 | 5,390 |
| Cardiff West | 4,400 | 4,420 | 4,370 |
| Carmarthen East and Dinefwr | 3,850 | 3,870 | 3,850 |
| Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire | 4,130 | 4,200 | 4,130 |
| Ceredigion | 3,350 | 3,400 | 3,340 |
| Clwyd South | 3,930 | 3,970 | 3,990 |
| Clwyd West | 4,450 | 4,520 | 4,550 |
| Conwy | 3,900 | 3,860 | 3,840 |
| Cynon Valley | 4,060 | 4,080 | 3,960 |
| Delyn | 3,500 | 3,570 | 3,540 |
| Gower | 3,560 | 3,570 | 3,570 |
| Islwyn | 3,790 | 3,870 | 3,880 |
| Llanelli | 5,290 | 5,360 | 5,210 |
| Meirionnydd Nant Conwy | 2,490 | 2,520 | 2,490 |

*Household recipients of pension credit in parliamentary constituencies in Wales: May 2006 to May 2008*

| Constituency | May 2006 | May 2007 | May 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney | 4,640 | 4,650 | 4,580 |
| Monmouth | 3,400 | 3,440 | 3,380 |
| Montgomeryshire | 2,770 | 2,820 | 2,860 |
| Neath | 4,520 | 4,550 | 4,520 |
| Newport East | 3,600 | 3,660 | 3,660 |
| Newport West | 4,360 | 4,380 | 4,410 |
| Ogmore | 3,930 | 3,900 | 3,890 |
| Pontypridd | 4,360 | 4,440 | 4,370 |
| Preseli Pembrokeshire | 4,010 | 4,020 | 3,980 |
| Rhondda | 5,500 | 5,440 | 5,420 |
| Swansea East | 4,730 | 4,740 | 4,780 |
| Swansea West | 4,560 | 4,610 | 4,580 |
| Torfaen | 4,670 | 4,700 | 4,650 |
| Vale of Clwyd | 4,870 | 4,970 | 4,980 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 4,000 | 4,060 | 4,030 |
| Wrexham | 3,580 | 3,600 | 3,600 |
| Ynys Mon | 4,010 | 4,080 | 4,110 |
| Total | 161,330 | 162,720 | 161,900 |

*Notes:*
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest ten, totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf on a household.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

## Pension Credits

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension credit applications were not processed within 10 days in each of the last three years. [226155]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** While the majority of claims are processed within the actual average clearance time target, there are some cases where it is necessary to request additional information from the customer to ensure they get all the money to which they are entitled.

The time taken to process a claim does not affect the start date of payments. Payment will be backdated to the point the claim was first submitted.

People should claim as soon as they think they are eligible. From October customers can claim four benefits in one free phone call: state pension, pension credit, council tax benefit and housing benefit. In some circumstances, we will also arrange face to face visits to help with completion of the claim.

*Pension credit clearance times*

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-208 | [1]2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Target (days) | [1]AACT 10 | AACT 10 | AACT 15 | AACT 15 |
| Total processed | 427,748 | 334,501 | 280,097 | 142,293 |
| Not processed within target | 52,665 | 68,142 | 83,182 | 38,979 |
| Percentage not processed within target | 12.0 | 20.0 | 30.0 | 27.0 |
| AACT (days) | 8.8 | 11.9 | 15.6 | 14.6 |

[1] Year to date (September)
[2] AACT - Actual Average Clearance Time

*Source:*
Pension Service Legacy System

## Pensioners: Expenditure

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent by his Department on pensioners per capita in *(a)* Crosby constituency and *(b)* England in each year since 1997. [236690]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The requested information for Crosby constituency is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Information for Great Britain is in the table.

*Great Britain expenditure on pensioners, per capita: Prices 2008-09*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | £5,863 |
| 1998-99 | £5,980 |
| 1999-00 | £6,248 |
| 2000-01 | £6,463 |
| 2001-02 | £6,763 |
| 2002-03 | £6,864 |
| 2003-04 | £6,945 |
| 2004-05 | £7,127 |
| 2005-06 | £7,269 |
| 2006-07 | £7,329 |
| 2007-08 | £7,447 |

*Notes*

1 Expenditure on pensioners per capita has been assembled from pensioner expenditure on the basic state pension, state second pension, pension credit, winter fuel payments, attendance allowance, disability living allowance, housing benefit and council tax benefit.

2 Expenditure includes that going to people resident overseas.

3 Expenditure for pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and winter fuel payments includes that going to men aged 60 to 64.

4 To calculate per capita expenditure, the assembled expenditure was divided by pensioner populations, namely men and women over state pension age.

5 All figures are for Great Britain. Information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office.

6 The DWP expenditure tables can be found on the DWP website at the following address:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

*Source:*

The information has been calculated using DWP accounting data and the 2006-based population projections published by the Office for National Statistics.

## Pensioners: Government Assistance

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to protect pensioners from the effects of rising living costs. [236765]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** There is a statutory requirement to review all social security benefits each year and to increase certain benefits from April each year.

The increases are calculated for most benefits using the annual inflation figure for the preceding September. This ensures that benefits keep their real value in broad terms, and any fluctuations throughout the year feed into this rate.

In the 2008 pre-Budget Report the Chancellor announced that from April 2009 the full basic state pension will rise to £95.25 and the Pension Credit standard minimum guarantee will rise to £130 a week for single pensioners, £198.45 for couples, which represents the largest increase since its introduction.

The Chancellor also announced that every pensioner will get a one-off payment of £60, on top of the £10 Christmas bonus, from January 2009. This is in addition to earlier announcements about extra help available for pensioners.

In the Budget 2008 speech the Chancellor announced that for winter 2008-09 an additional payment will be made alongside the Winter Fuel Payment. Households with a member aged 60 to 79 will receive an additional £50 and households with a member aged 80 or over will receive an additional £100. This makes the Winter Fuel Payment £250 and £400 respectively for winter 2008-09 which provides a significant contribution towards an older person's winter fuel bill.

On 11 September 2008 the Government announced a new £1 billion package of measures to help people cut their energy bills. Measures on offer deliver significant energy savings including increased help with cavity wall and loft insulation. 11 million lower income and pensioner households are eligible for these free of charge. And for winter 2008-09 Cold Weather Payments will increase in value from £8.50 to £25.00. Cold Weather Payments are made to vulnerable people in receipt of qualifying benefits, including Pension Credit, if there is a period of very cold weather in their area.

Addressing pensioner poverty has been one of the Government's key priorities since 1997. The number of pensioners on relative low income in the UK has fallen from 2.9 million in 1998-9 to 2.1 million in 2006-07 (measured as below the threshold of 60 per cent of. contemporary median household income after housing costs).

Pensioners are less likely to be in poverty than the population as a whole, after housing costs are accounted for.

Pension Credit, a key element of the strategy to tackle pensioner poverty, ensures no pensioner need live on less than £124.05 a week for single people and £189.35 a week for couples. It makes a difference to the income of millions of older people. Since Pension Credit was introduced in 2003 the number of pensioners on relative low incomes has fallen by around 500,000 (measured as below the threshold of 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs).

Non-cash benefits in kind make a real difference to the lives of millions of UK pensioners. These include free NHS prescriptions and eye tests for those over 60 and free TV licences for those over 75. People aged over 60 and disabled people living in England are entitled to free England-wide off-peak bus travel, and similar schemes are available in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. British Citizens born before 2 September 1929 can apply for a free ten-year UK passport and from April 2009 local authorities will be able to offer free swimming to the over 60s, in a scheme jointly funded by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, Department of Health and Department for Work and Pensions.

## Pensioners: Hertfordshire

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent by his Department on pensioners per capita in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [238106]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The requested information for Hemel Hempstead and Hertfordshire is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Information for Great Britain is in the table.

*Great Britain expenditure on pensioners, per capita*

| | *2008-09 prices (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 5,863 |
| 1998-99 | 5,980 |
| 1999-2000 | 6,248 |
| 2000-01 | 6,463 |
| 2001-02 | 6,763 |
| 2002-03 | 6,864 |
| 2003-04 | 6,945 |
| 2004-05 | 7,127 |
| 2005-06 | 7,269 |
| 2006-07 | 7,329 |
| 2007-08 | 7,447 |

*Notes:*
1. Expenditure on pensioners per capita has been assembled from pensioner expenditure on the basic state pension, state second pension, pension credit, winter fuel payments, attendance allowance, disability living allowance, housing benefit and council tax benefit.
2. Expenditure includes that going to people resident overseas.
3. Expenditure for pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and winter fuel payments includes that going to men aged 60 to 64.
4. To calculate per capita expenditure, the assembled expenditure was divided by pensioner populations, namely men and women over state pension age.
5. All figures are for Great Britain.
6. The DWP expenditure tables can be found on the DWP website at the following address:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

*Source:*
The information has been calculated using DWP accounting data and the 2006-based population projections published by the Office for National Statistics.

## Pensioners: Poverty

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many pensioners in Crosby constituency are in receipt of winter fuel allowance; and how much his Department has paid to such pensioners in winter fuel allowance in 2008 to date; [236606]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of households in Crosby constituency which will receive the *(a)* £250 and *(b)* £400 winter fuel payment in 2008-09. [236688]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The exercise to make winter fuel payment for 2008-09 is currently underway and data is not yet available. Figures for winter 2007-08 are not yet available.

In winter 2006-07 we made:

Winter fuel payments to 13,800 pensioners and 9,470 households in the Crosby constituency with a member aged 60-79; and

Winter Fuel Payments to 3,520 pensioners and 2,960 households in the Crosby constituency with a member aged 80 or over.

We expect similar numbers to receive the £250 and £400 respectively in 2008-09.

Please note that a small number of these households receive amounts higher than the usual rate for their age group, where the household includes more than two individuals each entitled to payments at half of the usual household rate.

*Notes:*
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*
Information directorate 100 per cent data.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average income of the poorest 33 per cent. of pensioners is in 2008; and what it was in 1997. [236607]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2006-07". This annual report, which is a National Statistics publication, includes the numbers and proportions of pensioners with incomes below 50 per cent. 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median income and by quintile of the income distribution.

Information on the median equivalised income of the 33 per cent. of pensioners with the lowest household incomes in the periods 1996-97 to 1998-99 and 2004-05 to 2006-07 is shown in the following table. Median equivalised incomes are given rather than mean equivalised incomes, as these are less influenced by extreme values. The Households Below Average Income publication also uses median rather than mean equivalised incomes. These statistics are based on a three year average to help take account of small sample sizes in certain parts of the income distribution and statistical variation across the years.

These figures are based on sampling and estimates. Movements in data over short periods may be due to sampling error but over a longer period trends are useful. Particular caution is required when looking at the very lowest incomes on the Family Resources Survey as those households stating the lowest incomes to the FRS may not actually have the lowest living standards. Many people who report very low incomes appear to have high spending.

Median equivalised income of the 33 per cent. of pensioners with the lowest incomes increased by 41 per cent. in real terms between 1996-97 to 1998-99 and 2004-05 to 2006-07. Measures introduced by the Government since 1997 to help those on the lowest incomes include the introduction of the Minimum Income Guarantee and its successor Pension Credit and Winter Fuel Payments for those aged 60 and over. For 2009, we will raise the standard minimum guarantee to £130—an above indexation increase of £5.95. We will be making an additional payment for winter 2008-09 of £50 for households with someone aged 60-79 and £100 for those with someone aged 80 or over. And in addition to this the Government will make a payment in the new year of £60 for each pensioner, equivalent to bringing forward uprating of the basic State Pension from April to January.

*Median equivalised weekly pensioner incomes for the 33 per cent. of pensioners with the lowest incomes, 1996-97 to 1998-99 and 2004-05 to 2006-07 (2006-07 prices, £, after housing costs)*

| *Period* | *Median income (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 to 1998-99 (Great Britain) | 133 |
| 2004-05 to 2006-07 (United Kingdom) | 187 |

*Notes:*
1. The information shown is for the United Kingdom for 2004-05 to 2006-07, and Great Britain for 1996-97 to 19998-99.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The income distribution is based on pensioners only.
4. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error.
5. The quintiles and deciles are derived using OECD equivalisation factors.
6. Weekly income amounts have been rounded to the nearest whole pound and are given in 2006-07 prices.

## Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of pensioners over the age of *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65 and *(c)* 70 years were subject to means testing in each year since 1997. [231968]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information that is available is in the following tables.

Some households may be in receipt of more than one of the benefits in the tables so it is not correct to add the recipients on the different benefits together to get an overall total of the number of people in receipt of a means tested benefit.

*Pension credit household recipients*

| | *Claimant aged 60 or over* | *Claimant aged 65 or over* | *Claimant aged 70 or over* |
|---|---|---|---|
| November 2003 | 2,084,700 | 1,751,350 | 1,420,270 |
| May 2004 | 2,490,760 | 2,137,510 | 1,741,330 |
| May 2005 | 2,682,730 | 2,313,990 | 1,886,280 |
| May 2006 | 2,717,390 | 2,345,610 | 1,914,850 |
| May 2007 | 2,733,500 | 2,346,620 | 1,915,270 |

*Pension credit household recipients*

| | *Claimant aged 60 or over* | *Claimant aged 65 or over* | *Claimant aged 70 or over* |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2008 | 2,719,140 | 2,323,670 | 1,893,950 |

*Income support household recipients*

| | *Claimant aged 60 or over* | *Claimant aged 65 or over* | *Claimant aged 70 or over* |
|---|---|---|---|
| August 1999 | 1,603,410 | 1,317,430 | 1,107,620 |
| May 2000 | 1,597,510 | 1,308,540 | 1,096,040 |
| May 2001 | 1,703,150 | 1,403,360 | 1,172,770 |
| May 2002 | 1,725,760 | 1,417,870 | 1,173,350 |
| May 2003 | 1,759,310 | 1,439,980 | 1,177,120 |
| May 2004 | 1,870 | 730 | 490 |
| May 2005 | 330 | 50 | 30 |
| May 2006 | 240 | — | — |
| May 2007 | 440 | — | — |
| May 2008 | 310 | — | — |

*Notes:*
1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for *themselves only or on behalf of a household.*
3. Individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

*Housing benefit and council tax benefit recipients*

| | *Housing benefit recipients aged 60 or over* | *Council tax benefit recipients aged 60 or over* | *Housing benefit recipients aged 65 or over* | *Council tax benefit recipients aged 65 or over* | *Housing benefit recipients aged 70 or over* | *Council tax benefit recipients aged 70 or over* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 1997 | 1,853,000 | 2,646,000 | 1,592,000 | 2,274,000 | 1,282,000 | 1,863,000 |
| May 1998 | 1,826,000 | 2,614,000 | 1,565,000 | 2,239,000 | 1,267,000 | 1,831,000 |
| May 1999 | 1,769,000 | 2,542,000 | 1,501,000 | 2,166,000 | 1,216,000 | 1,768,000 |
| May 2000 | 1,693,000 | 2,419,000 | 1,437,000 | 2,065,000 | 1,160,000 | 1,690,000 |
| May 2001 | 1,664,000 | 2,403,000 | 1,412,000 | 2,051,000 | 1,145,000 | 1,689,000 |
| May 2002 | 1,627,000 | 2,362,000 | 1,380,000 | 2,010,000 | 1,122,000 | 1,653,000 |
| May 2003 | 1,598,000 | 2,357,000 | 1,358,000 | 2,020,000 | 1,092,000 | 1,638,000 |
| May 2004 | 1,629,000 | 2,501,000 | 1,377,000 | 2,145,000 | 1,095,000 | 1,727,000 |

*Notes:*
1. The figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
3. The figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
4. Council tax benefit figures exclude any single adult rebate cases.

*Source:*
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 1997 to 2004.

## Personal Injury

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many personal injury claims against his Department from its employees arose out of the floods in June 2007; and which of his Department's districts such claims relate to. [233169]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department for Work and Pensions took receipt of one personal injury claim from an employee that arose from the floods in June 2007. The claim relates to Sheffield district (within Jobcentre Plus).

## Post Office Card Account

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 561-62W, on the Post Office card account, if he will estimate the cost to his Department of the tendering and bidding process for the Post Office card account; and what information his Department holds on the costs of the processes. [238559]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* It is not possible to give a precise figure for my Department's costs in undertaking the procurement exercise, but I shall write to the hon. Member with an estimate of the costs of the staff directly involved in the procurement and will place a copy of my letter in the Library.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much compensation will be paid to failed bidders for the Post Office Card Account contract. [238632]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The other bidders who were still in the competition at the point at which it was halted will be reimbursed for their reasonable bid costs. The precise amounts payable will be subject to commercial confidentiality.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 561-62W, on the Post Office card account, what were the names of the other bidders who were still in the competition at the point it was halted. [239459]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]*: The identity of the other bidders is subject to the normal principles of commercial confidentiality and it would not, therefore, be appropriate to make their names public.

**Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of *(a)* conducting the review into the operation of and *(b)* placing the contract for the Post Office card account. [239819]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The contract to be entered into with the Post Office for delivery of a successor to the current Post Office card account will be commercially confidential. It is not possible to give a precise figure for my Department's costs in undertaking the procurement exercise, but I shall write to the hon. Member with an estimate of the costs of the staff directly involved in the procurement and will place a copy of my letter in the Library.

### Poverty: Children

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps the Government have taken towards their target to end child poverty by 2020. [238383]

**Kitty Ussher:** Some 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative poverty since 1998-99. Government measures over the past two years will lift around a further 500,000 children from relative poverty.

As a result of the support we have introduced, families with children in the poorest fifth of the population are already on average £4,100 a year better off than in 1997. The measures that my right hon. Friend the Chancellor announced in the pre-Budget report will increase this to £4,400 by 2009-10.

The pre-Budget report also announced that the commitment to increase the child element of the child tax credit by £25 above indexation will be brought forward from April 2010 to this coming April. A £50 increase had already been planned from that date so from April 2009 the child element will therefore rise by £75 above indexation to £2,235.

Planned increases in child benefit, from £18.80 per week to £20 for the first child and from £12.55 to £13.20 for subsequent children, will also be brought forward to this January.

We have made substantial progress but we are not complacent. Despite the scale of the challenge, the Government's commitment to tackling child poverty is stronger than ever. The Prime Minister's recent announcement of our intention to legislate gives us renewed impetus.

We are investing in public services, such as education, health care and housing, which play a key role in overcoming some of the immediate effects of growing up in poverty, and have provided poor children with opportunities to enhance their life chances and break cycles of deprivation. Hundreds of thousands of families have been helped by new tax credits, better public services and a renewed welfare state.

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken by his Department to help eradicate child poverty in Leeds, West constituency. [238805]

**Kitty Ussher:** We have made substantial progress in tackling child poverty. 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative poverty since 1998-99. As a result of the support we have introduced, families with children in the poorest fifth of the population, including those in Leeds, West, are on average £4,100 a year better off than in 1997. The measures announced in the pre-Budget report 2008 will increase this to £4,400 by 2009-10. In addition, Government measures over the past two years will result in lifting around a further 500,000 children from relative poverty.

The target of eradicating child poverty by 2020 cannot be achieved by Government alone. It requires sustained national, regional and local effort. Eradicating child poverty is a priority across Leeds. The Leeds local area agreement sets out the priorities for the city including several indicators which will impact on child poverty: reducing the numbers of 16 to 18 year olds not in education, training or employment; reducing the number of working age people on out of work benefits; and improving the skills of the working age population.

Leeds city council has recently been shortlisted for Beacon status, a prestigious award scheme that recognises excellence in local government, for their approach to preventing and tackling child poverty. Key themes for the council and its partners, including Jobcentre Plus, are: tackling the entrenched causes of poverty; reducing worklessness; promoting work readiness; improving financial inclusion; and raising attainment.

### Redundancy

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (Y) his Department and (Z) each of his Department's agencies; [237342]

(2) how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [239166]

**Jonathan Shaw:** No staff have left under involuntary staff exit schemes, but 108 staff have acquiesced to leave on compulsory redundancy terms.

Table 1 shows the number of staff who left the Department and its agencies on staff exit schemes in each financial year since 2005-06 together with total costs.

Individual rates of pay for members of staff in the year before they left and consequently a breakdown by the bandings in the question is only available at disproportionate cost.

*Table 1*

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total number of staff exits | 2,805 | 2,054 | 3,620 |
| Cost - (rounded to nearest £m) | 173 | 62 | 166 |

*Note:*
The cost shown for 2007-08 is subject to final reconciliation of accounts.

The Department's three-year plan for 2008 to 2011, published in February 2008, contained planning assumptions of headcount reductions of around 12,000 between April 2008 and March 2011.

However, the recent increase in unemployment will have an impact on departmental staffing levels. Future staffing plans, including the requirement for any managed staff exits are being actively reviewed as part of the Department's planning process.

Table 2 shows the number of staff who left the Department and its Agencies on all types of staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06, grouped by the value of their severance package:

*Table 2*

| Cost of package | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Up to £25,000 | 1,540 | 1,141 | 1,595 |
| £25,001 to £50,000 | 915 | 721 | 1,224 |
| £50,001 to £75,000 | 249 | 160 | 547 |
| £75,001 to £100,000 | 51 | 20 | 176 |
| Over £100,000 | 51 | 12 | 78 |
| Total | 2,805 | 2,054 | 3,620 |

Note:
The figures include the cost of any lump sum payments.

## Remploy

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken in the last two years to assist those who have lost their jobs due to the closures of Remploy factories. [238670]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Secretary of State guaranteed that no disabled factory employee would be made compulsorily redundant as a result of the changes announced in the modernisation plan and that any disabled employee who wanted to stay a Remploy employee on Remploy terms and conditions, could do so.

Remploy are working with former disabled factory employees who opted to remain as company employees, to find alternative mainstream jobs. For those disabled people who need extra support, Remploy are working with local social firms and charities to provide a more supportive environment. In addition, Remploy are continuing to offer support in finding another job, to their former disabled factory employees who opted to take voluntary redundancy or early retirement, if they so wish.

Local Jobcentre Plus staff has worked with Remploy to provide help and advice to its employees since December 2007. Remploy employees have had access to jobseeking and benefits advice and to a local disability employment adviser, where required.

Where appropriate, Jobcentre Plus liaised with local Remploy advisers to provide vacancy information and immediate access to Jobcentre Plus programmes and provision.

## Social Fund

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Job Centre Plus districts underspent their allocations for *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* community care grants in each year since 2003; how much and what proportion of the budget for each such district the underspend represented; and if he will make a statement. [214920]

**Kitty Ussher:** The loans budget, which covers crisis loans and budgeting loans, is managed centrally and re-allocations are made to Jobcentre Plus budget areas quarterly and towards the end of the year. Funds are taken from some of those budget areas with a projected end of year underspend and given to other budget areas. It is therefore not appropriate to consider which budget areas had an underspend on their loans budget.

The budget areas which underspent their community care grant allocation in 2007-08 are given in the following table, together with the amount of the underspend and the proportion of the budget which it represents.

*Community care grant budgets for 2007-08 which were underspent*

| Budget area | Underspend (£) | Underspend as proportion of budget (Percentage) |
|---|---|---|
| *East of England* | | |
| Essex | 253,762 | 10.8 |
| Norwich Benefit Delivery Centre | 13,123 | 0.2 |
| *East Midlands* | | |
| East Midlands North | 37,795 | 1.0 |
| *London* | | |
| Central and East London | 14,898 | 0.2 |
| London South | 9,113 | 0.1 |
| West London | 10,981 | 0.3 |
| *North East* | | |
| Northumbria | 207 | 0.0 |
| South Tyneside and Wear Valley | 9,472 | 0.4 |
| *North West* | | |
| Greater Liverpool and Cheshire | 41,691 | 0.5 |
| Clayton Benefit Delivery Centre | 987,891 | 8.0 |
| *Scotland* | | |
| Inverness Benefit Delivery Centre | 162,295 | 2.8 |
| Springburn Benefit Delivery Centre | 198,703 | 1.3 |
| *South West* | | |
| South West Central | 20,600 | 0.3 |

*Community care grant budgets for 2007-08 which were underspent*

| Budget area | Underspend (£) | Underspend as proportion of budget (Percentage) |
|---|---|---|
| *Wales* | | |
| Llanelli Benefit Delivery Centre | 3,570 | 0.1 |
| South East Wales | 1,090 | 0.0 |
| *Yorkshire and Humberside* | | |
| Yorkshire and Humberside Bradford | 1,213 | 0.0 |

*Notes:*
1. In recent years there have been many changes to the boundaries of Jobcentre Plus districts. In some cases, a district has been split and the parts merged with other districts. For such a newly created district, precise data is not available on the amount spent during the entire financial year in the area covered by that newly created district. The last split took place in August 2006. Underspends have therefore been considered only for the financial year 2007-08. During that year, some districts merged, so the underspends have been calculated based on the structure of Jobcentre Plus districts (new budget areas) at the end of the year.
2. The budgets used are the ones allocated at the start of the year 2007-08, adjusted to take account of boundary changes.
3. Some budget areas come under pressure from unforeseen expenditure, eg because of people affected by flooding. These budget areas applied for and were granted an allocation from the Contingency Reserve. They therefore spent more than their allocation at the start of the year 2007-08.
4. Some of the underspends were actually spent on clerical cases, which are not recorded on PBMIS.

*Sources:*
Departmental records of budgets.
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System (PBMIS).
Screen prints taken from the Social Fund Computer System when a Jobcentre Plus district was closed.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* community care grants were made to Jobcentre Plus in each month in the last 10 years for which information is available, broken down by (i) region and (ii) Jobcentre Plus district. [226220]

**Kitty Ussher:** The available information has been placed in the Library.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many grants of *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* community care grants were made by Jobcentre Plus in each month of the last 10 years for which information is available, broken down by (i) region and (ii) Jobcentre Plus district. [226221]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available information has been placed in the Library.

## Social Fund: Finance

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* community care grants to people in (i) each Jobcentre Plus district and (ii) each region in each month since April 2003; and if he will make a statement. [216051]

**Kitty Ussher:** The available information has been placed in the Library.

## Social Fund: Telephone Services

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets have been put in place for the length of time within which telephone calls to Social Fund offices must be answered. [237939]

**Kitty Ussher:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about what targets have been put in place to measure the length of time within which telephone calls to Social Fund offices must be answered. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are currently no targets in place regarding the length of time within which telephone calls to Social Fund offices must be answered.

We are part way through the implementation of our telephony modernisation programme. Therefore, although this does not currently form part of our Customer Service Target, we do measure the percentage of calls answered for those Crisis Loan lines which are supported by appropriate modernised telephony systems. We monitor this against an industry standard of 90% of calls received to be answered, which supports optimum deployment of resources.

As we fully roll out our telephony modernisation programme to support the delivery of Social Fund services on a uniform telephony platform, we will keep under review and develop our targets to support future service delivery.

## Social Security Benefits

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time for *(a)* jobseekers allowance, *(b)* housing benefit, *(c)* crisis loan, *(d)* community care grant and *(e)* budgeting loan applications was in (i) each of the smallest geographical areas for which information is available and (ii) the UK in each quarter of each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [230440]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available information has been placed in the Library.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's latest estimate is of the savings it will make from changing the backdating period for *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* council tax benefit and *(c)* housing benefit; and if he will make a statement. [230530]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Wrexham (Ian Lucas) today.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unprocessed applications for *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans, *(c)* community care grants, *(d)* disability living allowance and *(e)* severe disability living allowance there were at the end of each quarter of the last five years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by the lowest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [231133]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information on unprocessed applications for crisis loans, budgeting loans and community care grants has been placed in the Library.

Severe disablement allowance has been abolished for all new non-linking claims with a potential date of entitlement on or after 6 April 2001. Customers in receipt of severe disability allowance prior to 6 April 2001 will remain entitled as long as they continue to satisfy the qualifying conditions. As there can be no new claims for severe disability allowance from 6 April 2001, there are no unprocessed applications.

Information on unprocessed applications for disability living allowance new claims (normal rules) is provided in the following tables.

*DLA claims outstanding*

| | *2004-05* | | | | *2005-06* | | | | *2006-07* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Q1* | *Q2* | *Q3* | *Q4* | *Q1* | *Q2* | *Q3* | *Q4* | *Q1* | *Q2* | *Q3* | *Q4* |
| Edinburgh | 3,060 | 2,805 | 2,353 | 2,310 | 3,383 | 2,973 | 2,574 | 2,391 | 2,749 | 2,931 | 2,485 | 2,748 |
| Newcastle | 2,983 | 2,679 | 2,473 | 2,536 | 2,646 | 3,179 | 2,619 | 2,742 | 2,896 | 440 | 1 | n/a |
| Leeds | 4,639 | 3,676 | 4,022 | 4,426 | 3,975 | 4,995 | 3,916 | 4,270 | 4,439 | 5,062 | 4,521 | 5,086 |
| Manchester | 3,852 | 3,382 | 3,130 | 3,146 | 3,026 | 3,738 | 2,886 | 2,743 | 2,938 | 4,116 | 4,265 | 3,726 |
| Bootle | 4,256 | 4,035 | 3,029 | 3,560 | 3,512 | 3,327 | 2,217 | 3,153 | 3,572 | 4,187 | 4,236 | 3,948 |
| Midlands | 9,178 | 7,953 | 6,994 | 7,441 | 7,342 | 8,142 | 7,665 | 7,296 | 7,748 | 8,723 | 8,884 | 9,270 |
| Bristol | 4,865 | 3,538 | 3,159 | 3,432 | 3,581 | 4,230 | 3,859 | 3,798 | 5,124 | 5,165 | 5,370 | 5,114 |
| Wales | 4,053 | 4,168 | 3,264 | 3,300 | 3,640 | 3,768 | 3,830 | 3,454 | 3,599 | 3,902 | 4,364 | 4,271 |
| Wembley | 8,614 | 8,648 | 8,811 | 9,012 | 8,614 | 8,616 | 8,193 | 9,733 | 9,646 | 10,015 | 10,109 | 9,801 |
| Sutton | 6,635 | 6,655 | 6,631 | 5,911 | 4,121 | 1,989 | 69 | 1 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Glasgow | 2,482 | 1,031 | 2,540 | 2,697 | 3,514 | 3,524 | 3,582 | 2,558 | 2,829 | 2,925 | 2,999 | 2,810 |
| DCPU 5 NCU | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 2,287 | 3,946 | 5,106 | 4,786 | 4,728 | 4,933 | 6,041 | 3,970 |
| Bootle NE | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1,572 |
| Wales NE | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1,402 |
| DCPU 1 NCU | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Nationwide | 54,250 | 50,795 | 46,424 | 46,265 | 49,671 | 50,363 | 47,019 | 47,203 | 50,245 | 54,631 | 56,454 | 53,749 |

| | *2007-08* | | | | *2008-09* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Q1* | *Q2* | *Q3* | *Q4* | *Q1* | *Q2* | *Q3* | *Q4* |
| Edinburgh | 2,730 | 3,030 | 2,891 | 2,559 | n/a | n/a | — | — |
| Newcastle | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | — | — |
| Leeds | 4,774 | 4,054 | 4,152 | 3,973 | 3,419 | 3,576 | — | — |
| Manchester | 4,169 | 3,285 | 3,864 | 3,109 | 2,968 | 2,774 | — | — |
| Bootle | 4,569 | 4,757 | 3,713 | 3,249 | 3,748 | 3,702 | — | — |
| Midlands | 2,730 | 3,030 | 2,891 | 2,559 | 7,158 | 7,825 | — | — |
| Bristol | 6,045 | 4,917 | 4,640 | 3,372 | 3,446 | 3,522 | — | — |
| Wales | 4,139 | 3,816 | 3,662 | 2,788 | 3,483 | 3,662 | — | — |
| Wembley | 12,533 | 10,497 | 10,802 | 7,683 | 7,358 | 8,254 | — | — |
| Sutton | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | — | — |
| Glasgow | 3,287 | 3,387 | 3,126 | 2,676 | 2,730 | 2,962 | — | — |
| DCPU 5 NCU | 6,130 | 6,983 | 6,961 | 4,974 | 6,579 | 7,464 | — | — |
| Bootle NE | 1,740 | 1,831 | 1,668 | 1,430 | 1,570 | 1,355 | — | — |
| Wales NE | 1,521 | 1,399 | 1,178 | 997 | 1,250 | 1,340 | — | — |
| DCPU 1 NCU | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1,030 | 1,201 | — | — |
| Nationwide | 62,384 | 57,735 | 55,766 | 44,139 | 45,084 | 47,648 | — | — |

n/a = Not applicable (see following note).

*Note:*

When Sutton DBC closed, the DLA new claims work was transferred to DCPU 5 New Claims Unit. When Newcastle DBC closed, the DLA new claims work was transferred to the Bootle and Wales offices (Bootle North East and Wales North East). When Edinburgh DBC closed, the DLA new claims work was transferred to DCPU 1 New Claims Unit.

*Source:*

RDA 00123 monthly report.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households with at least one person of working age which received benefits of all kinds in excess of *(a)* £100,000, *(b)* £75,000, *(c)* £50,000, *(d)* £30,000 and *(e)* £20,000 in the most recent year for which figures are available. [216865]

**Mr. McNulty:** It is estimated that the number of households with at least one person of working age which reported receiving benefits in excess of £20,000 per annum is 140,000. This represents 1 per cent. of all households with at least one person of working age.

The benefits being received by these households will, in the majority of cases, include disability related benefits and premiums.

Sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for households with at least one person of working age in receipt of benefits greater than £30,000.

*Source:*

Family Resources Survey 2006-07

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much on average was paid in (a) incapacity benefit, (b) special disability allowance and (c) income support for the disabled in (i) each principal seaside town, (ii) lower layer super output area (LSOA) in each such town and (iii) the UK in each year since 1997; and in which ward of each town each LSOA is located. [238296]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of eligible residents of *(a)* the Luton borough council area and *(b)* local authority areas of similar size and population who are in receipt of (i) housing benefit, (ii) council tax benefit and (iii) pension credit. [240039]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

## Social Security Benefits: Applications

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of benefit claimants served by Jobcentre Plus and its predecessors *(a)* in each year since 1997 and *(b)* in each of the last 24 months. [235353]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information is not available in the format requested. The available information has been placed in the Library.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit claimants he expects will be served by Jobcentre Plus in each of the next five years. [235354]

**Mr. McNulty:** DWP have not produced planning assumptions for the number of individual benefit claimants who will be served by Jobcentre Plus in each of the next five years. We provide, in the following tables, planning assumptions of Jobcentre Plus benefit liveload and the number of claims that will be processed in each of the next three years to cover the period of the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

*Forecast of liveloads for the key Jobcentre Plus administered benefits from 2008-09 to 2010-11*

| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | *Thousand* 2010-11 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Income support | 2,980 | 1,798 | 1,614 |
| Jobseeker's allowance | 956 | 1,956 | 1,578 |
| Employment and support allowance/incapacity benefit | 2,580 | 2,498 | 2,447 |

*Notes:*
1. The planning assumptions are consistent with pre-Budget report 2008 assumptions and all the relevant benefits incorporate the impact of the Welfare Reform Act 2007.
2. Jobseeker's allowance planning assumptions are based on HM Treasury unemployment assumptions to 2010-11. Secondary impacts from Welfare Reform and the changes to the entitlement of single parents to IS are included.
3. Income support planning assumptions include the changes to the entitlement of single parents to IS and the secondary impact of the Welfare Reform Act 2007.
*Source:*
Based on DWP Benefits Workload Planning Assumptions autumn 2008-09

*Forecast of Jobcentre Plus benefit claims processed from 2008-09 to 2010-11*

| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | *Thousand* 2010-11 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Income support | 816 | 508 | 463 |
| Jobseeker's allowance | 2,807 | 3,438 | 3,420 |
| Employment and support allowance/incapacity benefit | 710 | 734 | 772 |
| Social Fund | 4,882 | 4,919 | 4,870 |
| Other working age benefit claims | 262 | 269 | 271 |

*Notes:*
1. The planning assumptions are consistent with pre-Budget report 2008 assumptions and all the relevant benefits incorporate the impact of the Welfare Reform Act 2007.
2. Jobseeker's allowance planning assumptions based on HM Treasury unemployment assumptions to 2010-11. Secondary impacts from Welfare Reform and the changes to the entitlement of single parents to IS are included.
3. Income support planning assumptions include the changes to the entitlement of single parents to IS and the secondary impact of the Welfare Reform Act 2007.
4. Social Fund figures are based on planning assumptions to 2010-11.
*Source:*
Based on DWP Benefits Workload Planning Assumptions autumn 2008-09

## Social Security Benefits: Arrears

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's most recent estimate is of the effect that reducing to three months the backdating of *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* housing benefit and *(c)* council tax benefit will have on expenditure on those benefits in each of the next five years. [237714]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Wrexham (Ian Lucas) on 26 November.

## Social Security Benefits: Fraud

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire were prosecuted for benefit fraud in each of the last five years. [233844]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information regarding DWP administered benefits is not available below national and regional level.

For housing benefit, information is not available below local authority level as this is the level that housing benefit is administered.

The total number of housing benefit related prosecutions accepted for prosecution in the County Of Hertfordshire is as follows:

*Prosecutions accepted for Hertfordshire*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 88 |
| 2004-05 | 111 |
| 2005-06 | 128 |
| 2006-07 | 113 |
| 2007-08 | 65 |

*Notes:*
1. There is missing data in 2006-07 for one local authority in Hertfordshire for two quarters only.
2. There is missing data for four local authorities in 2007-08: three quarters data is missing for one local authority (with the largest number of prosecutions in 2006-07 (32)); two quarters missing data for one local authority; and one quarter's data missing for two local authorities.
3. The local authorities that make up Hertfordshire are: Borough of Broxbourne; Dacorum Borough Council; East Herts District Council; Hertsmere Borough Council; North Hertfordshire District Council; St. Albans District Council; Stevenage Borough Council; Three Rivers District Council; Watford Borough Council; and, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.
*Source:*
Housing Operational Database (HoBoD) from Stats 124 administrative returns provided by Local Authorities. (URL: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hobod/index.php)

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much he expects his Department's We're closing in campaign to cost; what estimate he has made of the additional number of fraudulent benefit claimants to be caught as a result of the campaign; and what performance measures have been set for the campaign. [238376]

**Mr. McNulty:** Expenditure for the "We're Closing In" campaign is forecast to be £6 million for 2008-09. The campaign aims to deter benefit thieves from stealing benefits by increasing their perception of the risk and consequences of getting caught. It is not possible to identify separately the additional numbers caught as a result of the campaign. The impact of the campaign will be gauged through tracking research which will measure:

fear of being caught if you commit fraud

awareness of the consequences of being caught

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of calls reporting benefit fraud led to a successful conviction in the last period for which figures are available. [238379]

**Mr. McNulty:** Every call to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline is examined by the Department. Where there is enough evidence the case is then passed to either the Fraud Investigation Service for investigation or to our compliance teams in Jobcentres, who will scrutinise the relevant benefit claim and make adjustments to entitlements.

In the period from April 2006 to March 2007, there were 215,924 calls to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline; 41,060 of which were suitable for investigation by fraud investigators.

In the majority of these cases benefit was adjusted and recovery action initiated but where there is a significant loss to public funds and it is considered in the public interest, prosecutions are considered. 451 convictions followed from referrals to the Hotline out of a total of 6,878 convictions in 2006-07.

*Notes:*

1. Count for number of investigations and convictions relates to DWP investigations only recorded on FIBS

2. Figures are for GB only.

**Social Security Benefits: Gloucestershire**

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason the processing of benefits administration in respect of Gloucestershire has been moved from Cedar house, Gloucester, to St Austell, Cornwall; and if he will make a statement. [226758]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

**Social Security Benefits: Mortgages**

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effect on claimants of mortgage interest payments if the standard interest rate is reduced and lenders do not reduce interest rates on mortgages by an equivalent amount. [237949]

**Kitty Ussher:** Help is provided towards the interest on mortgages as part of Income Support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, state pension credit and income-related employment and support allowance.

The amount of help is calculated using a standard interest rate which is applied to the first £100,000 of the mortgage. These payments are not designed to cover all of a person's mortgage liabilities, such as capital repayments, arrears or insurance premiums.

Normally working age customers have to wait 39 weeks before help towards their mortgage interest can be paid.

We have now announced that from January 2009, the standard interest rate will be applied to the first £200,000 of the mortgage for new working age claims, and that the waiting period for new claims will be reduced to 13 weeks.

Further, we shall freeze the standard interest rate we use as the basis of the calculation for support for mortgage interest payments at 6.08 per cent. from December and review this after six months. Without such intervention the reduction in the Bank of England base rate by 1.5 per cent. would trigger an automatic reduction in the standard interest rate, to 4.58 per cent. This change will help those borrowers with a fixed mortgage rate —over 50 per cent. of all those with a mortgage—whose average rates remain at 5.74 per cent.

**Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence**

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which countries in which UK nationals reside do not have reciprocal social security agreements with the UK; and how many UK nationals are resident in each such country. [235307]

**Mr. McNulty:** The UK only has reciprocal social security agreements covering the following countries and territories: Austria; Barbados; Belgium; Bermuda; Bosnia-Herzegovina; Canada; Croatia; Cyprus; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Gibraltar; Guernsey; Iceland; Ireland; Isle of Man; Israel; Italy; Jamaica; Jersey; Kosovo; Luxembourg; Malta; Mauritius; Montenegro; Netherlands; New Zealand; Norway; the Philippines; Portugal; Serbia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; the USA and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Information on the numbers of UK nationals living abroad, either in a country listed above or elsewhere in the world, is not available in the format requested.

*Notes*

1. Guernsey includes Alderney, Herm and Jethou.

2. The agreement with the United States of America covers also American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

**Social Security Benefits: Travel**

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of travel warrants issued to his Department's customers was in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will estimate the savings which would have accrued to the public purse if all such travel warrants had been issued early enough to benefit from lower fares available in advance. [235595]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* The information requested is not available.

The main use of travel warrants by DWP is through the Travel to Interview Scheme (TIS). This scheme is administered by Jobcentre Plus for customers attending a job interview and covers travel by both public and private transport. In 2007-08, total expenditure on TIS was £2.2 million (we do not record travel warrant costs separately).

Estimates of savings arising from issuing earlier travel warrants are not available and the costs of obtaining this information would be disproportionate.

### State Retirement Pensions

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for the state pension took more than 60 days to process in each of the last 10 years. [226156]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Currently, 87 per cent. of people claim their state pension by phone, prompted by a letter from PDCS some weeks ahead of their retirement date. 55 per cent. of telephone claims are handled in 'one touch'—that is, the award of state pension is made during the initial phone call. The remaining cases take longer as further inquiries are made; or, in the period immediately following a change of tax year, while national insurance contribution records are updated by HMRC. This affects achievement of the clearance target.

Since October 2008, customers can claim four benefits in one free phone call: state pension, pension credit, council tax benefit and housing benefit. In some circumstances, we will also arrange face-to-face visits to help people with making their claims.

State pension data are only available from 2004 and not for the whole of the previous 10 years, as requested.

*State pension clearance times*

| | *2004-2005* | *2005-2006* | *2006-2007* | *2007-2008* | *[1] 2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Target | | | 95 per cent. in 60 days | | |
| Total processed | 563,650 | 563,352 | 623,692 | 717,122 | 364,174 |
| Not processed within target | 27,795 | 14,857 | 28,179 | 49,374 | 25,074 |
| Percentage within 60 days | 95.1 | 97.4 | 95.5 | 93.1% | 93.1% |
| Percentage processed outside 60 days | 4.9 | 2.6 | 4.5 | 6.9 | 6.9 |

[1] Year to date (September)
Source: Pensions Service Legacy System

### State Retirement Pensions: Carers

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of rules on state pension entitlement on people who stay at home to care for *(a)* children and *(b)* elderly relatives; and if he will make a statement. [238082]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Since the introduction of home responsibilities protection in 1978 over 1.7 million women have had their basic state pension boosted because they had cared for children or severely disabled persons. Carers have also had access to state second pension from 2002, with 1.9 million carers building entitlement in 2005-06.

However, home responsibilities protection has not been widely understood and cannot benefit those women who have spent their entire lives caring. We therefore brought forward new measures in the Pensions Act 2007 to change home responsibilities protection into a simple national insurance credit for those reaching state pension age from 6 April 2010. They will allow, in certain circumstances, parents and carers to build up entitlement to basic state pension even where they have never had paid employment. As a result of these reforms, along with other measures such as a reduction in the number of qualifying years required to receive a full basic state pension from 39 to 30 for women (44 to 30 for men), the proportion of women reaching state pension age in 2010 with a full basic pension will rise from around 50 per cent. to 75 per cent., increasing to over 90 per cent. by 2025.

The state second pension already provides a more generous additional state pension for carers and other vulnerable groups than they would have received under SERPS. As a result of our pension reforms, we expect around 1 million more people will accrue state second pension from 2010. Those caring for children up to the age of 12, foster carers and people who spend at least 20 hours a week caring for one or more severely disabled persons will be able to build up entitlement. Approximately 90 per cent. of these will be women.

### State Retirement Pensions: East Midlands

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each constituency in the East Midlands received the retirement age addition for persons aged 80 years or over in the latest period for which figures are available. [238079]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information requested is in the following table.

| *Parliamentary constituencies* | *State pension age addition recipients* |
|---|---|
| Amber Valley | 4,300 |
| Ashfield | 4,300 |
| Bassetlaw | 3,900 |
| Blaby | 4,100 |
| Bolsover | 4,300 |
| Boston and Skegness | 5,600 |
| Bosworth | 4,800 |
| Broxtowe | 4,400 |
| Charnwood | 4,700 |
| Chesterfield | 5,000 |
| Corby | 4,000 |
| Daventry | 4,100 |

| Parliamentary constituencies | State pension age addition recipients |
|---|---|
| Derby North | 4,400 |
| Derby South | 3,900 |
| Erewash | 4,600 |
| Gainsborough | 4,400 |
| Gedling | 4,700 |
| Grantham and Stamford | 4,600 |
| Harborough | 4,600 |
| High Peak | 4,100 |
| Kettering | 5,200 |
| Leicester East | 3,300 |
| Leicester South | 3,100 |
| Leicester West | 2,400 |
| Lincoln | 4,100 |
| Loughborough | 3,700 |
| Louth and Horncastle | 5,700 |
| Mansfield | 4,200 |
| Newark | 4,900 |
| North East Derbyshire | 4,600 |
| North West Leicestershire | 4,400 |
| Northampton North | 4,200 |
| Northampton South | 4,600 |
| Nottingham East | 2,900 |
| Nottingham North | 4,200 |
| Nottingham South | 3,600 |
| Rushcliffe | 5,700 |
| Rutland and Melton | 5,300 |
| Sherwood | 4,100 |
| Sleaford and North Hykeham | 5,800 |
| South Derbyshire | 4,900 |
| South Holland and The Deepings | 5,400 |
| Wellingborough | 4,500 |
| West Derbyshire | 5,700 |

Notes:
1. Case loads are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. The boundaries of parliamentary constituencies do not correspond exactly to Government office regions (GORs).
3. September 2007 is the latest available data.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample, rated to case load in Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

## Television

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* funding the production of television programmes in the last year; what programmes these were; and which companies made them. [239597]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DWP has not to the best of my knowledge and based on our available records ever used taxpayers' money to commission or fund the production of TV programmes, and currently has no plans to do so.

## Unemployment

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to increase staff numbers in Jobcentres to cope with increased unemployment. [230631]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus. I have asked the acting chief executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the staffing levels at Jobcentre Plus are sufficient during the economic downturn. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The funding for a staffing assumption in Jobcentre Plus for March 2009 has been increased by an additional 2,200 full time equivalents from 65,453 to 67,653 in recognition of the anticipated workloads in the operational year.

We intend to increase staffing from our current position of 66,733 by recruiting additional staff and have set in hand a fast track recruitment process to enable us to achieve this as quickly as possible.

Our staffing levels will be kept under active review in order to respond to rising economic challenges.

I hope this is helpful.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce levels of unemployment. [238387]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Government are doing all they can to support people who become unemployed back into work as quickly as possible. The strong foundations of our economy and labour market put us in the best possible position to get through the economic downturn. Not only is the economy better placed than in the past, but through Jobcentre Plus and the new deal we offer more support to individuals to help them move back into work.

To ensure that it is well placed to deal with an increase in unemployment, in the current financial year Jobcentre Plus is retaining staffing at the level used to prepare for the introduction of the employment and support allowance. This level of staffing, which is over 2,000 more than originally planned, will be kept under review.

For those affected by redundancy, we are doubling the resources available to the rapid response teams who offer advice and support to those affected by redundancy. This can include information about sources of alternative jobs within the labour market or help with applying for existing vacancies; on-site job shops and fairs: helping people draw up CVs or brush up their jobsearch skills; and, where appropriate, job-focused training to help individuals develop skills needed within the local labour market or other support to overcome barriers to taking up a specific job offer, such as travel to work expenses.

Jobcentre Plus is also launching a "Find your way back to work" campaign to help the newly unemployed; simplifying and streamlining its processes, for example by rolling out a new approach so that people can claim their benefits, tax credits and housing benefits at Jobcentre Plus in one visit; making its services more accessible to parents, for example by piloting from January a programme that will put a full-time Jobcentre Plus adviser in 30 children's centres across ten local authorities; helping people with mortgages by bringing forward financial support from 39 to 13 weeks and increasing the capital amount on which support can be claimed to £200,000; and through Local Employment Partnerships, is working with employers across the country to help them meet their recruitment needs locally.

There are still many new job opportunities coming up all the time. Jobcentre Plus alone takes 10,000 new vacancies every working day, and many more come up

through other recruitment channels. Together with the advice and support provided through Jobcentre Plus, this means that most of those who become unemployed can find another job quickly: over half of new claimants leave jobseeker's allowance within three months and around three quarters leave within six months.

### Unemployment Benefits: Disqualification

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people had their benefit reduced as a consequence of not taking a reasonable job offer in each of the last 10 years. [226168]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available information is in the table.

*Number of varied length Jobseekers Allowance referrals, sanctioned for refusal of employment—1 April 2000 to 31 March 2008*

| | *Sanctions* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 23,040 |
| 2001-02 | 32,250 |
| 2002-03 | 36,020 |
| 2003-04 | 24,610 |
| 2004-05 | 19,580 |
| 2005-06 | 12,260 |
| 2006-07 | 6,270 |
| 2007-08 | 12,470 |

*Notes:*
1. Definitions and conventions: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data prior to April 2000 are not available.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate: Jobseekers Allowance Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

During the period in question, the decline in decisions to apply sanctions to those who have either not done enough to find work or who are unreasonably restricting their availability for work.

### Unemployment Benefits: Interviews

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work-focused interviews a claimant must attend in any one year in order to retain a benefit, broken down by the benefit claimed. [238272]

**Mr. McNulty:** Currently, mandatory attendance at a work-focused interview (WFI) varies depending on an individual's characteristics and the type of benefit being claimed.

Lone parents receiving income support attend a mandatory WFI at the point of claim and then six-monthly thereafter. In the year before they lose eligibility to income support based upon the age of the youngest child, the WFIs take place every three months to prepare them to move into work or transition on to another benefit.

Individuals receiving an incapacity benefit have the first WFI as soon as possible after week eight of the claim and then five more at monthly intervals. After the initial series of WFIs, claimants may have to attend further interviews when a "life event" occurs, for example a repeat medical assessment. They will also have to attend an interview if they have not had one for 36 months.

Those receiving employment and support allowance have the first WFI as soon as possible after week eight of the claim, the second at week 14, with four more usually at monthly intervals. After the initial series of WFIs, claimants may have to attend further interviews when a life event occurs, for example a repeat medical assessment. They will also have to attend an interview if they have not had one for 36 months.

Partners of benefit recipients where the main claimant receives income support, severe disablement allowance, incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance remain subject to a single WFI after six months of claiming. However, from April 2008 the frequency of mandatory WFIs for partners of jobseeker's allowance claimants who have children changed; these customers now have to attend a WFI every six months.

Those receiving jobseeker's allowance will have a WFI as part of the New Jobseeker interview at the start of the claim and all claimants will also receive a 13-week and a six-monthly interview. Those aged 18-24 are required to enter New Deal for Young People after six months on benefit. However, if the claimant is aged 25 and over they will be required to attend a WFI at 12 and 18 months before they are required to enter New Deal 25 Plus.

Some other groups claiming income support, such as carers, are required to attend a WFI every three years.

Jobseeker's allowance customers are also required to attend fortnightly jobsearch reviews, during which they are asked what steps they have taken to find work during the last two weeks. Weekly signing applies for the six week period following the WFI at the 13 weeks stage.

### Vocational Training: Redundancy

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees have been offered early access under Jobcentre Plus's rapid response service to *(a)* work-based learning for adults, *(b)* programme centres and *(c)* rapid response service focused training (i) 12 weeks before the date of redundancy, (ii) between 12 weeks before the date of redundancy and the date of redundancy and (iii) between the date of redundancy and 12 weeks after that date. [238217]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information is not available.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many on-site advice surgeries Jobcentre Plus's rapid response service has carried out in each region in each year since it was established. [238218]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not available.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of bids for services from the rapid response service were *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected because of (i) lack of funding and (ii) the employer and employees not meeting the conditions in each region in each year since the service was established; and if he will make a statement. [238219]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many and what proportion of bids for services from the rapid response service were (a) accepted and (b) rejected because of (i) lack of funding and (ii) the employer and employees not meeting the conditions in each region in each year since the service was established; and if he will make a statement. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Since April 2002 over 700 bids have been made for Rapid Response Services and all have been accepted.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps *(a)* Jobcentre Plus's rapid response service and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus staff take to identify companies with employees that may have benefited from the rapid response service. [238220]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what steps (a) Jobcentre Plus's Rapid Response Service and (b) Jobcentre Plus staff take to identify companies with employees that may have benefited from the Rapid Response Service. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus contacts and offers support to every employer who meets the statutory requirement to notify the Insolvency Service when making 20 people or more redundant. Since the announcement made by DWP on 12 November 2008, on the expansion of our Rapid Response Service, Jobcentre Plus also makes every effort to identify companies making fewer than 20 people redundant. Where identified these employers are also contacted and offered support wherever there is likely to be a significant impact on the particular local community.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on advertising the services offered by Jobcentre Plus's rapid response service to employers in each year since it was established. [238221]

**Mr. McNulty:** The answer to this question has been incorporated in the answer to PQ/08/238224, as both questions relate to the communication of the Rapid Response Service to employers.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much Jobcentre Plus's rapid response service has cost in each year since it was established; [238222]

(2) how many full-time equivalent staff were working in Jobcentre Plus's rapid response service in each region in each year since it was established. [238223]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking:

how much Jobcentre Plus's Rapid Response Service has cost in each year since it was established, and;

how many full-time equivalent staff were working in JobCentre Plus's Rapid Response Service in each region in each year since it was established.

This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The table below provides a breakdown of the amount spent from the Rapid Response Service fund in each year since 2002-03. These figures reflect the expenditure required in each year to deliver effective support for redundancies. All requests for Rapid Response Service funding were met.

*Rapid Response Service Fund*

| | *Amount spent from Rapid Response Service Fund (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 2,725 |
| 2003-04 | 2,052 |
| 2004-05 | 1,303 |
| 2005-06 | 714 |
| 2006-07 | 1,366 |
| 2007-08 | 580 |

The Rapid Response Service brings together a number of functions that already exist within Jobcentre Plus, and the work required to deliver a Rapid Response Service is carried out by people who already carry out those functions. It is therefore not possible to separately identify the number of staff working on the Rapid Response Service. The demand for the Rapid Response Service varies to meet demand and, consequently, so too does the staffing used to deliver it.

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what means his Department has informed employers of the existence of Jobcentre Plus's rapid response service since it was established. [238224]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Rapid Response Service was introduced in April 2002 and has been delivered through Jobcentre Plus in conjunction with a range of partners such as Regional Development Agencies and local authorities and skills agencies in England, Scotland and Wales to help employees facing redundancies.

There are three main ways that the service is communicated to employers:

1. Under current legislative processes, all employers making redundancies of 20 or more employees must contact the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR). Details of these companies are passed to Jobcentre Plus who then discuss their circumstances and the type of support that then need.

2. In addition, we provide information through channels that employers use regularly including: the Jobcentre Plus website

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/employers;

the websites of organisations who help to deliver the Rapid Response Service to employers; and through a range of leaflets and business/trade media.

3. There are a number of employers that receive an account management service from Jobcentre Plus in return for their agreement to help our individual customers to find work. If these employers are facing difficulties, they will discuss their needs directly with Jobcentre Plus and appropriate levels of support will be offered.

It is not possible to separate out the cost of promoting the service given the routes that we use.

## Vocational Training: Sight Impaired

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what employment training is provided for the visually impaired in Enfield Southgate constituency; and what proportion of those who have undergone such training in each of the last five years are now in paid employment. [234579]

**Mr. McNulty:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Mel Groves:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what employment training is provided for the visually impaired in the Enfield Southgate constituency and what proportion of those who have undergone such training in each of the last five years are now in paid employment. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are a number of organisations that offer a service for customers in your constituency with visual impairment. Most notably these include Hereford College for the Blind and Middlesex Association for the Blind. These services are accessed by a direct referral from Disability Employment Advisers who are based in each of the Jobcentre Plus offices that serve your constituents.

Our partner, Reed in Partnership, also offers voluntary and mandatory programmes aimed at helping people with disabilities back into work. These programmes are specific to an individual's needs and an Adviser from the Jobcentre can refer customers to them.

The Royal National Institute for the Blind offers work preparation, for example help with interview techniques, job applications and CV completion, and also specialist IT training. An Adviser from the Jobcentre can arrange these services.

Disability Employment Advisers can also recommend one-off provision based around an individual's needs if this is not catered for by an existing provision.

We do not have any information about what proportion of those people who have undergone such training in each of the last five years are now in paid employment.

## Vocational Training: South Yorkshire

**Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have received Government funded employment training in *(a)* South Yorkshire, *(b)* Rotherham and *(c)* Barnsley over the last five years. [231315]

**Mr. McNulty:** The requested information is not available.

## Winter Fuel Payments

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* cold weather payments made and *(b)* the number of recipients of cold weather payments in each of the last five years, broken down by the area covered by each relevant weather station. [226182]

**Kitty Ussher:** Information is not available on the numbers of cold weather payments received, or the number of recipients.

The available information for payments is in the following table.

*Cold Weather Payments for Great Britain for 2003-04 to 2007-08*

| *Weather station* | *Estimated payments* |
|---|---|
| *2003-04* | |
| Aviemore | 4,600 |
| Bingley | 91,300 |
| Boltshope Park | 70,500 |
| Braemar | 300 |
| Cassley | 800 |
| Dundrennan | 5,900 |
| Dyce | 24,200 |
| Eskdalemuir | 10,200 |
| Fylingdales | 27,500 |
| Lake Vyrnwy | 1,400 |
| Lerwick | 900 |
| Loch Glascarnoch | 2,400 |
| Sennybridge | 116,900 |
| Shawbury | 51,600 |
| Tulloch Bridge | 7,000 |
| Wick | 2,100 |
| Total | 417,600 |
| *2004-05* | |
| Aviemore | 1,600 |
| Boltshope Park | 63,600 |
| Braemar | 100 |
| Fylingdales | 17,500 |
| Liscombe | 8,700 |
| Loch Glascarnoch | 700 |
| Sennybridge | 67,600 |
| Tulloch Bridge | 3,000 |
| Wattisham | 50,300 |
| Total | 213,200 |
| *2005-06* | |
| Albemarle | 128,400 |
| Aviemore | 4,800 |
| Bingley | 257,200 |
| Boltshope Park | 105,200 |
| Braemar | 400 |
| Cassley | 700 |
| Eskdalemuir | 28,800 |
| Fylingdales | 15,800 |
| Kinloss | 14,200 |
| Lake Vyrnwy | 9,600 |
| Lerwick | 1,200 |
| Linton on Ouse | 132,200 |
| Liscombe | 8,500 |
| Loch Glascarnoch | 3,000 |
| Salsburgh | 14,500 |
| Sennybridge | 129,600 |
| Shawbury | 122,800 |
| Tulloch Bridge | 8,800 |
| Wick | 62,500 |
| Total | 987,900 |
| *2006-07* | |
| Aviemore | 1,700 |
| Boltshope Park | 21,900 |
| Braemar | 100 |
| Capel Curig | 800 |
| Dyce | 29,900 |
| Eskdalemuir | 7,600 |
| Linton on Ouse | 138,700 |

*Cold Weather Payments for Great Britain for 2003-04 to 2007-08*

| *Weather station* | *Estimated payments* |
|---|---|
| Loch Glascarnoch | 800 |
| Sennybridge | 136,000 |
| Shawbury | 64,600 |
| Total | 402,000 |
| *2007-08* | |
| Aviemore | 1,600 |
| Bishopton | 205,400 |
| Braemar | 6,600 |
| Cassley | 400 |
| Charterhall | 2,800 |
| Edinburgh Gogarbank | 81,500 |
| Eskdalemuir | 6,400 |
| Kinloss | 14,900 |
| Lake Vyrnwy | 5,900 |
| Leuchars | 42,400 |
| Loch Glascarnoch | 2,400 |
| Redesdale | 12,300 |
| Salsburgh | 15,100 |
| Sennybridge | 67,100 |
| Shap | 4,900 |
| Tulloch Bridge | 2,300 |
| Total | 471,900 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are for Cold Weather Payments triggered in the relevant financial year.
2. Some people were made more than one payment in some years.
3. Estimated numbers of payments have been rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. Each year, there are usually some small changes to the weather stations used for the cold weather payments scheme. (For example, the Boltshope Park weather station closed after the winter of 2006-07 and the postcodes linked to it were allocated to Albemarle and Bingley and to a new weather station Redesdale.)

*Sources:*
Estimated numbers of payments are based on:
Scans of benefit computer systems taken at the end of October each year giving the number of potential qualifiers for cold weather payments by weather station;
DWP records of triggers;
DWP records of the total number of payments actually made by benefit computer system.

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times the temperature dropped below the threshold at which cold weather payments are made in each of the last 10 years, broken down by relevant weather station. [226183]

**Kitty Ussher:** The available information has been placed in the Library.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the winter fuel allowance was worth as a percentage of *(a)* average household fuel bills and *(b)* average pensioner household fuel bills in each of the last 10 years for which information is available, broken down by constituency. [237715]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The following tables show the winter fuel payment as a percentage of average winter fuel bills for all households, by region, information is not available at constituency level. Information relating to pensioner household expenditure on fuel broken down by region or constituency is not available.

*Year and rate of winter fuel payment (WFP)*

| *Region* | *1997-98 (£20)* | *1998-99 (£20)* | *1999-2000 (£100)* | *2000-01 (£200)* | *2001-02 (£200)* | *2002-03 (£200)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *WFP as a percentage of average winter fuel bill for all households* | | | | | |
| North East | 5 | 6 | 27 | 57 | 53 | 55 |
| North West | 5 | 5 | 26 | 54 | 56 | 55 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 5 | 6 | 27 | 56 | 59 | 58 |
| East Midlands | 5 | 6 | 27 | 55 | 55 | 53 |
| West Midlands | 5 | 5 | 26 | 53 | 55 | 56 |
| East of England | 6 | 6 | 28 | 58 | 54 | 55 |
| London | 6 | 6 | 29 | 59 | 61 | 61 |
| South East | 6 | 6 | 28 | 57 | 53 | 55 |
| South West | 6 | 6 | 29 | 57 | 55 | 53 |
| Wales | 5 | 5 | 25 | 53 | 54 | 54 |
| Scotland | 5 | 5 | 25 | 52 | 53 | 52 |

*Year and rate of winter fuel payment (WFP)*

| *Region* | *2003-04 (£200)* | *2003-04 (£300)* | *2004-05 (£200)* | *2004-05 (£300)* | *2005-06 (£200)* | *2005-06 (£300)* | *2006-07 (£200)* | *2006-07 (£300)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *WFP as a percentage of average winter fuel bill for all households* | | | | | | | |
| North East | 56 | 84 | 56 | 84 | 54 | 81 | 44 | 65 |
| North West | 55 | 83 | 54 | 81 | 51 | 76 | 41 | 61 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 58 | 87 | 54 | 81 | 51 | 76 | 41 | 62 |
| East Midlands | 54 | 81 | 53 | 80 | 52 | 78 | 43 | 65 |
| West Midlands | 56 | 84 | 55 | 82 | 51 | 76 | 40 | 60 |
| East of England | 54 | 81 | 53 | 79 | 50 | 74 | 39 | 59 |
| London | 59 | 89 | 57 | 86 | 53 | 80 | 44 | 66 |
| South East | 54 | 81 | 54 | 81 | 51 | 76 | 40 | 60 |
| South West | 53 | 80 | 53 | 79 | 51 | 76 | 41 | 62 |
| Wales | 53 | 79 | 50 | 76 | 48 | 72 | 38 | 58 |
| Scotland | 52 | 78 | 50 | 76 | 48 | 71 | 37 | 56 |

*Notes:*
1. From winter 2003-04 the winter fuel payment increased to £300 for people aged 80 or over.
2. The percentage figures in the tables are based on an average of all households expenditure on fuel, by region.
3. Note that family spending was produced from 2006 as an annual year report therefore the 2006-07 percentages in the tables do not take account of data for January to March 2007. 2006 data are the latest available.

*Source:*
Family Spending Surveys 2002-03 to 2006.

### Winter Fuel Payments: Crosby

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much he expects to pay to pensioner households in Crosby constituency in winter fuel payments in 2008-09. [236687]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Expenditure in 2006-07 on winter fuel payments in Crosby constituency in 2006-07 was £2.9 million. Figures for winter 2007-08 are not yet available. Forecasts of benefit expenditure are not produced at parliamentary constituency level.

*Notes:*

1. Expenditure figures have been rounded to the nearest £100,000.

2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Please note that a small number of these households receive amounts higher than the usual rate for their age group, where the household includes more than two individuals each entitled to payments at half of the usual household rate.

*Source:*

Information directorate 100 per cent. data

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to question *(a)* 220310, on benefits, tabled on 16 July and *(b)* 220179, on staff, tabled on 15 July. [226927]

**Mr. McNulty:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 19 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 551W, for *(a)* 220310 and on 23 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 472W, for *(b)* 220179.

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer Question 230115, tabled by the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire on 27 October 2008, on payment of maintenance owed to the Child Support Agency. [236060]

**Kitty Ussher:** I replied to the hon. Member's question on 25 November 2008.

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer question 230140, tabled by the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire on 27 October 2008, on funding for the Child Support Agency and Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [236061]

**Kitty Ussher:** I replied to the hon. Member's question on 25 November 2008.

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer Question 230141, tabled by the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire on 27 October 2008, on child maintenance initiatives. [236062]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 17 November 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 25 November 2008.

## HEALTH

### Alcoholic Drinks: Health Services

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data collection his Department routinely makes in respect of alcohol-related admissions to *(a)* accident and emergency and *(b)* acute wards. [236543]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Data on admissions to, and the care provided by national health service (NHS) hospitals, along with data on NHS hospital patients treated elsewhere, are routinely collected by the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) database. HES data record the diagnosis codes associated with each admission, and have three main diagnosis codes relating to alcohol.

Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10);

Alcoholic liver disease (K70); and

Toxic effect of alcohol (T51).

These data are then analysed by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

The North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO) has developed a new methodology for analysing data concerning alcohol related hospital admissions. Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology uses Alcohol Attributable Fractions (AAFs). These AAFs consider a much wider range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimate the proportion of cases that can be attributed to the consumption of alcohol. These figures are currently being finalised and will be made available in due course.

It is important to note that (i) HES data are collected at national health service trust and not at ward level and (ii) individuals are not admitted to accident and emergency, they may be admitted to hospital via accident and emergency. Data are not available centrally from which alcohol-related attendances in accident and emergency departments can be identified.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on specialist treatment services for alcohol misuse and addiction in each of the last 10 years. [232143]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Data on expenditure on specialist alcohol treatment services are not collected centrally.

The Department commissioned the Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project (ANARP),in 2005, to assess alcohol treatment needs and provision in England. ANARP estimated expenditure of £217 million (2004-5 prices), or £235 million (2006-7 prices, inflated using the HCHS index) for spend on specialist alcohol treatment services. A copy of the publication has been placed in the Library.

The authors set out a number of reasons why this figure may be an overestimate, including a lack of data on the funding split between alcohol and drug treatment for agencies that offer both, an assumption that all those who accessed specialist alcohol treatment received an intervention, and an assumption of no drop-out before treatment completion.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what modelling his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned on future levels of disease resulting from current levels of alcohol consumption. [237159]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department published an estimate of the burden on alcohol-related disease to the national health service on 22 July, "The cost of alcohol harm to the NHS in England: An update to the Cabinet Office (2003) study". A copy has already been placed in the Library and is also available at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Closedconsultations/DH_086412

This updated the estimates published by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit in 2004 and will be kept under review.

As a part of its contribution to the Home Office Public Service Agreement to reduce drug and alcohol harm the Department has commissioned modelling on the likely changes in the rate of hospital admissions by March 2011. This will be available in March 2009 and will be used for internal delivery planning and reporting purposes.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on including alcohol screening and brief advice within the Quality and Outcomes Framework. [237254]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We have received no representations on including alcohol screening and brief advice within the Quality and Outcomes Framework.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent to which primary care trust spending on services to reduce alcohol harm correlates with the extent of alcohol problems on the local population. [237849]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Data on national health service spend on alcohol interventions are not collected; however primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for ensuring that the health priorities and needs of their local populations are met and are adequately funded.

How much PCTs choose to spend on prevention interventions and specialist alcohol treatment services is their responsibility to decide in line with their locally identified needs and priorities.

To assist PCTs, and other local health care and social care organisations, to understand and address the impact that higher-risk drinking is having on the health of their local population, the Department has commissioned the North West Public Health Observatory to produce Local Alcohol Profiles.

Local Alcohol Profiles bring together evidence that indicates the impact of alcohol on each local authority and PCT area in England, using 23 different indicators relating to individual, community and population implications of alcohol use and their effects on health and well-being.

## Antibiotics

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1371-72W, on antibiotics, how much was spent by hospitals in each region on antibiotics in each year since 1997-98 for which figures are available. [238742]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Estimates of hospital spend on antibiotics from 2001-02 (the earliest year for which figures are available), by net ingredient cost (NIC), by each strategic health authority (SHA) in England and their predecessor bodies, are shown in the following table.

*Estimated hospital spend on antibiotics in England 2001-02 to 2007-08 (NIC)*

£000

| SHA | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 13,331.9 | 14,200.3 | 15,911.0 | 15,343.3 | 15,343.5 | 15,124.1 | 16,341.2 |
| East of England | 18,138.6 | 20,336.0 | 23,094.7 | 24,747.1 | 23,709.5 | 23,973.8 | 22,936.9 |
| London | 35,201.3 | 41,609.6 | 47,112.0 | 52,697.1 | 48,258.4 | 51,230.2 | 54,652.5 |
| North East | 10,945.7 | 12,626.8 | 14,356.1 | 15,675.7 | 14,951.1 | 15,795.4 | 15,869.7 |
| North West | 27,208.0 | 30,103.5 | 34,178.8 | 36,314.4 | 36,295.9 | 38,639.1 | 38,416.8 |
| South Central | 11,828.4 | 13,357.3 | 14,742.8 | 15,388.9 | 14,380.8 | 14,769.1 | 15,925.5 |
| South East Coast | 13,761.2 | 15,565.1 | 16,581.8 | 17,865.4 | 17,102.4 | 17,200.5 | 18,086.6 |
| South West | 19,071.6 | 20,235.1 | 22,485.0 | 24,631.9 | 23,789.5 | 23,926.3 | 25,023.8 |
| West Midlands | 16,293.9 | 19,596.4 | 21,607.9 | 24,468.8 | 23,379.6 | 23,893.2 | 24,872.2 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 19,296.2 | 20,695.7 | 23,300.9 | 23,612.9 | 22,515.0 | 22,741.6 | 22,960.6 |
| Grand total | 185,076.8 | 208,326.0 | 233,371.0 | 250,745.5 | 239,725.6 | 247,293.3 | 255,085.8 |

Notes:
1. Figures are based on the current SHA structure introduced in July 2006. Figures for before then are aggregated from SHA predecessor bodies.
2. The net ingredient cost (NIC) is the cost of the drug at NHS list price. IMS Health data are classified according to a version of the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) classification system used by the World Health Organisation. Data have been provided for antibiotic products in the ATC categories below, as these correspond most closely to British National Formulary (BNF) section 5.1 (Antibacterial drugs). J01 antibacterials for systemic use J03 systemic sulphonamides J04 antimycobacterials J08 other anti-infectives. There will be some antibiotic products, such as topical creams and eye drops, which are not included in BNF 5.1.

*Source:*
IMS Health: Hospital Pharmacy Audit Index.

Data on prescriptions that are written in hospital and dispensed in the community are only held at national level by the Information Centre for health and social care from 2006-07 onwards. The national spend on prescriptions written in hospitals and dispensed in the community for products in British National Formulary

section 5.1 (Antibacterial drugs) was £3.2 million (NIC) in 2006-07 and £3.4 million in 2007-08.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Hospital Pharmacy Audit Index, (1) how many issues of antibiotics each hospital trust in England made in 2007-08; [238903]

(2) how many issues of antibiotics hospitals in each region of England made in each year since 1997-98 for which figures are available. [238904]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Hospital Pharmacy Audit Index data held by the Information Centre for health and social care do not include information on the number of separate issues of antibiotics by individual hospital pharmacies. The unit of measurement is packs. As pack sizes vary, even for the same product, and packs may comprise tablets, vials (of varying pack sizes) or other formulations, a single total for packs would not be meaningful.

### Aortic Aneurysm: Medical Treatments

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients in England and Wales who were treated for abdominal aortic aneurysms by *(a)* open surgical repair and *(b)* endovascular repair in each of the last five years. [238491]

**Ann Keen:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Mr. Spring) on 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1283-84W.

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of *(a)* endovascular repair and *(b)* open surgical repair for abdominal aortic aneurysms in terms of (i) peri-operative mortality, (ii) time in intensive care, (iii) time in hospital overall and (iv) speed of return to normal activity; [239355]

(2) what criteria are taken into account when assessing the fitness of abdominal aortic aneurysm patients for open surgical repair; and if he will make a statement. [239356]

**Ann Keen:** It is a matter for a vascular surgeon to assess each patient individually, taking into account risk factors such as age, aneurysm size, and general medical condition.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is preparing guidance on the use of endovascular repair of abdominal aortic aneurysms.

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health at which level of the NHS a decision on whether to screen men in the West Sussex Primary Care Trust area for abdominal aortic aneurysms will be made. [239357]

**Ann Keen:** The implementation of a national abdominal aortic aneurysm screening programme for men aged 65 is currently under way. Six early implementation sites have been announced.

One of these sites will be in West Sussex, based at the Royal West Sussex NHS Trust. Strategic health authority screening leads were asked to take a lead overview role in developing plans which demonstrated how potential screening sites met the criteria required to be considered as an early implementation site. The final decision to include West Sussex was made by the Department's Vascular Programme Board.

### Aortic Aneurysm: Screening

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much central Government funding has been allocated to the introduction of the abdominal aortic aneurysm screening programme; [238489]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the total cost of the abdominal aortic aneurysm screening programme to *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* primary care trusts; and if he will make a statement. [238490]

**Ann Keen:** £3 million has been allocated from central departmental budgets for the implementation of the abdominal aortic aneurysm screening programme in 2008-09.

Estimates of future costs were included in the impact assessment of a national screening programme for abdominal aortic aneurysm. A copy has been placed in the Library and is available at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_086050

A summary of (undiscounted) costs for the first five years is shown in the following table (page 14 of the impact assessment).

*Summary costs, not discounted*

*£ million*

| | *Screen at 65* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Phased* | *Immediate* | *Maximum* |
| 2008-09 | 7.86 | 36.17 | 40.69 |
| 2009-10 | 13.74 | 26.13 | 31.46 |
| 2010-11 | 20.15 | 28.56 | 34.44 |
| 2011-12 | 29.72 | 33.51 | 40.20 |
| 2012-13 | 38.17 | 35.36 | 41.84 |

More detailed cost estimates can be found in annex 4 of the published impact assessment.

The total annual cost of the programme to the national health service is estimated to build up to approximately £38 million by the fifth year of the phased implementation, and then to average approximately £28 million per year over the following 15 years. Estimates by primary care trust are not available.

### "British National Formulary"

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 302W, on the British National Formulary, how many copies of the "British National Formulary" have been issued to NHS *(a)* hospital doctors and *(b)* GPs by his Department. [237590]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department purchased 215,000 copies of the September 2008 edition of the "British National Formulary" and 160,000 copies of the 2008

edition of the "British National Formulary for Children", for distribution to doctors and other health professionals in England.

Information on the numbers distributed specifically to hospital doctors and general practitioners is not available.

## Cancer

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the average time from diagnosis to treatment for patients diagnosed with cancer in each London borough in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007, broken down by cancer type. [238833]

**Ann Keen:** Statistics on average waiting times for cancer patients and average waiting times for different types of cancer treatment are not collected centrally. Cancer waiting times standards of a maximum wait of 31 days from diagnosis to first cancer treatment and a maximum wait of 62 days from urgent referral for suspected cancer to first cancer treatment were introduced for all cancer patients from December 2005. The following table shows performance against these standards in England at quarter one (Q1) in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

*Performance against cancer waiting times standards in England*

| | *31 day standard percentage compliance* | *62 day standard percentage compliance* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 Q1 | 92.6 | 77.1 |
| 2006-07 Q1 | 99.3 | 93.8 |
| 2007-08 Q1 | 99.6 | 96.9 |

## Cardiovascular System: Diseases

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many revascularisation procedures for peripheral vascular disease took place in the national health service in each of the last five years, broken down by strategic health authority. [238564]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not held centrally.

## Carers

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the timetable is for implementing the Caring with Confidence programme; how much funding has been allocated to it; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure that local organisations are able to access the programme; [237921]

(2) what plans he has to include consideration of the needs of carers in the implementation of the recommendations of the NHS Next Stage Review conducted by Lord Darzi; [237934]

(3) what requirements his Department has placed on primary care trusts to plan for the commissioning of breaks for carers with carers and other agencies; [237951]

(4) what the timetable is for announcing primary care trust allocations regarding funding breaks for carers and the amounts to be allocated. [237952]

**Phil Hope:** The contract for the Caring with Confidence (CwC) programme commenced on 1 January 2008.

The first face-to-face training for carers took place in August 2008. A distance learning version is presently being piloted and will go live in early 2009. Full capacity of CwC provision will be achieved during the first part of 2009. The Department is making up to £4.6 million per year available to fund CwC.

The delivery of CwC will be through existing local providers of services—whether from the third or statutory sectors. Local providers have been invited to become part of this delivery process, through a nationally advertised tendering process; from this work, CwC will put in place a national network of local providers.

Delivery of the recommendations of the NHS Next Stage Review is led at strategic health authority and local level. However, key stakeholders including carers organisations continue to be involved.

The Carers' Strategy said that primary care trusts (PCTs) must publish joint plans with their local authority (LA) partners (following a consultation with carers and the third sector) setting out how they are going to spend new money for carers breaks together with the money the LA already receives through the annual carers grant. In addition, we are including a line in the NHS Operating Framework that will remind national health service staff of their responsibilities to publish joint plans and work collaboratively with LAs to support carers in a personalised way.

£150 million will be included in PCTs' allocations over the next two years. £50 million will be provided in 2009-10 and £100 million in 2010-11. This money will support all carers. We are considering what form further guidance to support PCTs and LAs might take.

In addition, the carers grant will continue giving councils £720 million over the next three years (2008-11). This will enable them to support carers with breaks and other services. As part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment process, PCTs and LAs are working in partnership to publish joint plans. These should include plans for the provision of breaks.

## Christmas

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruits to be served by his Department at Christmas functions which will be sourced from British producers. [239724]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect information about the Christmas functions hosted or attended by officials in the Department and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

The Government will shortly be publishing a report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and National Offender Management Service (previously HM Prison Service) between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008.

This report will be available on the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative web site at:

www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm.

## Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to improve its arrangements for co-ordination with other Government Departments of policy affecting coastal towns in the last two years. [238649]

**Phil Hope:** The Department for Communities and Local Government established a cross-departmental working group on coastal towns, in February 2008. The Department of Health is represented on this group.

The working group is providing a forum for improving cross-government understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing coastal towns, including the impact of existing policy approaches and mechanisms in improving regeneration and economic development outcomes.

The Department is also contributing to the work of the Regional Development Agency (RDA)-led Coastal Towns Network, involving central and local government, national and coastal town networks and the RDAs.

## Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many primary care trusts have fully complied with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence appraisal TA97 since its publication; and if he will make a statement: [237031]

(2) what estimate the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has made of the effect on the cost of the NHS of fully implementing its guidance TA97 on computerised cognitive behavioural therapy for the treatment of depression and anxiety. [237179]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not hold this information centrally.

## Community Nurses: Training

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many places for BSc courses in specialist community nursing programmes have been funded through strategic health authorities in 2008-09; and how many applications for places on such courses there were in that year. [238409]

**Ann Keen:** The following table provides details of the planned number of training places to be commissioned for community nursing training in the financial year 2008-09. Data on the number of applications to these courses are not held centrally by the Department.

| *Community nursing* | *Planned commissions* |
|---|---|
| Health Visitor | 277 |
| District Nurses | 255 |
| Community Psychiatric Nurses | 14 |
| Practice nurses | 113 |
| Community Nurse Mental Health | 61 |
| Occupational Health Nurse | 23 |
| School Nurses | 125 |
| Community Specialist Practitioner Courses | 455 |
| Community Nurse total | 1,323 |

## Contraceptives

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many emergency contraceptive pills were issued without prescription at pharmacies and chemists between 2001 and 2007, broken down by calendar month; [239216]

(2) how many prescriptions for emergency contraceptive pills were issued by *(a)* NHS walk-in centres and *(b)* NHS minor injury units between 2001 and 2007, broken down by (i) year and (ii) calendar month; [239217]

(3) how many prescriptions for emergency contraceptive pills were issued by genitourinary medicine clinics in each *(a)* year and *(b)* calendar month since 2001. [239219]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many prescriptions for emergency contraceptive pills were issued by general practitioners to women aged *(a)* under 14, *(b)* between 15 and 16, *(c)* between 17 and 24, *(d)* between 25 and 30, *(e)* between 31 and 40, *(f)* between 41 and 50 and *(g)* 51 years and over in each year since 2001, broken down by calendar month; [239218]

(2) how many prescriptions for emergency contraceptive pills were issued by general practitioners in each *(a)* year and *(b)* calendar month since 2001. [239220]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table. Information is not held by age.

*Emergency contraceptive prescription items written by general practitioners (GPs), 2003-08*

| *Items* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | .. | 29,798 | 24,801 | 24,761 | 22,810 | 21,278 |
| February | .. | 27,422 | 23,777 | 21,881 | 20,201 | 19,944 |
| March | .. | 30,821 | 24,633 | 24,551 | 21,485 | 18,634 |
| April | .. | 27,275 | 24,519 | 21,491 | 20,425 | 20,235 |
| May | .. | 27,689 | 25,761 | 25,856 | 22,179 | 20,160 |
| June | .. | 30,690 | 27,126 | 25,324 | 21,439 | 20,812 |
| July | .. | 28,425 | 26,990 | 24,477 | 22,339 | 20,951 |
| August | .. | 27,780 | 27,345 | 24,730 | 21,498 | 19,188 |
| September | .. | 26,940 | 25,419 | 22,309 | 19,513 | 20,170 |
| October | 30,959 | 25,830 | 25,226 | 23,875 | 22,735 | .. |
| November | 28,297 | 27,437 | 24,975 | 22,099 | 20,586 | .. |
| December | 20,943 | 23,699 | 22,360 | 19,248 | 17,550 | .. |
| Total | 68,199 | 335,226 | 304,937 | 282,608 | 254,707 | 181,380 |

Source:
ePACT data
This information was obtained from the Prescribing Analysis and Cost tool (PACT) system, which covers prescriptions prescribed by GPs, nurses, pharmacists and others in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom. ePACT only holds the most recent 60 months data.

## Dementia

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the national dementia strategy will be published; [239984]

(2) what assessment he has made of the role of admiral nurses in the management of dementia. [239985]

**Phil Hope:** We aim to publish a National Dementia Strategy for England by the end of this year.

The Department is aware of the role of admiral nurses in the care of people with dementia. We have made no specific evaluation of their role in the management of dementia. However, the evidence base on the management of dementia has been summarised well in the joint National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence/Social Care Institute for Excellence clinical guideline on dementia. The National Dementia Strategy will also set out our vision for the management and support of people with dementia and their carers.

## Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; what the target rates set for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [239929]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on average working days lost (AWDL) per member of staff due to sickness absence in the Department of Health and its agencies is presented in the following table:

| | *Coverage* | *AWDL* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 financial year | Core Department | 5.3 |
| 2007-08 financial year | Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) | 6.9 |
| 2007-08 financial year | NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) | 4.6 |
| 2006-07 financial year | Core Department | 6.5 |
| 2006-07 financial year | MHRA | 6.6 |
| 2006-07 financial year | PASA | 5.5 |
| 2005 calendar year | Core Department only | 7.0 |
| 2005 calendar year | MHRA | 2.9 |
| 2005 calendar year | PASA | 15.5 |
| 2004 calendar year | Department and its agencies | 5.8 |
| 2003 calendar year | Department and its agencies | 5.4 |
| 2002 calendar year | Department and its agencies | 4.7 |
| 2001 calendar year | Department and its agencies | 6.8 |
| 2000 calendar year | Department and its agencies | 5.5 |
| 1999 calendar year | Department and its agencies | 6.6 |
| 1998 calendar year | Department and its agencies | 7.3 |

The change in the figures from calendar years to financial year between 2005 and 2006-07 reflects a change in the annual period covered by the reports. The change between 2004 and 2005 from the Department and its agencies together to the Department and its agencies separately reflects a change in the level of aggregation of information in reporting.

The Department does not report on the rates of other types of absence or set formal targets for rates of absence.

## Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [233418]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Sales of food and drink at official premises are not subsidised for the Department or NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency. Funding of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency staff restaurant is subsidised of the amount of £72,000 per year. This figure is not directly attributed to food and drink and includes the running costs of the restaurant.

## Departmental Committees

**Mr. Meale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish a list of committees established by his Department on which appointed persons are remunerated. [237865]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following committees established within the Department's governance structure include appointed non-Executive Members who are remunerated: the Departmental Board, Department of Health's Audit Committee and the Performance Committee.

The Department publishes details of its public bodies on an annual basis. A copy of the latest version of Public Bodies 2007 has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the Appointments Commission website at:

www.appointments.org.uk/publications.asp

**Mr. Meale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish a list of external appointments made in the last three years to committees established by his Department on which positions are remunerated. [237866]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following remunerated external appointments were made on the Department's committees established in the last three years with its governance structure:

Mike Wheeler (Departmental Board, Audit Committee and Performance Committee);

Julie Baddeley (Departmental Board);

Derek Myers (Departmental Board and Department of Health Audit Committee); and

Jane Ramsay and Tony Allen (Department of Health Audit Committee).

The Department publishes details of its public bodies on an annual basis. A copy of the latest version, Public Bodies 2007, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the Appointments Commission website at:

http://www.appointments.org.uk/publications.asp

### Departmental Consultants

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 859W, on departmental consultants, what progress has been made on the implementation of his Department's new business management system; what the budget for running this system is in 2008-09; and when it will be able to provide data on his Department's expenditure on consultancy fees. [229834]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Business Management System (BMS) was successfully deployed for use by the Department's staff on 1 July 2008. The cost incurred in the delivery of the BMS was £10,784,829 and the projected running cost for providing information technology (IT) support for the system over the period 1 July to 31 December 2008 is £537,661. The running costs for 2009 and beyond will not be available until the Department has concluded a series of negotiations with suppliers relating to the potential outsourcing of the BMS IT support service.

The Department will be able to provide a full year's data on consultancy spend from the BMS after July 2009.

### Departmental Debts

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has written off in bad debts in each of the last five financial years; and what the reason for each write-off was. [238893]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following amounts have been written off as bad debts.

| Period | £ |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 169.84 |
| 2005-06 | 10,217.65 |
| 2006-07 | 117,618.07 |
| 2007-08 | 8,558.33 |
| 2008-09 | 0.92 |

The reasons for the write-offs were:

*2004-05*

29 minor claims were abandoned on value for money grounds.

*2005-06*

41 minor claims were abandoned on value for money grounds.

*2006-07*

*NHS Live*

Over 320 organisations participated in the NHS Live events and were invoiced for their contributions. Twenty-four cases valuing £27,876.25 were successfully challenged by the organisations and the outstanding amount was written off by the Department.

*NHS Estates Capital Charges*

The value of capital charges made to individuals around the country that became uncollectible as a result of doubt over the validity of the charges was £9,561.56 . These invoices were subsequently found to have been raised in error.

*NHS Estates Service Charges*

The value of service charges made to health centres around the country which became uncollectible as a result of re-organisations and doubt over the validity of the charges were £70,678.36.

*Other Minor Claims*

19 minor claims were abandoned on value for money grounds amounting to £9,501.90

*2007-08*

29 minor claims were abandoned on value for money grounds.

*2008-09 (to date)*

Three minor claims were abandoned on value for money grounds.

### Departmental Electronic Equipment

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment in each of the last three years. [237430]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Not all of the information requested over the last three years is held centrally. Information that is available centrally is as follows:

£

| | Flat screen televisions | DVD players | Stereo equipment |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 | [1] | [1] | [1] |
| 2007 | 4,230 | 458 | [1] |
| 2008 | 5,887 | [1] | [1] |

[1] Not known.

### Departmental Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's workforce planning assumptions used to inform the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. [238894]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We do not publish planning assumptions relating to the comprehensive spending review.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and at what cost in each year. [239078]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information is as follows.

*Number of press officers, 1997-98 to 2007-08*

| | Number of staff |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 28 |
| 2006-07 | 26 |

*Number of press officers, 1997-98 to 2007-08*

| | Number of staff |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 30 |
| 2004-05 | 30 |
| 2003-04 | 26 |
| 2002-03 | 24 |
| 2001-02 | 22 |
| 2000-01 | 22 |
| 1999-00 | 21 |
| 1998-99 | 15 |
| 1997-98 | 15 |

*Costs for Department of Health media centre staff, 1997-98 to 2006-07*

| | Cost (£ million) |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 1.369 |
| 2006-07 | 1.765 |
| 2005-06 | 1.772 |
| 2004-05 | 1.471 |
| 2003-04 | 1.284 |
| 2002-03 | 1.077 |
| 2001-02 | 1.279 |
| 2000-01 | 1.233 |
| 1999-2000 | 1.253 |
| 1998-99 | 1.122 |
| 1997-98 | 1.062 |

*Note:*
Figures exclude social security and pension costs.

In regard to the number of special advisers I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Broxbourne (Mr. Walker) on 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1068W.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [237474]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** At the beginning of the 2007-08 budget year the branding team consisted of four members of staff. By the end of the year, following a restructure, the team had reduced to three.

The cost of employing branding staff during this period was £148,293.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 79W, on departmental NDPBs, (1) for what reasons Independent Reconfiguration Panel expenditure is not separately identified within departmental costs; [235295]

(2) if he will *(a)* calculate and *(b)* publish the cost to the public purse of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel. [235888]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 79W, Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) expenditure is not separately identified within departmental costs.

The Department does not set an annual budget with the IRP.

Since its inception in 2003, IRP expenditure has been authorised by the Department for annual costs to reflect expenditure reasonably incurred to address ad hoc and irregular requests from my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health to the panel for authoritative advice on contested service changes, referred to him by local Overview and Scrutiny Committees in line with the panel's terms of reference.

Expenditure on IRP functions has not to date been separately identified and reported on from other departmental costs.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what budget was allocated for the work of *(a)* the Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards, *(b)* the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens and *(c)* the Health Protection Agency in each of the last five years. [238896]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The budget allocation for the Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACEA) is as follows:

| | Costs | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | £6,000,000 | This includes awards, administrative costs and development of the supporting information technology system. |
| 2006-07 | £6,000,000 | 1. This includes awards, administrative costs and development of the supporting IT system. 2. From 2006-07 the ACCEA budget was revised to include funding of all Clinical Excellence Awards for which funding had not been transferred to the national health service. These awards include those paid to consultants working in arm's length bodies such as the Health Protection Agency (HPA). |
| 2005-06 | £527,199 | This is only the administrative cost. |
| 2004-05 | £417,598 | This is only the administrative cost. |
| 2003-04 | | This information is not available. |

There is no central budget for the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens. Members of the committee receive travel and subsistence expenses for meetings they attend and the costs are shared between the three sponsoring departments: Health and Safety Executive, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and Department of Health.

The total revenue Government grant in aid to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) for each of the last five years ending 31 March 2008 was as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2008 | 145,383,000 |
| 2007 | 149,313,000 |
| 2006 | 146,893,000 |
| 2005 | [1]127,871,000 |
| 2004 | 107,276,000 |

[1] From 1 April 2005 the HPA became a UK-wide body and took on the functions of the National Radiological Protection Board.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many paid officials worked for *(a)* the Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards, *(b)* the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens and *(c)* the Health Protection Agency in each of the last five years. [238897]

**Dawn Primarolo:** There are no departmental officials employed by any of these bodies.

The Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards is provided with administrative support by the Department of Health.

The Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens is provided with a secretariat jointly by the Health and Safety Executive, the Department of Health, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The Department of Health's contribution to the secretariat is currently provided by the Health Protection Agency.

The Health Protection Agency is an independent arm's length body which employs its own staff. For each of the last five years ending 31 March 2008 their staff numbers, as whole time equivalents were:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 2,518 |
| 2005 | 2,611 |
| 2006 | 3,102 |
| 2007 | 3,042 |
| 2008 | 3,160 |

## Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on hospitality in each of the last five financial years. [238892]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following table shows how much the Department spent on hospitality in each of the last five financial years.

| | Hospitality expenditure (£) |
|---|---|
| 2003-04[1] | |
| 2004-05[1] | |
| 2005-06 | 680,826 |
| 2006-07 | 612,422 |
| 2007-08 | 511,043 |

[1] It is not possible to derive valid expenditure figures on hospitality from the Department's accounts systems for 2003-04 and 2004-05.

## Departmental Pay

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bonus payments were made to his Department's staff in each Civil Service pay grade in each of the last three years; and what the highest and lowest individual bonus payments were in each of those years. [237240]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has two sets of bonus arrangements. For senior civil servants, bonuses may be awarded for delivery of personal objectives or other short-term personal contributions to wider organisational objectives, as part of their annual performance assessment. Arrangements are common across all Departments. For all staff the Department operates a Special Bonus Scheme whereby managers may award a bonus to recognise an outstanding contribution in a particularly demanding situation. This can include a temporary and substantial increase in job loading, dealing with pressures arising from temporary vacancies or job requirements, a high level of commitment and resolution to get a job done, difficulties requiring a special effort to overcome, or a contribution over and above what would normally be expected for the job and of the person, or team, concerned.

The numbers of bonuses and the highest and lowest payments (£) by grade for each of the last three years, for each set of arrangements, are provided in the following tables:

*Senior civil service (SCS) bonuses*

| | 2006-07 | | | 2007-08 | | | 2008-09 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grade | Number | Highest (£) | Lowest (£) | Number | Highest (£) | Lowest (£) | Number | Highest (£) | Lowest (£) |
| SCS | 162 | 18,683 | 567 | 160 | 27,500 | 3,212 | 187 | 27,500 | 3,000 |

*Special bonuses*

| | 2006-07 | | | 2007-08 | | | 2008-09 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grade[1] | Number | Highest (£) | Lowest (£) | Number | Highest (£) | Lowest (£) | Number | Highest (£) | Lowest (£) |
| SCS | 19 | 22,500 | 1,000 | 22 | 21,051 | 400 | 8 | 6,200 | 500 |
| Grade 6 | 41 | 9,000 | 350 | 59 | 6,800 | 25 | 62 | 8,000 | 500 |
| Grade 7 | 53 | 7,500 | 150 | 137 | 9,000 | 150 | 104 | 8,096 | 200 |
| FS | 7 | 1,500 | 200 | 9 | 2,850 | 250 | 17 | 2,500 | 200 |
| SEO | 45 | 5,000 | 150 | 70 | 5,063 | 55 | 61 | 5,000 | 250 |
| HEO | 28 | 4,431 | 150 | 60 | 3,500 | 100 | 17 | 2,500 | 250 |
| EO | 50 | 1,500 | 100 | 82 | 2,250 | 100 | 76 | 2,500 | 100 |
| AO | 9 | 770 | 100 | 16 | 1,000 | 100 | 23 | 4,000 | 100 |
| AA | 1 | 238 | 238 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unknown | 3 | 2,150 | 500 | 6 | 5,000 | 250 | 1 | 750 | 750 |

[1] FS = Fast stream. SEO = Senior executive officer. HEO = Higher executive officer. EO = Executive officer. AO = Administrative officer. AA = Administrative assistant (this grade did not exist after August 2006).

The grade under which bonuses are recorded is the current grade, which in some cases may differ from the grade at the time the award was made. Special bonuses for 2008-09 cover only the first seven months of the year. The highest special bonus payments for the SCS in 2006-07 and 2007-08 are likely to be payments that have been wrongly categorised on the Department's payroll system.

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what bonuses were paid by his Departrpent in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [239666]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has two sets of arrangements under which bonuses can be awarded. For Senior Civil Servants, pay arrangements are common across all Government Departments. The Department's senior pay strategy, which conforms to these common arrangements, explains that bonuses may be awarded for delivery of personal objectives or other short-term personal contributions to wider organisational objectives. Individuals are required to agree their priorities with their manager at the beginning of the performance year. Line managers then make recommendations for performance bonuses which are considered by the Department's pay committees at the end of the performance year. The pay committees, which meet annually, make the final decision on whether a bonus should be awarded, relative to the performance of others.

For staff below the Senior Civil Service, the Department operates a special bonus scheme whereby managers may award a bonus to recognise an outstanding contribution in a particularly demanding situation. This can include a temporary and substantial increase in job loading, dealing with pressures arising from temporary vacancies or job requirements, a high level of commitment and resolution to get a job done, difficulties requiring a special effort to overcome, or a contribution over and above what would normally be expected for the job and of the person, or team, concerned.

For 2007-08, bonuses the total amount paid in bonuses was £1,947,319.

### Departmental Pensions

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many civil servants working in his Department and its agencies have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229551]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is not appropriate to disclose pension information for civil servants other than Board Members whose details are shown in the Remuneration Report in annual Resource Accounts. A copy of the Department's Resource Accounts for the financial year 2007-08 can be found in the Library or accessed electronically at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH_089421

The Accounts for the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency can be found in the Library or accessed electronically at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Corporate/AnnualReports/CON020817

The Accounts for the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency can be found in the Library or accessed electronically at:

www.pasa.nhs.uk/pasaweb/nhsprocurement/aboutnhspasa/publications/corporatepublications.htm

### Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press releases have been issued by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238981]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following table gives the number of press releases issued for each financial year since 1997-98:

| *Financial year* | *Number of press releases issued* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 327 |
| 2006-07 | 424 |
| 2005-06 | 353 |
| 2004-05 | 427 |
| 2003-04 | 431 |
| 2002-03 | 441 |
| 2001-02 | 609 |
| 2000-01 | 697 |
| 1999-2000 | 743 |
| 1998-99 | 559 |
| 1997-98 | 330 |

### Departmental Property

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the present monetary value of land and buildings, including NHS land and buildings, his Department expects to dispose of by sale in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate his Department has made of the receipts from the sale of each property in each year. [238899]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has not undertaken an estimate of the present monetary value of all the land and buildings that it expects to sell over the three-year period. Any estimate of receipts for individual properties is commercially confidential.

Sales of national health service property are managed by local national health service organisations, principally national health service trusts, national health service foundation trusts and primary care trusts. The Department holds no estimates of the present monetary value of properties that the national health service plans to sell or the receipts they anticipate.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on targeted initiatives in *(a)* inner cities, *(b)* rural areas and *(c)* seaside towns in each of the last 16 years. [235701]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is not held centrally.

We address the varying health needs of local populations through the weighted capitation formula for national health service allocations, which assesses need and determines appropriate levels of resource. This has its social services equivalent in the relative needs formula, developed by the Department for Communities and Local Government to allocate resources to local authorities.

### Departmental Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239040]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** A list of expenditure by the Department on focus groups and opinion polls in each of the years since 1997 could be provided only at disproportionate cost, as the Department does not hold this information centrally.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230955]

**Alan Johnson:** I have not undertaken any personal training courses at public expense since undertaking this appointment.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* location, *(b)* dates and *(c)* cost was of each away day his departmental board has held in the last 12 months. [238901]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In the last 12 months, the Department's Departmental Board held one away day. This was held in Egham, Surrey, on 11 and 12 September 2008. The total cost of the facilities was £4,209.

### Deprivation Indicators

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the lower super output areas are with the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest health rankings in each of the principal seaside towns in England. [234943]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

The following tables list the codes for the least and most deprived lower super output areas in the principal seaside towns in England, on the overall measure of multiple deprivation and across the seven domains of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007. Information on deprivation in Welsh towns can be obtained from the Welsh Assembly Government Statistical Directorate.

| | | *IMD* | | *Income* | | *Employment* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Town* | *LA name* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* |
| Blackpool | Blackpool | E01012721 | E01012718 | E01012721 | E01012717 | E01012721 | E01012717 |
| Bognor Regis | Arun | E01031456 | E01031383 | E01031429 | E01031412 | E01031456 | E01031392 |
| Bournemouth | Bournemouth | E01015282 | E01015315 | E01015282 | E01015319 | E01015282 | E01015319 |
| Bridlington | East Riding of Yorkshire | E01012948 | E01013093 | E01012946 | E01013088 | E01012944 | E01013012 |
| Brighton | Brighton and Hove | E01016947 | E01016984 | E01016865 | E01016984 | E01016942 | E01016899 |
| Burnham-on-Sea | Sedgemoor | E01029106 | E01029104 | E01029106 | E01029128 | E01029112 | E01029128 |
| Clacton | Tendring | E01021988 | E01022005 | E01021988 | E01022013 | E01021988 | E01022013 |
| Dawlish/Teignmouth | Teignbridge | E01020272 | E01020239 | E01020272 | E01020242 | E01020228 | E01020242 |
| Deal | Dover | E01024240 | E01024233 | E01024240 | E01024233 | E01024199 | E01024238 |
| Eastbourne | Eastbourne | E01020912 | E01020933 | E01020923 | E01020946 | E01020911 | E01020933 |
| Exmouth | East Devon | E01019914 | E01019931 | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019914 | E01019964 |
| Falmouth | Carrick | E01018841 | E01018848 | E01018841 | E01018816 | E01018841 | E01018827 |
| Folkestone/Hythe | Shepway | E01024504 | E01024523 | E01024507 | E01024523 | E01024506 | E01024519 |
| Great Yarmouth | Great Yarmouth | E01026625 | E01026587 | E01026625 | E01026587 | E01026625 | E01026587 |
| Hastings/Bexhill | Hastings | E01020972 | E01020970 | E01020972 | E01020970 | E01020972 | E01020987 |
| Ilfracombe | North Devon | E01020112 | E01020090 | E01020103 | E01020133 | E01020112 | E01020133 |
| Isle of Wight | Isle of Wight | E01017332 | E01017352 | E01017345 | E01017293 | E01017336 | E01017302 |
| Lowestoft | Waveney | E01030258 | E01030284 | E01030258 | E01030288 | E01030258 | E01030292 |
| Minehead | West Somerset | E01029344 | E01029331 | E01029344 | E01029342 | E01029344 | E01029338 |
| Morecambe/Heysham | Lancaster | E01025110 | E01025146 | E01025156 | E01025105 | E01025110 | E01025105 |
| Newquay | Restormel | E01019056 | E01019017 | E01019056 | E01019017 | E01019033 | E01019016 |
| Penzance | Penwith | E01018997 | E01018985 | E01018997 | E01019011 | E01018997 | E01019011 |
| Scarborough | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027844 | E01027874 | E01027855 | E01027847 | E01027857 |
| Sidmouth | East Devon | E01019914 | E01019931 | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019914 | E01019964 |
| Skegness | East Lindsey | E01026093 | E01026063 | E01026083 | E01026063 | E01026093 | E01026061 |
| Southend-on-Sea | Southend-on-Sea | E01015842 | E01015908 | E01015842 | E01015914 | E01015842 | E01015830 |
| Southport | Sefton | E01007007 | E01006985 | E01007007 | E01006991 | E01007007 | E01006985 |
| St. Ives | East Dorset | E01020393 | E01020377 | E01020393 | E01020377 | E01020394 | E01020409 |
| St. Ives | Penwith | E01018997 | E01018985 | E01018997 | E01019011 | E01018997 | E01019011 |
| Swanage | Purbeck | E01020489 | E01020470 | E01020472 | E01020470 | E01020485 | E01020470 |
| Thanet | Thanet | E01024678 | E01024708 | E01024678 | E01024650 | E01024678 | E01024689 |
| Torbay | Torbay | E01015217 | E01015208 | E01015257 | E01015208 | E01015217 | E01015251 |
| Weston-super-Mare | North Somerset | E01014831 | E01014798 | E01014831 | E01014793 | E01014801 | E01014791 |
| Weymouth | Weymouth and Portland | E01020554 | E01020558 | E01020552 | E01020559 | E01020554 | E01020558 |
| Whitby | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027844 | E01027874 | E01027855 | E01027847 | E01027857 |
| Whitley Bay | North Tyneside | E01008485 | E01008523 | E01008485 | E01008563 | E01008485 | E01008548 |
| Whitstable/Herne Bay | Canterbury | E01024080 | E01024056 | E01024061 | E01024051 | E01024080 | E01024051 |
| Worthing | Worthing | E01031819 | E01031824 | E01031819 | E01031824 | E01031811 | E01031824 |

| | | *Health & Disability* | | *Education, Skills & Training* | | *Barriers to Housing & Services* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Town* | *LA name* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* |
| Blackpool | Blackpool | E01012721 | E01012718 | E01012720 | E01012722 | E01012704 | E01012725 |
| Bognor Regis | Arun | E01031456 | E01031389 | E01031429 | E01031416 | E01031392 | E01031464 |
| Bournemouth | Bournemouth | E01015282 | E01015319 | E01015313 | E01015344 | E01015370 | E01015335 |
| Bridlington | East Riding of Yorkshire | E01012948 | E01013088 | E01013002 | E01013070 | E01012981 | E01012999 |
| Brighton | Brighton and Hove | E01016942 | E01016983 | E01016915 | E01017001 | E01016899 | E01016961 |
| Burnham-on-Sea | Sedgemoor | E01029132 | E01029128 | E01029106 | E01029147 | E01029147 | E01029127 |
| Clacton | Tendring | E01022025 | E01021978 | E01021988 | E01021987 | E01021974 | E01022035 |
| Dawlish/Teignmouth | Teignbridge | E01020228 | E01020194 | E01020212 | E01020274 | E01020259 | E01020265 |
| Deal | Dover | E01024215 | E01024233 | E01024240 | E01024211 | E01024249 | E01024221 |
| Eastbourne | Eastbourne | E01020920 | E01020960 | E01020923 | E01020946 | E01020958 | E01020939 |
| Exmouth | East Devon | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019938 | E01019948 |
| Falmouth | Carrick | E01018841 | E01018816 | E01018841 | E01018816 | E01018850 | E01018848 |
| Folkestone/Hythe | Shepway | E01024506 | E01024490 | E01024498 | E01024523 | E01024549 | E01024512 |
| Great Yarmouth | Great Yarmouth | E01026625 | E01026587 | E01026619 | E01026611 | E01026609 | E01026639 |
| Hastings/Bexhill | Hastings | E01020989 | E01020970 | E01020972 | E01020970 | E01020970 | E01021013 |
| Ilfracombe | North Devon | E01020112 | E01020127 | E01020103 | E01020128 | E01020100 | E01020105 |
| Isle of Wight | Isle of Wight | E01017336 | E01017351 | E01017332 | E01017316 | E01017297 | E01017344 |
| Lowestoft | Waveney | E01030258 | E01030237 | E01030277 | E01030224 | E01030285 | E01030288 |
| Minehead | West Somerset | E01029344 | E01029338 | E01029344 | E01029335 | E01029338 | E01029332 |
| Morecambe/Heysham | Lancaster | E01025110 | E01025105 | E01025156 | E01025103 | E01025132 | E01025098 |
| Newquay | Restormel | E01019041 | E01019017 | E01019055 | E01019017 | E01019060 | E01019072 |
| Penzance | Penwith | E01018997 | E01018985 | E01018997 | E01019011 | E01019006 | E01018993 |
| Scarborough | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027814 | E01027874 | E01027855 | E01027857 | E01027871 |
| Sidmouth | East Devon | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019914 | E01019964 | E01019938 | E01019948 |
| Skegness | East Lindsey | E01026073 | E01026098 | E01026083 | E01026119 | E01026082 | E01026054 |
| Southend-on-Sea | Southend-on-Sea | E01015842 | E01015908 | E01015842 | E01015908 | E01015827 | E01015910 |
| Southport | Sefton | E01007009 | E01006985 | E01007019 | E01006974 | E01007038 | E01007102 |
| St. Ives | East Dorset | E01020393 | E01020415 | E01020393 | E01020380 | E01020396 | E01020426 |
| St. Ives | Penwith | E01018997 | E01018985 | E01018997 | E01019011 | E01019006 | E01018993 |
| Swanage | Purbeck | E01020485 | E01020470 | E01020471 | E01020470 | E01020490 | E01020492 |
| Thanet | Thanet | E01024676 | E01024635 | E01024682 | E01024642 | E01024703 | E01024655 |
| Torbay | Torbay | E01015217 | E01015208 | E01015266 | E01015271 | E01015190 | E01015211 |
| Weston-super-Mare | North Somerset | E01014832 | E01014850 | E01014831 | E01014766 | E01014766 | E01014816 |
| Weymouth | Weymouth and Portland | E01020554 | E01020560 | E01020552 | E01020558 | E01020569 | E01020588 |
| Whitby | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027814 | E01027874 | E01027855 | E01027857 | E01027871 |
| Whitley Bay | North Tyneside | E01008545 | E01008546 | E01008484 | E01008563 | E01008480 | E01008546 |
| Whitstable/Herne Bay | Canterbury | E01024092 | E01024056 | E01024047 | E01024131 | E01024054 | E01024115 |
| Worthing | Worthing | E01031790 | E01031824 | E01031819 | E01031803 | E01031832 | E01031797 |

| | | *Crime & Disorder* | | *Living Environment* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Town* | *LA name* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* | *Most deprived LSOA* | *Least deprived LSOA* |
| Blackpool | Blackpool | E01012736 | E01012662 | E01012673 | E01012722 |
| Bognor Regis | Arun | E01031454 | E01031458 | E01031427 | E01031383 |
| Bournemouth | Bournemouth | E01015367 | E01015315 | E01015279 | E01015315 |
| Bridlington | East Riding of Yorkshire | E01013000 | E01013122 | E01012948 | E01012939 |
| Brighton | Brighton and Hove | E01016952 | E01016998 | E01016952 | E01017008 |
| Burnham-on-Sea | Sedgemoor | E01029098 | E01029103 | E01029095 | E01029115 |
| Clacton | Tendring | E01021988 | E01022012 | E01021988 | E01022004 |
| Dawlish/Teignmouth | Teignbridge | E01020269 | E01020193 | E01020224 | E01020215 |
| Deal | Dover | E01024241 | E01024213 | E01024215 | E01024256 |
| Eastbourne | Eastbourne | E01020912 | E01020948 | E01020912 | E01020926 |
| Exmouth | East Devon | E01019918 | E01019897 | E01019916 | E01019905 |
| Falmouth | Carrick | E01018809 | E01018827 | E01018836 | E01018813 |
| Folkestone/Hythe | Shepway | E01024504 | E01024536 | E01024504 | E01024542 |
| Great Yarmouth | Great Yarmouth | E01026626 | E01026629 | E01026626 | E01026582 |
| Hastings/Bexhill | Hastings | E01020979 | E01020971 | E01020984 | E01020995 |
| Ilfracombe | North Devon | E01020113 | E01020107 | E01020112 | E01020085 |
| Isle of Wight | Isle of Wight | E01017336 | E01017298 | E01017340 | E01017352 |
| Lowestoft | Waveney | E01030258 | E01030245 | E01030250 | E01030239 |
| Minehead | West Somerset | E01029330 | E01029327 | E01029338 | E01029331 |

| Town | LA name | Crime & Disorder | | Living Environment | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA | Most deprived LSOA | Least deprived LSOA |
| Morecambe/Heysham | Lancaster | E01025139 | E01025160 | E01025117 | E01025158 |
| Newquay | Restormel | E01019029 | E01019045 | E01019056 | E01019018 |
| Penzance | Penwith | E01018999 | E01018975 | E01019012 | E01018983 |
| Scarborough | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027834 | E01027804 | E01027855 |
| Sidmouth | East Devon | E01019918 | E01019897 | E01019916 | E01019905 |
| Skegness | East Lindsey | E01026069 | E01026098 | E01026093 | E01026085 |
| Southend-on-Sea | Southend-on-Sea | E01015841 | E01015866 | E01015852 | E01015885 |
| Southport | Sefton | E01007051 | E01007093 | E01007003 | E01006991 |
| St. Ives | East Dorset | E01020392 | E01020378 | E01020396 | E01020374 |
| St. Ives | Penwith | E01018999 | E01018975 | E01019012 | E01018983 |
| Swanage | Purbeck | E01020472 | E01020491 | E01020490 | E01020470 |
| Thanet | Thanet | E01024676 | E01024644 | E01024676 | E01024637 |
| Torbay | Torbay | E01015267 | E01015251 | E01015231 | E01015226 |
| Weston-super-Mare | North Somerset | E01014801 | E01014793 | E01014802 | E01014793 |
| Weymouth | Weymouth and Portland | E01020554 | E01020559 | E01020554 | E01020560 |
| Whitby | Scarborough | E01027806 | E01027834 | E01027804 | E01027855 |
| Whitley Bay | North Tyneside | E01008584 | E01008518 | E01008572 | E01008551 |
| Whitstable/Herne Bay | Canterbury | E01024080 | E01024054 | E01024080 | E01024056 |
| Worthing | Worthing | E01031787 | E01031804 | E01031810 | E01031820 |

## Diabetes

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has carried out on the geographical distribution of people with *(a)* type 1 and *(b)* type 2 diabetes to enable effective allocation of resources for treatment to take place. [238484]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has not carried out any such research. It is for national health service organisations to commission diabetes services that meet the needs of their local populations and allocate to resources appropriately.

The Yorkshire and Humber Public Health Observatory has published the PBS Phase 3 Diabetes Prevalence Model, which provides diabetes prevalence estimates for all areas of England. This tool is available to the NHS to support them to undertake a needs assessment in their area and plan services accordingly.

## Diabetes: Children

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 16 years in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency and *(b)* Hertfordshire have type 1 diabetes. [239343]

**Ann Keen:** Data on the number of children under the age of 16 years with diabetes in Hemel Hempstead and Hertfordshire are not collected centrally.

At a national level, exact figures for the number of children diagnosed with and treated for diabetes are not available.

## Diabetes: Hertfordshire

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* type 1 and *(b)* type 2 diabetes were diagnosed in each primary care trust area in Hertfordshire in each of the last five years, broken down by age group. [238233]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not collected in the format requested. Information is available from 2004-05 from the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) about patients who are on diabetes disease registers, which is not the same as the number of people diagnosed with diabetes each year. This information does not distinguish between type 1 and type 2 diabetes, nor is it separated into different age groups.

The following table shows the number of patients aged 17 and over who were on diabetes disease registers in primary care trusts (PCTs) in Hertfordshire from 2004-05 to 2007-08.

*Number of patients on diabetes disease registers in Hertfordshire PCTs*

| PCT name | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dacorum PCT | 4,147 | 4,412 | n/a | n/a |
| Hertsmere PCT | 2,750 | 3,047 | n/a | n/a |
| North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT | 5,882 | 6,477 | n/a | n/a |
| Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford PCT | 2,181 | 2,335 | n/a | n/a |
| South East Hertfordshire PCT | 5,321 | 5,667 | n/a | n/a |
| St. Albans and Harpenden PCT | 3,422 | 3,647 | n/a | n/a |
| Watford and Three Rivers PCT | 5,163 | 5,497 | n/a | n/a |
| Welwyn Hatfield PCT | 3,051 | 3,302 | n/a | n/a |
| East and North Hertfordshire PCT | n/a | n/a | 18,244 | 19,437 |
| West Hertfordshire PCT | n/a | n/a | 17,035 | 18,174 |

n/a = Not applicable.

*Notes:*

1. East and North Hertfordshire PCT was created on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT, Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford PCT, South East Hertfordshire PCT and Welwyn Hatfield PCT.
2. West Hertfordshire PCT was created on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of Dacorum PCT, Hertsmere PCT, St. Albans and Harpenden PCT and Watford and Three Rivers PCT.
3. Patients will contribute to the QOF figures only if they are registered with a general practice participating in the QOF.
4. QOF data are collected annually and includes only people with diabetes aged 17 and over.
5. Figures are not available broken down into type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

*Source:*

Information Centre for health and social care

### Diabetes: Medical Equipment

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people who have insulin pumps; and how many insulin pumps are provided by the NHS every year; [238486]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people who are on a waiting list for insulin pumps. [238487]

**Ann Keen:** Data on the number of people using insulin pumps are not collected centrally. However, in its suite of guidance on continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion for the treatment of diabetes mellitus, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence estimates that the number of patients using insulin pumps in England could be up to 8,000.

Data on the number of people waiting for an insulin pump are not collected centrally. For those people with diabetes who have been identified by their healthcare professional as being suitable for insulin pump therapy, we would not expect there to be any unnecessary delays in the provision of insulin pumps.

### Diabetes: Nurses

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diabetic specialist nurses there are; and what the ratio of nurses to patients is. [238488]

**Ann Keen:** The annual national health service workforce census does not separately identify diabetes specialist nurses. It is therefore not possible to provide the ratio of diabetes specialist nurses to patients.

The Government have supported the development of a range of specialist roles within nursing. It is for local NHS organisations to invest in training for specialist skills and to deploy specialist nurses in accordance with their local needs.

### Diabetes: Pupils

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children of school age have been diagnosed with diabetes. [239810]

**Ann Keen:** Data for the number of children of school age diagnosed with diabetes are not available. However, estimates suggest there are an estimated 20,000 children with type 1 diabetes in England, and some experts suggest that there may also be up to 1,000 children with type 2 diabetes in England.

### Diabetes: Research

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department expects to spend on research into diabetes in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010, *(d)* 2011 and *(e)* 2012. [238485]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Expenditure on diabetes research from the Department's 2007-08 research and development budget amounted to some £29 million, and comparable Medical Research Council (MRC) expenditure in the same year to £22 million.

The usual practice of the Department's National Institute for Health Research and of the MRC is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. Future levels of expenditure on diabetes research will be determined by the success of relevant bids for funding.

### Dietary Supplements: EU Action

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the likelihood of achieving in European negotiations the Government's objectives for the setting of a maximum permitted levels of vitamins and mineral in food supplements; and what assessment he has made of the capacity of the Food Standards Agency to manage this process; [237909]

(2) what the likely future timetable is for the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals under the provisions of article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive; what consultations the Food Standards Agency will hold on any such proposed maximum permitted levels; and if he will take steps to ensure that hon. and right hon. Members are fully involved in consideration of those levels prior to their finalisation and adoption as national regulation; [237920]

(3) when he next plans to meet the European Commissioner for Health; what subjects he intends to raise at that meeting; if he will discuss with the Commissioner the implications for consumer choice within the UK of the setting of maximum permitted levels for nutrients in food supplements; and if he will make a statement. [237922]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The European Commission has indicated that it intends to publish proposals for minimum and maximum levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements in early 2009.

In the absence of proposals no formal assessment has been made of the likelihood of achieving the Government's objectives in European negotiations.

In the meantime, the Food Standards Agency has been holding bilateral meetings with its counterparts in other member states to promote the Government's objectives, in addition to promoting these objectives in working group meetings with the European Commission and other member states.

We have been advised by the Food Standards Agency that they have sufficient staff resource capacity to manage the process of setting maximum permitted levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements.

When the proposals for setting maximum levels are published, the Food Standards Agency will conduct a full consultation with United Kingdom stakeholders in line with the Government Code of Practice on Consultation. The Food Standards Agency will ensure that copies of the consultation documents are placed in the Libraries of the House to ensure that parliamentarians are aware of the consultation and can participate in the process.

There are no current plans for Health Ministers to meet the European Commissioner for Health to discuss matters relating to the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements.

### Disease Control: Meat Products

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the process if for raising the age limit for the over 30 months scheme; and what the Food Standards Agency's responsibilities are in this regard. [239528]

**Dawn Primarolo:** A European Commission Decision has been agreed that would permit the United Kingdom to raise the age above which cattle slaughtered for human consumption are tested for BSE from the current 30 months to 48 months. The Decision is expected to enter into force on 1 January 2009. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible for advising Government on whether or not any increase in the food-borne risk to UK consumers arising from the change in BSE testing age would be acceptable. Subject to favourable FSA advice and agreement by Health Ministers, implementation of this change in the UK is by an amendment to the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2008 and the equivalent devolved legislation.

### Drugs: Rehabilitation

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clients in structured drug treatment in each local authority area *(a)* had a child aged 16 years or under and *(b)* were living with a child aged 16 years or under in each of the last five years. [234728]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Although the data requested are collected, the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) have identified problems with the quality of these data and it believes that releasing these data in its current form would be misleading. The NTA are addressing these data quality issues and expect to publish these data, with an assessment of its quality, alongside their annual statistics release in October 2009.

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals have been discharged from treatment for drug misuse on the grounds that they completed treatment drug-free in England in 2007-08. [236693]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) records data from local drug services about clients in structured drug treatment and the treatment they receive.

Data for 2007-08 show that a record number of 35,411 individuals successfully completed drug treatment programmes. They were recorded in three categories: treatment completed (17,306), treatment completed drug-free (7,324), and referred on to other agencies after treatment (10,811).

However, the National Treatment Agency (NTA) has identified that treatment services have used a variety of interpretations on how they code the success of individuals completing and leaving the treatment system.

With my agreement from the NTA announced in October that a new more robust coding system will begin from April 2009 which will ensure all services return data to NDTMS in the same way.

Drug addiction is a chronic lapsing condition which requires treatment over an extended period, and in some cases it can take between five and seven years for drug users to be able to stay off illegal drugs without taking prescribed medicines.

Nevertheless, research indicates that remaining in drug treatment for at least 12 weeks has a lasting positive impact in reducing the harms associated with addiction. During 2007-08 a further 133,000 people were retained in structured drug treatment and therefore derived benefit from it.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds in drug rehabilitation units were available in each of the last five years. [239241]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott) on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 81-83W.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received prescriptions of *(a)* heroin and *(b)* heroin substitutes in each of the last five years; and how many were receiving a prescription for each at the latest date for which information is available. [239242]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not hold information on the number of patients treated with a particular drug. However we are able to provide two related sources of data, which are (1) the number of heroin prescriptions and (2) the number of people receiving specialist prescribing treatment for drug misuse.

Heroin (diamorphine hydrochloride) is used occasionally as an analgesic and as a cough suppressant. Substitute drugs are used in cases of opioid dependence, which will include heroin addiction as well as addiction to other drugs. Two drugs, buprenorphine and methadone hydrochloride are primarily used as substitutes in the treatment of opioid addiction, although these too have other uses.

The following table shows, for diamorphine hydrochloride, the number of items dispensed for all uses.

*Heroin (diamorphine hydrochloride)*

| *Calendar year* | *Total number of items (Thousand)* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 98.629 |
| 2004 | 102.899 |
| 2005 | 60.764 |
| 2006 | 65.609 |
| 2007 | 83.232 |

The following table shows, for heroin substitutes buprenorphine and methadone hydrochloride, the number of items dispensed for use in opioid dependence only.

*Heroin substitutes (buprenorphine and methadone hydrochloride)*

| | *Number of items (Thousand)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Calendar year* | *Buprenorphine Hydrochloride (use in opioid dependence only)* | *Methadone Hydrochloride (use in opioid dependence only)* | *Total* |
| 2003 | 310.648 | 1,521.472 | 1,832.120 |
| 2004 | 462.785 | 1,721.074 | 2,183.859 |
| 2005 | 532.736 | 1,954.659 | 2,487.395 |
| 2006 | 610.790 | 2,191.315 | 2,802.105 |
| 2007 | 620.962 | 2,406.723 | 3,027.685 |

Two other drugs are used in opioid dependence, lofexidine hydrochloride and naltrexone hydrochloride but these are not used as substitutes so figures for these have not been included.

The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse's (NTA) National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) has collected data on people in drug treatment in England since 2004-05.

NDTMS records numbers of people receiving specialist prescribing for drug treatment rather than the type of drug which is prescribed. Most of those in treatment receive oral methadone, but buprenorphine or other substitute opioids may also be prescribed. Although heroin (prescribed as diamorphine) is an option for the treatment of opiate misuse, it is appropriate for only a very small proportion of opiate misusers.

The number of people in England reported as receiving treatment in a specialist drug treatment prescribing service for each of the years since 2004-05 is set out as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 88,196 |
| 2005-06 | 107,093 |
| 2006-07 | 118,107 |
| 2007-08 | 131,468 |

*Note:*
These figures exclude non-drug specialist GPs who may also prescribe substitute opioids for drug misusers, but do not submit reports to the NDTMS.

**Extending Professional Regulation Working Group**

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Extending Professional Regulation Working Group to publish its final report. [238888]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Extending Professional Regulation Working Group will be finalising their report with a view to presenting findings to Ministers in December 2008. The final report will be published more widely thereafter.

**Gastrointestinal System: Cancer**

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 93W, on upper gastrointestinal cancer, on what basis he assesses the effectiveness of the Government's national cancer policy on *(a)* clinical outcomes, *(ii)* comparable mortality and (iii) other measurable outcomes. [235599]

**Ann Keen:** There is a range of measures used to assess the effectiveness of the Government's national cancer policy. These include cancer mortality rates. Cancer mortality in those aged under 75 fell by over 18 per cent. between 1996 and 2006.

They also include five-year survival rates. For example, the following table shows the information available in relation to five-year survival for cancer of the oesophagus, pancreas and stomach.

*Five year age-standardised relative survival (percentage) for adults in England diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus, pancreas and stomach (upper gastro-intestinal cancer) during 1998-2001 and 1999-2003 by sex*

| | | *Patients diagnosed 1998-2001* | | *Patients diagnosed 1999-2003* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Cancer* | *Sex* | *Number of patients* | *Five year relative survival (percentage)* | *Number of patients* | *Five year relative survival (percentage)* | *Difference* |
| Oesophagus | Male | 13,864 | 8.1 | 18,279 | 9.1 | +1.0 |
| | Female | 8,653 | 10.7 | 10,897 | 12.0 | +1.3 |
| Pancreas | Male | 9,547 | 2.5 | 12,417 | 2.6 | +0.1 |
| | Female | 9,925 | 2.2 | 13,031 | 2.7 | +0.5 |
| Stomach | Male | 19,162 | 12.6 | 23,033 | 13.3 | +0.7 |
| | Female | 10,296 | 15.4 | 12,308 | 15.9 | +0.5 |

*Source:*
Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Another source of relevant data is 30-day mortality rates. For example, in 1999-2000 the 30-day mortality percentage for all oesophageal cancer was 8.1 per cent. at specialist centres and 9.1 per cent. at non-specialist centres. By 2005-06 that had reduced to 4.3 per cent. for specialist centres and 5.9 per cent. in non specialist centres.

**General Practitioners: Pharmacy**

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of prescriptions in England were dispensed by GP surgeries in the last 12 months. [239561]

**Dawn Primarolo:** For the calendar year 2007, dispensing doctors accounted for 7 per cent. of all prescription items dispensed in the community in England. In addition, 2.2 per cent. of items were personally administered by prescribing doctors and dispensing doctors in the community.

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dispensing GP surgeries there are in England. [239562]

**Phil Hope:** As at March 2008 there were 5,664 dispensing doctors and 1,147 dispensing practices in England.

**Health Authorities: Finance**

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether voluntary sector organisations will be eligible for the new Strategic Health Authority innovation funds. [239578]

**Phil Hope:** The new strategic health authority innovation funds are intended to be accessed by the broadest range of organisations, bodies and individuals possible, working either in the national health service or in partnership with the NHS. This will include voluntary sector organisations.

### Health Professions: Training

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is given to NHS hospital trusts by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* deaneries and *(c)* the NHS on the protocols to be followed when clinicians under training examine patients. [239937]

**Dawn Primarolo:** There is no specific guidance on this for postgraduate trainee doctors.

### Health Services

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the roll-out of practice-based commissioning in *(a)* Norfolk, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* England; and if he will make a statement. [233805]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** As identified in the NHS Next Stage Review "Our Vision for Primary and Community Care", with some exceptions, practice-based commissioning (PBC) has not yet lived up to its full potential.

NHS Norfolk has plans in place for PBC services including the redesign and expansion of community continence clinics; community gynaecology clinics; an ambulatory ECG primary care service; and primary and intermediate aural care.

PBC in the east of England is bringing benefits to patients across the region. In every primary care trust in the region there are new or redesigned services in place as a result of PBC. For patients this means services are closer to home because practices now commission more services locally; gaps have been filled, for example therapy services are commissioned at practice level; and there is more choice, as alternative services are set up.

Momentum is beginning to gather nationally as the latest PBC survey results show. The number of practices across the country commissioning or providing new services through PBC continues to increase quarter on quarter—from 36 per cent. in November 2007, to 41 per cent. in March 2008 and 46 per cent. in August 2008.

PBC is the key route for world class commissioners to develop the effective clinical engagement and leadership necessary to drive improvements in service quality. The Next Stage Review underlines the importance of PBC as a driving force for innovation and improvement. It also set out a range of measures to strengthen PBC, demonstrating our commitment to ensuring that its enormous potential is fully realised.

### Health Services: Elderly

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of his Department's effectiveness in promoting innovation since the publication of the Wanless report. [237555]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In my noble Friend's, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State's report, High Quality Care for All, he made clear that innovation must be central to the national health service to ensure that new treatments, practices and services are readily available for patients. The Health Innovation Council was established, chaired by my noble Friend, and the Council advised on a number of initiatives which later became commitments to support and enable innovation.

In addition, work has been undertaken, and is still continuing, to promote the adoption of clinically and cost effective innovative medical technologies and medicines. The reports of the Health Care Industries Task Force (2004), Better health through partnership and of the Ministerial Industry Strategy Group's Long Term Leadership Strategy for Medicines (2007) made proposals in this respect. Both reports have been placed in the Library.

In line with Wanless' vision of integrated information and communication technologies (ICT) applications supporting and linking primary and secondary care and, in due course, also reaching into social care, the National Programme for IT has been a driver of NHS reform.

### Health Services: Ex-servicemen

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures he is using to assess improvement in the access to health services by war veterans. [234361]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect information specific to veterans' access to the national health service or on how many receive priority treatment.

By the end of December 2008, NHS patients in England can expect to start their consultant-led treatment within a maximum of 18 weeks from referral unless they choose to wait longer or it is clinically appropriate that they do so. This applies to all NHS patients including veterans living in England.

In addition to extending the priority treatment to all military veterans whose treatment is required as a result of their military service, over this past year the Department has taken forward pilots aimed at helping better to identify and treat veterans with mental health problems and ensure continuity of care for those discharged from military service with prosthetic limbs. The Department is currently working with the MOD on improving information on how veterans' health needs differ from those in the population more generally.

The current operating framework for the NHS makes clear the need to take account of the health needs of service families and veterans when commissioning services.

### Health Services: Foreigners

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the results of the 2004 consultation on his Department's proposals to exclude overseas visitors from eligibility to free NHS primary medical services; and if he will make a statement. [239176]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department will publish the responses it received to the consultation document "Proposals to Exclude Overseas Visitors from Eligibility to Free NHS Primary Medical Services", a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

However, given that over four years have elapsed since the consultation exercise, the Department is contacting all those who replied to ensure that they still have no objections to their comments being published. We will then publish the responses.

### Health Services: Schools

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what national targets are in place for the use by young people of in-school health care services; and what performance primary care trusts in Devon have achieved against these targets in the latest period for which information is available. [238410]

**Ann Keen:** There are no national targets for the use of in-school health care but the National Healthy School Programme has a target that by December 2009, all schools will be participating and 75 per cent. achieving Healthy School status. As of today, 97 per cent. of schools are participating and 68 per cent. have achieved status. In working towards status schools are encouraged to provide support services for children and young people both on site and in the wider community.

Devon currently has all of its schools participating and 83 per cent. of its schools having achieved Healthy School status.

### Herbal Medicine: EU Law

**Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of implementing the traditional herbal medicinal products directive; [237659]

(2) what discussions *(a)* have been held and *(b)* are planned between Ministers in his Department and representatives of the National Association of Health Stores to discuss the effect of the traditional herbal medicinal products directive; [237660]

(3) if he will seek a delay in the deadline for implementation of the traditional herbal medicinal products directive in light of the European Commission's review of the implementation of the Directive; [237661]

(4) what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the review by the European Commission of the implementation of the traditional herbal medicinal products directive. [237662]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The effects of the implementation in the United Kingdom of the traditional herbal registration scheme, introduced following the European directive on traditional herbal medicinal products, remain broadly as anticipated in the regulatory impact assessment prepared by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). As expected, there is a steadily expanding take up of the scheme by a wide range of companies.

Ministers have not met representatives of the National Association of Health Stores to discuss implementation of the directive. However, officials at the MHRA meet regularly with the Herbal Forum, a body representing trade associations covering manufacturers operating in the traditional herbal medicines sector, to discuss issues arising from the implementation of the directive.

The directive was agreed in 2004 and allowed a transitional period, until April 2011, for compliance with that legislation where products were legally on the market at April 2004. We have no plans to press the European Commission to bring forward legislative proposals to extend this seven-year transitional period.

The main conclusion of the recent review by the European Commission of the early operation of the directive is that there has been insufficient experience across the European Union to justify making substantive changes to most aspects of the legislation at this stage. During the course of the review, the MHRA, among others, had raised the case for greater flexibility to take account of evidence of traditional usage from outside Europe. We continue to believe that there is a case for change in this area. We also welcome the recognition in the review that there may be a case for extending the scope of the directive to certain other categories of traditional medicine where there is a long established pattern of safe use.

### Hospitals: Cleaning Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to the NHS on the frequency with which different parts of hospitals should be cleaned in the last five years. [228273]

**Ann Keen:** Locally determined cleaning frequencies are key to trusts meeting the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections (a copy of which has been placed in the Library.), identifying the resources needed to keep hospitals clean and demonstrating to the Healthcare Commission that those resources are sufficient.

The first set of recommended minimum cleaning frequencies was set out in Revised Guidance on Contracting for Cleaning, published by the then NHS Estates Agency in December 2004. A copy has been placed in the Library. This best practice document was designed to assist the National Health Service in ensuring that contracts for cleaning were driven by quality rather than price.

The existing minimum recommended cleaning frequencies are set out in the national specifications for cleanliness in the NHS: a framework for setting and measuring performance outcomes (a copy of which has been placed in the Library). This document was published in updated form by the National Patient Safety Agency in April 2007. Minimum recommended cleaning frequencies have been provided in specimen form to help trusts produce their own frequencies specific for their own needs. A single national set of cleaning frequencies would be inappropriate since it could not meet every NHS organisation's needs.

### Hospitals: Crimes of Violence

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals with accident and emergency departments provide anonymised data to their local *(a)* police and *(b)* crime and disorder reduction partnership to assist them to identify violence hot spots. [238568]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile infection in hospitals was in each region in England in each financial year since 1997-98 for which figures are available. [238905]

**Ann Keen:** The best available data from the mandatory surveillance schemes for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) blood stream infections and Clostridium difficile (*C. difficile*) infection are shown in the following tables.

The data for MRSA bloodstream infections are regional six-monthly rates per 10,000 bed days for the period April 2001 to March 2008. The data for *C. difficile* infection are regional rates in patients aged 65 years and over per 1,000 bed days by calendar year for the period January 2004 to December 2007.

Before 2001 and 2004 when the mandatory schemes for MRSA and *C. difficile* respectively began, data collection was voluntary and incomplete.

*Regional distribution of MRSA (bacteraemia) bloodstream infection rates, April 2001 to March 2008*

| | Six-monthly MRSA bacteraemia rate per 10,000 bed-days | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HPA region | Apr 2001 to Sept 2001 | Oct 2001 to Mar 2002 | Apr 2002 to Sept 2002 | Oct 2002 to Mar 2003 | Apr 2003 to Sept 2003 | Oct 2003 to Mar 2004 | Apr 2004 to Sept 2004 | Oct 2004 to Mar 2005 | Apr 2005 to Sept 2005 | Oct 2005 to Mar 2006 | Apr 2006 to Sept 2006 | Oct 2006 to Mar 2007 | Apr 2007 to Sept 2007 | Oct 2007 to Mar 2008 |
| East Midlands | 2.01 | 2.00 | 1.77 | 1.88 | 1.90 | 1.93 | 1.72 | 1.60 | 1.56 | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.31 | 1.05 | 0.82 |
| East of England | 2.10 | 2.20 | 2.02 | 2.05 | 1.78 | 2.12 | 2.06 | 2.07 | 1.98 | 1.88 | 1.59 | 1.42 | 1.08 | 0.80 |
| London | 2.79 | 2.94 | 2.94 | 3.11 | 2.91 | 3.06 | 2.38 | 2.55 | 2.40 | 2.28 | 2.20 | 2.09 | 1.57 | 1.34 |
| North East | 1.33 | 1.68 | 1.48 | 1.67 | 1.45 | 1.77 | 1.51 | 1.47 | 1.55 | 1.58 | 1.53 | 1.52 | 1.39 | 1.11 |
| North West | 1.41 | 1.32 | 1.42 | 1.53 | 1.30 | 1.58 | 1.54 | 1.67 | 1.63 | 1.62 | 1.59 | 1.37 | 1.09 | 1.01 |
| South East | 2.08 | 1.90 | 2.00 | 2.07 | 2.08 | 2.18 | 2.11 | 2.00 | 2.14 | 2.14 | 2.09 | 1.72 | 1.30 | 1.09 |
| South West | 1.76 | 1.93 | 1.86 | 1.99 | 1.87 | 2.01 | 1.80 | 1.76 | 1.77 | 1.90 | 1.79 | 1.54 | 1.31 | 1.08 |
| West Midlands | 2.08 | 1.90 | 2.02 | 2.24 | 2.48 | 2.14 | 2.12 | 2.38 | 2.20 | 2.31 | 2.18 | 1.82 | 1.37 | 1.30 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 1.64 | 1.76 | 1.59 | 1.57 | 1.75 | 2.02 | 1.67 | 1.90 | 1.67 | 1.43 | 1.50 | 1.41 | 1.25 | 1.19 |

Notes:
1. Data are provisional as they may be updated in year.
2. Relates to patients ages 65 years and over.

Source:
Health Protection Agency
Data as published in the Surveillance of Healthcare Associated Infections Report: 2008. Available at:
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&/de/HPAweb_C/1216193833496

*Regional distribution of C. difficile infection rates, January 2004 to December 2007*

| | Calendar year rate of C. difficile infection per 1000 bed days | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| HPA region | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| East Midlands | 1.41 | 2.20 | 3.18 | 2.21 |
| East of England | 2.20 | 2.51 | 2.97 | 2.70 |
| London | 1.83 | 2.20 | 2.31 | 2.01 |
| North East | 1.46 | 1.75 | 1.97 | 2.10 |
| North West | 1.32 | 1.60 | 1.97 | 2.24 |
| South East | 2.15 | 2.43 | 2.69 | 2.23 |
| South West | 2.14 | 2.70 | 2.64 | 2.35 |
| West Midlands | 2.31 | 2.54 | 3.11 | 2.74 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 1.51 | 1.62 | 1.75 | 1.75 |

Notes:
1. Data are provisional as they may be updated in year.
2. Relates to patients ages 65 years and over.

Source:
Health Protection Agency
Data as published in the Surveillance of Healthcare Associated Infections Report: 2008. Available at:
http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&/de/HPAweb_C/1216193833496

## Hospitals: Telephone Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the unit cost of *(a)* making and *(b)* receiving phone calls on (i) adult and (ii) children's wards in NHS hospitals. [238895]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Around 84,000 patients have access to their own bedside telephone. Private companies install and manage the service, therefore it is provided free to the national health service.

The cost of the outgoing call, from the bedside telephone, is 10 pence per minute. The incoming call charge ranges from 20 pence to 50 pence, depending upon which company is providing the service.

These charges apply to both adult and children's wards.

Other options exist for people not wishing to use the bedside telephone systems. These include the traditional payphones and hospital switchboard facilities, which ensure friends and relatives can be kept up to date on the patient's progress.

Mobile phones can also be used in certain areas of the hospital.

Individual NHS trusts are responsible for running the payphones and switchboard facilities in their hospitals. Therefore, the cost of these calls varies according to local arrangements.

## Incinerators: Health Hazards

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on the health effects of incinerators on people in the locality. [238581]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Advice has been sought from the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC) on the possible health effects populations living in the vicinity of incinerators, based on research carried out by the Small Area Health Statistics Unit (SAHSU). This unit is based at Imperial College and is funded by the Department.

In 2000, the COC reviewed a large study by SAHSU that examined 14 million people living within 7.5 km of 72 municipal solid waste incinerators, which operated up to 1987. The Committee concluded that, 'any potential risk of cancer due to residency, for periods in excess of 10 years, near to municipal solid waste incinerators was exceedingly low and probably not measurable by the most modern techniques'. The COC issued a statement on this, a copy has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.iacic.org.uk/statements/
Municipalsolidwasteincineratorscoc00march2000.htm

In July and November this year, the COC reviewed the results of more recent studies from the scientific literature, which have investigated rates of cancer in people living near municipal solid waste incinerators. A COC statement is being prepared and will be published shortly.

### Incontinence: Medical Equipment

**Mr. Syms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many letters which mentioned intermittent catheters his Department has received in response to its latest consultation on the proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances and related services in primary care specifically; and if he will make a statement; [238701]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the possibility of extending the prescription fee that pharmacists currently receive to dispensing appliance contractors of intermittent catheters in the proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff; and if he will make a statement. [238702]

**Phil Hope:** The consultation period for the latest consultation, "Proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in Primary Care. June 2008", ran from 9 June to 9 September 2008. The Department received 604 pieces of correspondence, letters and emails regarding the consultation. It is not possible to identify how many of these specifically mentioned intermittent catheters.

In the latest consultation it was proposed that in the normal course of their business, both dispensing appliance contractors and pharmacy contractors should dispense Part IX prescription items as an essential service as part of their terms of service. It was also proposed that they should receive a 90p professional dispensing fee for each Part IX prescription item dispensed for providing this service.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when a full summary of responses to the consultation on the review of Part IX of the Drug Tariff will be made available. [239177]

**Phil Hope:** A summary of responses to the consultation entitled "Proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in Primary Care (June 2008)" will be placed on the Department's website once we are in a position to provide not only a summary of responses but also a clear indication of the next steps. The intention is to make the documentation as meaningful as possible for all parties. A summary of responses will be published as soon as is practical.

**Mrs. Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he made of the British Healthcare Trades Association's response to the Government's consultation on the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances under Part IX of the Drug Tariff. [239264]

**Phil Hope:** The Department received 85 formal responses to the Part IX consultation that closed on 9 September 2008. Among these was a comprehensive response from the British Healthcare Trades Association. We are most grateful to them for taking the time to respond.

All responses are being analysed and will help to inform any policy decisions regarding the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in primary care.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the weight of an average monthly supply of intermittent catheters for a patient; and if he will make a statement. [239085]

**Phil Hope:** As patients and patient needs and lifestyles vary significantly, it is not possible to quantify the weight of an "average" monthly supply of intermittent catheters. The factors that influence the response are the number of catheters used per month and the type of catheter used.

### Injuries: Fireworks

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of injuries caused by fireworks in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [232746]

**Phil Hope:** In 2006-07, hospital episode statistics show that the number of episodes where the external cause code was W39 (discharge of firework) was 144 finished consultant episode and 142 finished admission episodes.

These data are published at:

www.hesonline.nhs.uk.

These figures relate only to patients admitted to hospital rather than the majority of injuries which are dealt with at accident and emergency (A&E) as outpatients. Dates relating to A&E attendances where injuries were caused by fireworks are not collected centrally.

### Mass Media

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which keywords or terms his Department has monitored in the media in each of the last three years. [239722]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department's Media Centre has employed EDS Media to provide daily cuttings from the national press since July 2007. The keywords that are used to compile the cuttings are revised on a regular basis to reflect changes in departmental policy and in the ministerial team.

The following is a list of the keywords used by EDS Media as of 25 November 2008.

A&E
Abortion
Agenda for Change (OICW NHS)
AIDS
Alan Johnson (Secretary of State)
Alcohol ICW Health (MSS)
Allied Health Professionals
Ambulances
Ann Keen
Barry Cockcroft (Chief Dental Officer)
Ben Bradshaw
Binge drinking ICW Health (MSS)
Biotechnology
Bird Flu
Bournewood (all mentions)
British Dental Association/BDA (all mentions)
British Medical Association (BMA)
Bureaucracy (MSS—OICW health)
Cancer
Cancer Research UK/CRUK (all mentions)
Cardiac/heart
Care homes (NPM)
C. Difficile
Chief Medical Officer Liam Donaldson
Chief Nursing Officer Chris Beasley
Children's health (NPM)
Children's hospices
Chimerism
Chlamydia
Choice
Choose & Book
Chronic diseases (all mentions)
Clinical negligence
Commission for Social Care Inspection
Commissioning
Community hospitals
Complementary therapy
Connecting for Health
Consultants (OICW Health)
David Behan
David Nicholson
David Salisbury (Director of Immunisation at the Department of Health)—All mentions
Dawn Primarolo
Dentists
Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Diabetes
Diabetes UK (all mentions)
Diet (OICW Health)
Dignity
Dignity in care
Doctors (MSS)
Donal O'Donaghue (all mentions)
Drugs
DVT
Egg donors
Emergency care
Emergency preparedness
Employment ICW regulation (OICW Medical/health sector)
Euthanasia
Fiona Adshead (Deputy Chief Medical Officer)
Flu
Fluoridation
Fluoridation (OICW health)
Foot and Mouth
Foundation hospitals
Fuel Poverty
General Dental Council/GDC (all mentions)
Genetics
Gonorrhea
GP contract
GPs (MSS)
Gwyneth Lewis
H5N1
Health Protection Agency/HPA (all mentions)
Health tourism/tourists
Healthcare Commission (all mentions)
Heatwave ICW Health (MSS)
Hepatitis B
Hepatitis C
HIV
Home Oxygen Service
Hospital chaplaincy (all mentions)
Hospital food
Hospitals
HPV
Hugh Taylor
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority/HFEA
Human Tissue Authority/HTA (All mentions)
Hybrids
ICATs
Immunisation
Independent sector
iSoft
ISTCs (NPM)
IVF (MSS)
Learning disabilities (NPM)
Lindsey Davies (National Director of Pandemic Influenza)—MSS
Long-term conditions
Long-term care (NPM)
Lord Ara Darzi
Louis Appleby (all mentions)
Marie Curie Cancer Care (all mentions)
Maternity (NPM)
Medical Research
Mental capacity
Mental health
Mental Health Bill
MHRA
Midwives
Mike Richards (all mentions)

Mixed sex accommodation (all mentions)
Mixed sex wards (all mentions)
Mobile Phones ICW Health (MSS)
Modernising Medical Careers
MRSA (NPM)
National Institute for Innovation and Improvement
National Patient Safety Agency
National Programme for IT
NHS/hospital Managers (MSS)
NHS Direct
NHS Estates
NHS IT
NHS LIFT
NHS PASA
NHS Walk-in Centres
NICE
Nurses (MSS)
Nutrition (OICW Health)
Obesity (OICW Health)
Occupational health
Organ Donation
Out of hours services
Pandemic Flu
Pathology
Patient information (all mentions)
Patient safety
Pesticides
PFI (NPM—ICW NHS/Health)
Pharmaceutical industry
Pharmacists
Phil Hope MP
Physical disabilities (NPM)
Postcode lottery (all mentions)
Practice Based Commissioning
Prescription charges
Primary Care (NPM)
Primary Care Trusts (NPM)
Prison health
Privatisation (MSS—OICW Health)
R&D
Race equality (OICW health sector)
Regulatory Authority for Tissues and Embryos/RATE (All mentions)
Renal/kidneys
Right to die
Roger Boyle (all mentions)
Seasonal Flu
Secondary care
Sexual Health
Sheila Shribman
Smoking (OICW Health)
Smoking ban (OICW Health)
Social care/funding (NPM)
Sperm donors
STDs
STIs
Strategic Health Authorities (NPM)
Syphilis
TB
Teeth (OICW health)
Therapists
Tobacco (OICW Health)
Tobacco advertising
Treatment centres (NPM)
vCJD
Workforce (OICW Health)
Working Time Directive (NPM—OICW Health)

General articles about the civil service and Whitehall as well as general articles on Government and politics that may mention NHS and health among other round ups of Government policy and issues, should also include any political or diary pieces about Health Ministers and senior civil servants.

*Key to abbreviations:*

NPM: no passing mention
ICW: in connection with
OICW: only in connection with
MSS: major significant stories

Before July 2007, national press cuttings were provided by Durrants, whose contract covered the previous two years. As follows is the list of keywords used, this version is from 8 March 2007.

18 Weeks
A&E services
Abortion
AIDS/HIV
Alcohol abuse
Alternative medicine
Ambulances
Ancillary staff
Andy Burnham
Bed-blocking
Blood
Breastfeeding
Cancer
Cancer research
Care homes
Caroline Flint
Centre for Applied Microbiological Research
CHAI
Chief Medical Officer
Child day care
Child protection
Children's act
Children's services
Clinical negligence
Commission for Healthcare Audit and Improvement
Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection
Commission for Patient and Public Involvement
Commission For Social Care Inspection
Committee for the Safety of Medicines
Communicable diseases
Community care
Consultants
Control and restraint issues
Coronary heart disease
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence
Council for the Regulation of Health Care Professionals
CRHP

CSCI
Dangerous pathogens
Delayed discharge
Dentists
Department of Health
Diabetes
Diagnosis and treatment centres
Disabled people
DOH
Domiciliary care
Drug misuse
Drug users
DTCs
Elderly care
Emergency care
Employment of children
Ethnic minorities
European Health Insurance Card
Euthanasia
Family planning
Family practitioners
Food hazards
Food hygiene
Food poisoning
Foundation hospitals
Gene therapy
General Social Care Council
Genetics
GPs
Health and Politics
Health Development Agency
Health issues
Health Protection Agency
Hepatitis
HISS
Hospital Acquired Infection
Hospital cleanliness
Hospital food
Hospital Information Support Systems
Hospitals
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority
Human Genetics Commission
Immunisation
Infection control
Infertility
Ivan Lewis
IVF
Junior doctors
Learning disabilities
Long-Term Care
Lord Hunt
Lord Warner
Maternity
Medical and dental workforce
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
Mental Health
Mental Health Act Commission
Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus*
MHRA
Microbiological Safety of Foods
Minister of State for Health
Mobile Phones and Health
MRSA
National Care Standards Commission
National Clinical Assessment Authority
National DNA Database
National Health Service
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
National Patient Safety Agency
National Radiological Protection Board
NCAA
NCSC
NHS
NHS Appointments Commission
NHS Direct
NHS Estates
NHS Foundation Trusts
NHS LIFT
NHS Pay
NHS Performance Indicators
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency
NHS University
NHSU
NICE
Non-medical Workforce
Notifiable Diseases
NPSA
NRPB
Nursing Homes
Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting
Nutrition
Obesity
Occupational health
Ophthalmic services
Organ donation
Palliative care
Patient Advocacy Liaison Services
Patricia Hewitt
PCT
PHLS
PPA
Prescription Charges
Prescription Pricing Authority
Primary Care Trusts
Private Financing Initiative
Professions Allied to Medicine
Public Health Laboratory Service
QC
Registered homes
Residential care
Rosie Winterton
Secure accommodation
Sexual health
Sexually transmitted infections
SHA
Shipman Inquiry
Sir Liam Donaldson
Smoking

Social care
Social services
Social work
Strategic Health Authority
Teenage pregnancies
Tuberculosis
UK transplant
Vaccination
Victoria Climbié Inquiry
Viruses
Voluntary children's homes
Youth treatment services

Cuttings from the regional press are provided by TNS Media Intelligence. The following is a list of the keywords that are used by TNS Media Intelligence as of 25 November 2008.

NHS
Alan Johnson
Dentist
Dentists
MRSA
Cdiff
NHS and cuts
Ben Bradshaw
Dawn Primarolo
Phil Hope
Anne Keen
Ara Darzi
Lord Ara Darzi
Lord Darzi
NHS and reconfiguration
Department of Health
Cdifficile
Superbug
GP
Healthcare

The lists of keywords are used by the press cuttings agencies to electronically search through press articles, before the articles are checked by hand to make sure that non-relevant articles are not included.

## Maternity Services

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of progress towards implementation of the national choice guarantee for maternity services. [238540]

**Ann Keen:** The NHS Operating Framework for 2007-08 (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library) stated that this was a preparatory year for primary care trusts (PCTs) to undertake a needs assessment and to make plans for meeting the maternity commitment by the end of 2009. It is for strategic health authorities to monitor the performance of PCTs.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data will be gathered through the National Maternity Services Dataset; and if he will make a statement. [238543]

**Ann Keen:** A draft version of the National Maternity Services Dataset has been placed in the Library and can also be found at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/services/datasets/document-downloads/maternity

Work is ongoing in developing the final version which will be published in due course.

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 834W, on maternity services, what correspondence his Department has had with primary care trusts on the additional sums to be made available for maternity care in the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 since the publication of the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09. [238706]

**Phil Hope:** This funding has been the subject of discussion between the Department of Health and strategic health authorities, but there has been no official correspondence between the Department and PCTs on the additional sums to be made available for maternity care in the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 since the publication of the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09.

However, David Flory, NHS Director General of Finance, Performance and Operations at the Department wrote to strategic health authority (SHA) Chief Executives on 22 August 2008 following publication of the Healthcare Commission's review of maternity services on 10 July 2008. This set out the expectations that SHA Chief Executives should monitor implementation of action plans in the trusts that were performing least well on maternity services.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered neonatal nurses there are in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* nationwide. [239350]

**Ann Keen:** The annual NHS workforce census does not separately identify neonatal nurses. The Government have supported the development of a range of specialist roles within nursing. It is for local national health service organisations to invest in training for specialist skills and to deploy specialist nurses in accordance with their local needs.

The number of qualified paediatric nurses, which includes neonatal nurses and other nurses involved in the care of children, is shown for Hertfordshire and England in the following table:

*NHS hospital and community health services: qualified paediatric nurses in England, the east of England strategic health authority area and each specified organisation as at 30 September 2007*

| | Headcount Number of qualified paediatric nurses |
|---|---|
| England | 18,923 |
| *Of which* | |
| East of England strategic health authority area | 1,240 |
| *Of which* | |
| West Hertfordshire PCT | 42 |

*NHS hospital and community health services: qualified paediatric nurses in England, the east of England strategic health authority area and each specified organisation as at 30 September 2007*

| | Headcount Number of qualified paediatric nurses |
|---|---|
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 58 |

*Note:*
The numbers of paediatric nurses for Hemel Hempstead and the United Kingdom are not available.
*Source:*
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

### Medical Insurance Scheme

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what medical insurance scheme benefits are offered through *(a)* the NHS Graduate Training Scheme and *(b)* the Gateway to Leadership programme; what estimate he has made of the cost of providing these benefits in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [236957]

**Ann Keen:** There are no medical insurance scheme benefits offered through the NHS Graduate Training Scheme or the Gateway to Leadership programme.

### Medical Treatments

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost of full implementation of guidance from the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence on *(a)* drug and alcohol treatment and services and *(b)* access to psychological therapies over the next 10 years. [237168]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) develops costing tools to support implementation of its guidance in the national health service. The costing tools estimate the cost to implement NICE's recommendations and are published alongside final guidance on NICE'S website.

### Mental Health Services

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* capital cost and *(b)* annual running cost of providing an additional place in the (a) secure and (b) semi-secure mental health estate; and if he will make a statement; [239821]

(2) what his plans are for the future number of places to be provided in the *(a)* secure and *(b)* semi-secure mental health estate; and if he will make a statement; [239822]

(3) what the average cost of keeping a person in a *(a)* secure and *(b)* semi-secure place in mental health accommodation for (i) a week and (ii) a year was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [239823]

(4) how many *(a)* secure and *(b)* semi-secure places in mental health accommodation there were in each of the last 10 years. [239824]

**Phil Hope:** Secure mental health services are defined as high, medium and low secure. Arrangements for each of those levels of security differ.

High secure services fall within the statutory responsibility of the Secretary of State for Health. These services are overseen by a national oversight group and a ministerial 'line of sight' responsibility is exercised through dedicated performance managers in local strategic health authorities. Commissioning of high secure services sits with a national high secure commissioning team, accountable to the national commissioning group and reporting to the national oversight group.

Because of the special arrangements in place for high security, the Secretary of State has access to high level information relating to bed capacity and key aspects of performance. High secure services are currently operating to a five-year capacity plan commissioning approximately 780 beds nationally. The service level agreement value for 2006-07 was £218,817,000. A further five-year capacity review for beyond 2010-11 is currently being commissioned.

Medium secure services are commissioned and performance managed at a local level by the NHS, predominantly through specialised commissioning groups.

Because NHS commissioners are responsible for forecasting future demand and procuring it in the most effective way, information on capital and annual running costs of services is held locally by commissioners and not collected nationally. The national reference cost reported for 2006-07 for medium secure mental health units was £453.00 per bed day.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the hon. Member for Bury, South (Mr. Lewis) to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott) vol. 474, columns 1220-22W, for information on historic bed numbers in NHS secure units.

### Midwives

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1461-62W, on midwives, what the average national benchmark price for the tuition fee of a student midwife was in each academic year since 1997-98. [238538]

**Ann Keen:** The National Benchmark Prices for student midwives for each year since their implementation in 2005-06 are provided in the following table:

| | £ Midwifery diploma | £ Midwifery degree |
|---|---|---|
| *2005-06* | | |
| Standard | 7,450 | 7,450 |
| Outer London | 7,823 | 7,823 |
| Inner London | 8,046 | 8,046 |
| Average | 7,773 | 7,773 |
| *2006-07* | | |
| Standard | 7,632 | 7,632 |
| Outer London | 8,013 | 8,013 |
| Inner London | 8,242 | 8,242 |
| Average | 7,962 | 7,962 |
| *2007-08* | | |
| Standard | 7,838 | 7,838 |
| Outer London | 8,230 | 8,230 |
| Inner London | 8,465 | 8,465 |

£

| | Midwifery diploma | Midwifery degree |
|---|---|---|
| Average | 8,178 | 8,178 |
| *1 April 2008-09* | | |
| Standard | 8,049 | 8,049 |
| Outer London | 8,452 | 8,452 |
| Inner London | 8,693 | 8,693 |
| Average | 8,398 | 8,398 |
| *1 September 2008-09* | | |
| Standard | 8,363 | 8,363 |
| Outer London | 8,782 | 8,782 |
| Inner London | 9,032 | 9,032 |
| Average | 8,726 | 8,726 |

## Myodil

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will hold discussions with the World Health Organisation and the European Union on the continued use of Myodil overseas following its withdrawal from UK markets. [236794]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The withdrawal of Myodil from the United Kingdom market for commercial reasons in 1987 predated the start of the current European Union system of drug regulation. As the decision to withdraw was a commercial one made by the manufacturer there would have been no reason to hold discussions with EU member states or the World Health Organisation.

There is currently an EU network of drug safety monitoring and close interactions with all EU member states on matters of medicines safety. The forum for discussions on issues of drug safety is the monthly meeting of the Pharmacovigilance Working Party (PhVWP) of the Committee for Medicinal products for Human Use (CHMP) held at the European Medicines Agency. The PhVWP has representation from all EU member states and any delegate can add issues to the agenda for discussion. The PhVWP also has links with the World Health Organisation. Any proposed withdrawal of a medicine for safety reasons is discussed at the PhVWP or the CHMP to ensure a consistent EU-wide approach.

## National Treatment Agency: Finance

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated to drug action teams through the National Treatment Agency in 2007-08; how much has been allocated for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [239494]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department of Health and the Home Office have provided specific resources for drug treatment since 2001 in the form of the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB), with £398 million of funding provided in 2007-08 and 2008-09. In May 2007, the Ministry of Justice assumed responsibility for the element which had been the Home Office contribution. Mainstream resources are used by local partnerships in addition to the PTB to fund drug treatment services.

The following table shows the PTB allocations by local drug partnership areas for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

| | | Total PTB | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Region | Partnership | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
| London | Barking and Dagenham | 1,798,486 | 1,704,943 |
| London | Barnet | 2,030,341 | 1,981,104 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Barnsley | 1,80,9647 | 1,844,374 |
| South West | Bath and North East Somerset | 894,048 | 1,025,717 |
| East of England | Bedfordshire | 1,952,738 | 1,934,529 |
| London | Bexley | 1,232,202 | 1,161,720 |
| West Midlands | Birmingham | 1,3465523 | 13263461 |
| North West | Blackburn with Darwen | 1,457,838 | 1,528,621 |
| North West | Blackpool | 1,563,214 | 1,738,409 |
| North West | Bolton | 2,384,004 | 2,546,002 |
| South West | Bournemouth | 1,638,972 | 1,750,508 |
| South East | Bracknell Forest | 449,022 | 435,559 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Bradford | 5,004,166 | 5,277,725 |
| London | Brent | 3,482,716 | 3,350,733 |
| South East | Brighton and Hove | 2,612,887 | 2,662,613 |
| South West | Bristol | 4,952,734 | 5,554,263 |
| London | Bromley | 1,583,951 | 1,585,411 |
| South East | Buckinghamshire | 1,927,635 | 1,892,364 |
| North West | Bury | 1,044,545 | 1,105,436 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Calderdale | 1,531,977 | 1,583,113 |
| East of England | Cambridgeshire | 2,766,971 | 2,738,666 |
| London | Camden | 4,134,704 | 4,172,380 |
| North West | Cheshire | 3,435,076 | 3,567,507 |
| London | City of London | 65,529 | 66,599 |
| South West | Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | 3,173,057 | 3,111,665 |
| North East | County Durham | 3,879,177 | 3,786,491 |
| West Midlands | Coventry | 2,863,506 | 2,774,953 |
| London | Croydon | 2,784,077 | 2,634,727 |
| North West | Cumbria | 2,996,594 | 2,997,092 |
| North East | Darlington | 909,455 | 925,698 |
| East Midlands | Derby | 2,211,665 | 2,270,039 |
| East Midlands | Derbyshire | 4,266,453 | 4,246,623 |
| South West | Devon | 3,382,081 | 3,332,291 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Doncaster | 2,651,147 | 2,780,568 |
| South West | Dorset | 1,518,162 | 1,636,747 |
| West Midlands | Dudley | 2,369,591j | 2,320,092 |
| London | Ealing | 3,341,538 | 3,337,064 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | East Riding of Yorkshire | 1,647,842 | 1,582,720 |
| South East | East Sussex | 2,316,997 | 2,331,724 |
| London | Enfield | 2,561,417 | 2,418,010 |
| East of England | Essex | 6,076,954 | 5,900,775 |
| North East | Gateshead | 1,732,323 | 1,780,445 |
| South West | Gloucestershire | 3,315,040 | 3,485,781 |
| London | Greenwich | 3,160,200 | 2,983,014 |
| London | Hackney | 4,816,215 | 4,628,565 |
| North West | Halton | 1,338,090 | 1,376,470 |
| London | Hammersmith and Fulham | 2,786,867 | 2,957,320 |
| South East | Hampshire | 5,347,034 | 5,185,047 |
| London | Haringey | 3,877,183 | 3,687,146 |
| London | Harrow | 1,252,958 | 1,250,558 |
| North East | Hartlepool | 1,037,418 | 1,074,097 |
| London | Havering | 1,168,404 | 1,101,534 |
| West Midlands | Herefordshire | 897,335 | 944,457 |
| East of England | Hertfordshire | 5,381,279 | 5,3171,25 |

| Region | Partnership | Total PTB 2007-08 | Total PTB 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|
| London | Hillingdon | 1,520,031 | 1,495,565 |
| London | Hounslow | 1,77,4996 | 1,827,655 |
| South East | Isle of Wight | 995,721 | 983,959 |
| London | Islington | 4,604,297 | 4,521,631 |
| London | Kensington and Chelsea | 2,834,796 | 2,883,389 |
| South East | Kent | 7,27,7433 | 6,933,199 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Kingston Upon Hull | 3,812,875 | 3,934,466 |
| London | Kingston upon Thames | 1,018,331 | 1,0130,32 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Kirklees | 3,000,538 | 3,077,498 |
| North West | Knowsley | 2,420,633 | 2,355,125 |
| London | Lambeth | 6,049,960 | 5,806,663 |
| North West | Lancashire | 7,088,868 | 7,336,048 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Leeds | 6,766,633 | 6,892,500 |
| East Midlands | Leicester | 3,478,183 | 3,380,475 |
| East Midlands | Leicestershire | 2,668,832 | 2,651,921 |
| London | Lewisham | 4,349,768 | 4,098,671 |
| East Midlands | Lincolnshire | 3,518,628 | 3,480,297 |
| North West | Liverpool | 7,825,875 | 7,817,306 |
| East of England | Luton | 1,785,568 | 1804726 |
| North West | Manchester | 7,556,640 | 7,536,206 |
| South East | Medway towns | 1,749,625 | 1,696,344 |
| London | Merton | 1,458,222 | 1,439,924 |
| North East | Middlesbrough | 2,285,164 | 2,365,813 |
| South East | Milton Keynes | 1,359,688 | 1,303,586 |
| North East | Newcastle upon Tyne | 3,309,700 | 3,248,203 |
| London | Newham | 5,478,257 | 5,176,580 |
| East of England | Norfolk | 4,698,613 | 4,719,359 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | North East Lincolnshire | 1,776,031 | 1,818,138 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | North Lincolnshire | 1,176,137 | 1,246,499 |
| South West | North Somerset | 932,046 | 1,013,525 |
| North East | North Tyneside | 1,705,348 | 1,646,889 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | North Yorkshire | 2,908,044 | 2,984,372 |
| East Midlands | Northamptonshire | 3,699,378 | 3,788,840 |
| North East | Northumberland | 2,090,038 | 2,018,738 |
| East Midlands | Nottingham | 4,059,481 | 4,020,672 |
| East Midlands | Nottinghamshire | 4,690,491 | 4,741,340 |
| North West | Oldham | 1,821,632 | 1,853,864 |
| South East | Oxfordshire | 3,862,034 | 3,861,067 |
| East of England | Peterborough | 1,501,525 | 1,561,437 |
| South West | Plymouth | 2,155,084 | 2,232,392 |
| South West | Poole | 746,687 | 767,341 |
| South East | Portsmouth | 1,615,370 | 1,597,575 |
| South East | Reading | 1,2749,78 | 1,300,023 |
| London | Redbridge | 1,798,210 | 1,711,307 |
| North East | Redcar and Cleveland | 1,463,142 | 1,429,038 |
| London | Richmond upon Thames | 1,156,343 | 1,192,005 |
| North West | Rochdale | 1,9185,97 | 2,039,880 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Rotherham | 2,330,433 | 2,433,079 |
| East Midlands | Rutland | 66,660 | 66,223 |
| North West | Salford | 2,166,523 | 2,164,457 |
| West Midlands | Sandwell | 3,099,463 | 2,928,028 |
| North West | Sefton | 2,558,410 | 2,586,205 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Sheffield | 5,252,777 | 5,261,581 |
| West Midlands | Shropshire | 1,355,888 | 1,368,950 |
| South East | Slough | 1,225,268 | 1,230,842 |
| West Midlands | Solihull | 1,106,857 | 1,113,266 |
| South West | Somerset | 2,388,806 | 2,408,603 |
| South West | South Gloucestershire | 899,742 | 958,715 |
| North East | South Tyneside | 1,996,769 | 1,884,826 |
| South East | Southampton | 2,117,042 | 2,036,466 |
| East of England | Southend-on-Sea | 1,316,737 | 1,343,036 |
| London | Southwark | 5,707,909 | 5,502,297 |
| North West | St Helens | 1,691,818 | 1,744,853 |
| West Midlands | Staffordshire | 4,220,035 | 4,152,217 |
| North West | Stockport | 1,456,769 | 1,492,685 |
| North East | Stockton-on-Tees | 1,9685,18 | 2,038,106 |
| West Midlands | Stoke-on-Trent | 2,263,478 | 2,390,574 |
| East of England | Suffolk | 3,455,962 | 3,262,049 |
| North East | Sunderland | 3,020,224 | 2,875,544 |
| South East | Surrey | 3,988,973 | 4,120,201 |
| London | Sutton | 1,045,223 | 1,085,136 |
| South West | Swindon | 1,231,550 | 1,239,088 |
| North West | Tameside | 1,618,871 | 1,679,836 |
| West Midlands | Telford and Wrekin | 1,219,802 | 1,2307,06 |
| East of England | Thurrock | 997,546 | 964,203 |
| South West | Torbay | 1,026,898 | 1,038,905 |
| London | Tower Hamlets | 5,237,153 | 5,020,046 |
| North West | Trafford | 1,333,946 | 1,326,831 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Wakefield | 2,715,072 | 2,905,267 |
| West Midlands | Walsall | 2,307,202 | 2,290,343 |
| London | Waltham Forest | 2,733,212 | 2,602,800 |
| London | Wandsworth | 3,138,594 | 3,114272 |
| North West | Warrington | 1,211,621 | 1,294,890 |
| West Midlands | Warwickshire | 2,451,890 | 2,456,569 |
| South East | West Berkshire | 485,720 | 494,497 |
| South East | West Sussex | 2,956,754 | 2,870,236 |
| London | Westminster | 4,158,472 | 4,134,843 |
| North West | Wigan | 2,146,219 | 2,204,010 |
| South West | Wiltshire | 1,781,202 | 1,745,899 |
| South East | Windsor and Maidenhead | 5791,58 | 583,127 |
| North West | Wirral | 3,346,678 | 3,623,186 |
| South East | Wokingham | 426,304 | 427,633 |
| West Midlands | Wolverhampton | 2,862,432 | 2,890,592 |
| West Midlands | Worcestershire | 2,787,256 | 2,858,843 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | York | 1,228,713 | 1,310,764 |

The PTB is allocated direct to primary care trusts (PCTs) rather than being routed through the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA). The NTA's role is to ensure that allocations reflect local need, to monitor how funding is spent and to work with PCTs and Drug Action Teams to ensure that local treatment systems continue to improve and deliver effective and efficient services.

## Neurofibromatosis

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what treatments for patients with neurofibromatosis are available; and if he will make a statement. [239351]

**Ann Keen:** Many people with neurofibromatosis are mildly affected only and are able to live a normal, healthy life. However, it is important that any complications are monitored by the appropriate specialists, so that action can be taken if they start to cause problems. Tumours that cause pain or discomfort can sometimes be surgically removed. If this is not possible because of the location or size of the tumour, pain-reducing medication may be prescribed by health professionals.

### Neurology: Drugs

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the NHS's budget was spent on medicine for the treatment of neurological illnesses in the latest period for which figures are available. [238364]

**Ann Keen:** Expenditure estimates relating to 'Neurological System Problems' are collected as part of the annual programme budgeting returns. The latest figures from the 2006-07 financial year suggest that 3.6 per cent. of national health service expenditure was accounted for by 'Neurological System Problems'.

### Neurology: Research

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding the Government have provided for research into neurological illnesses in the last 10 years. [238089]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The available information is shown in the following table:

*Neurological conditions research*

| | Department | £ million Medical Research Council[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | [2]— | 67 |
| 2002-03 | [2]— | 75 |
| 2003-04 | [3]30 | 69 |
| 2004-05 | 45 | 76 |
| 2005-06 | 43 | 108 |
| 2006-07 | 48 | 109 |
| 2007-08 | 40 | [4]— |

[1] Neurosciences and mental health board portfolio.
[2] Not available.
[3] Chronic neurological disease only.
[4] Not yet available.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Those organisations have since 2001 accounted for their use of the research and development allocations received from the Department in an annual report. The information given in the table is derived from those reports and relates to expenditure on projects concerned with chronic neurological disease and degenerative neurological disorders.

### NHS

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to the NHS on bringing forward proposed capital projects. [238703]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Government announced in their pre-Budget report published on 24 November that they would bring forward £100 million of capital spending to financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10 to advance the upgrading of up to 600 GP surgeries to training practices. We intend to discuss further with the NHS and professional groups how best to deploy this investment.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data his Department collects on serious untoward incidents in the NHS. [238898]

**Ann Keen:** Data relating to serious untoward incidents are not routinely collected by the Department. The National Patient Safety Agency collects and collates information related to serious patient safety incidents and deaths (as a result of patient safety incidents) which are reported to it from local national health service organisations through the National Reporting and Learning System.

### NHS Information Centre

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information is recorded in the Hospital Pharmacy Audit Index to which the NHS information centre has access. [238906]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The NHS Information Centre for health and social care has access to the Health Hospital Pharmacy Audit Index (HPAI) database, which is supplied by IMS Health (Intercontinental Medical Statistics).

Data are collected from pharmacies in participating hospital trusts across the United Kingdom on a commercial basis and the section of the HPAI database relating to England has been made available by IMS on a monthly basis, subject to a contract between IMS Health and The Information Centre. The Information Centre receives data from this system at the level of the 28 strategic health authorities which existed prior to July 2006.

The HPAI is based on issues of medicines recorded on hospital pharmacy systems; the data record the volume of packs issued rather than the number of issuing events. This volume information is priced using the Drug Tariff and other price lists. 'Issues' refer to all medicines supplied from hospital pharmacies: to wards, departments, clinics, theatres, satellite sites and to patients in out-patient clinics and on discharge. Therefore, the HPAI monitors usage levels by hospitals rather than purchases by trusts which may be acting for a consortium of trusts.

### NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency: Consultants

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency spent on private sector consultancy fees in each of the last three financial years. [238418]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency spent the following on private sector consultancy in the last three financial years.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 1,791,290.67 |
| 2006-07 | 2,940,128.70 |
| 2007-08 | 2,277,366.56 |

## NHS Treatment Centres: York

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been treated at York NHS walk-in centre in each year since it opened. [236884]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not collected centrally. This information can be obtained from the North Yorkshire and York primary care trust directly.

## NHS: Discharges

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial penalties Stoke-on-Trent City Council has incurred in the last period for which figures are available as a result of delayed discharges from hospitals. [239506]

**Phil Hope:** The information is not collected centrally.

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many delayed discharges there were in *(a)* the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area, *(b)* the Stoke-on-Trent Primary Care Trust area, *(c)* the North Staffordshire Primary Care Trust area and *(d)* England in each of the last five years, broken down by reason for delay; and how many patients in each case were occupying an acute hospital bed. [239509]

**Phil Hope:** The information requested is shown in the following tables.

*Acute delayed transfers of care and number of occupied acute beds, North Staffordshire primary care trust (PCT) and Stoke on Trent PCT, 2003-04 to 2007-08*

*Number*

| | *Patients occupying a 'acute' hospital bed with delayed discharge* | *Patients occupying an 'acute' hospital bed (all ages)* |
|---|---|---|
| *2003-04* | | |
| Staffordshire Moorlands PCT | 14 | 204 |
| Newcastle-under-Lyme PCT | 14 | 240 |
| North Stoke PCT | 27 | 323 |
| South Stoke PCT | 27 | 309 |
| *2004-05* | | |
| Staffordshire Moorlands PCT | 12 | 180 |
| Newcastle-under-Lyme PCT | 13 | 223 |
| North Stoke PCT | 18 | 306 |
| South Stoke PCT | 17 | 335 |
| *2005-06* | | |
| Staffordshire Moorlands PCT | 2 | 195 |
| Newcastle-under-Lyme PCT | 33 | 202 |
| North Stoke PCT | 20 | 283 |
| South Stoke PCT | 26 | 288 |
| *2006-07* | | |
| North Staffordshire PCT | 25 | 402 |
| Stoke on Trent PCT | 59 | 579 |
| *2007-08* | | |
| North Staffordshire PCT | 28 | 392 |
| Stoke on Trent PCT | 41 | 587 |

*Notes:*
1. The data shown are from a snapshot carried out in Q4 each year.
2. Newcastle-under-Lyme PCT merged to form North Staffordshire PCT on 1 October 2006. North Stoke PCT and South Stoke PCT merged to form Stoke on Trent PCT on 1 October 2006.

*Source:*
Department of Health form: Local Delivery Plan Return (LDPR).

*Acute delayed transfers of care and number of occupied acute beds, West Midlands strategic health authority (SHA), 2003-04 to 2007-08*

| *Reason for delay* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Completion of assessment | 101 | 90 | 82 | 74 | 103 |
| Public Funding | 2 | 18 | 11 | 24 | 17 |
| Further non-acute NHS care | 108 | 65 | 74 | 93 | 69 |
| Care Home placement: Residential Home | 35 | 16 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Care Home placement: Nursing Home | 47 | 38 | 22 | 42 | 33 |
| Care package in own home | 43 | 38 | 45 | 33 | 50 |
| Community Equipment/ adaptions | 7 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 10 |
| Patient or family choice | 33 | 44 | 48 | 57 | 62 |
| Disputes | 39 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| Housing: patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act | 6 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 7 |
| All reasons | 421 | 329 | 318 | 359 | 377 |
| Number of occupied acute beds (all ages) | 11,915 | 12,096 | 11,523 | 10,217 | 10,174 |

*Notes:*
1. The aforementioned are shown for Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA, Birmingham and the Black Country SHA and West Midlands South SHA. These three SHAs merged to form West Midlands SHA on 1 July 2006.
2. Number of delayed transfers of care are collected as a snapshot at midnight Thursday each week.
3. The number of acute beds were only collected on a voluntary basis in the Weekly Situation Reports, from 18 December 2006. Therefore, annual data from the KH03 form have been shown for 2006-07 and 2007-08 instead.
4. The delayed transfers of care data shown is for adults (aged 18+).
5. Non-acute delayed of care data are available for 2007-08. However, the parliamentary question seems to request information for acute delayed transfers of care only.

*Source:*
Department of Health forms: Weekly Situation Reports and KH03

*Acute delayed transfers of care and number of occupied acute beds, England, 2003-04 to 2007-08*

| *Reason for delay* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Completion of assessment | 587 | 511 | 455 | 446 | 466 |
| Public Funding | 78 | 135 | 109 | 103 | 104 |
| Further non-acute NHS care | 801 | 654 | 574 | 555 | 591 |

*Acute delayed transfers of care and number of occupied acute beds, England, 2003-04 to 2007-08*

| *Reason for delay* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Care Home placement: Residential Home | 214 | 198 | 215 | 188 | 166 |
| Care Home placement: Nursing Home | 354 | 283 | 272 | 225 | 223 |
| Care package in own home | 184 | 195 | 188 | 163 | 163 |
| Community Equipment/ adaptions | 98 | 63 | 75 | 59 | 70 |
| Patient or family choice | 451 | 380 | 381 | 368 | 369 |
| Disputes | 111 | 58 | 53 | 49 | 39 |
| Housing: patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act | 17 | 44 | 44 | 40 | 44 |
| All reasons | 2,895 | 2,521 | 2,366 | 2,196 | 2,235 |
| Number of occupied acute beds (all ages) | 106,420 | 109,527 | 103,188 | 87,474 | 85,119 |

*Notes*

1. Number of delayed transfers of care are collected as a snapshot at midnight Thursday each week.
2. The number of acute beds were only collected on a voluntary basis in the Weekly Situation Reports, from 18 December 2006. Therefore, annual data from the KH03 form have been shown for 2006-07 and 2007-08 instead.
3. The delayed transfers of care data shown is for adults (aged 18+).
4. Non-acute delayed of care data are available for 2007-08. However, the parliamentary question seems to request information for acute delayed transfers of care only.

*Source:*

Department of Health forms: Weekly Situation Reports and KH03

## NHS: Drugs

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of drugs prescribed within the NHS in England were preventative in the most recent period for which figures are available. [239560]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not hold the information requested.

## NHS: Finance

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the NHS to have fully implemented the health resource group coding system. [238268]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Healthcare Resource Groups (HRGs) are a secondary healthcare classification of groups of procedures and treatments that are clinically meaningful, and are expected to use similar amounts of resource. They have been used to benchmark costings between providers of national health service care for more than 10 years.

HRGs are generated from the content of the patient record, and use a combination of administration, procedure and diagnoses primary classifications to describe the care received by a patient.

The latest iteration of HRGs, known as HRG4, was designed with substantial clinical involvement over a number of years. It has been used by the NHS in England for costing since April 2006.

## NHS: ICT

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contribution the NHS IT Cerner system makes to hospital trusts' returns to the Department of Health. [236770]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Cerner system allows all hospital trust returns to be made to the Department, with the sole exception of direct reporting from the system of 18 week wait patient pathway data, for which trusts have alternative arrangements. This additional facility has been built into a software release that has been tested and is due for future release.

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS IT Cerner system at Worthing and Southlands Hospital Trust reliably makes available at handover between nursing shifts and doctors' shifts *(a)* patients' names and numbers, *(b)* the ward, bay and bed of each patient, *(c)* the consultant in charge of each patient, *(d)* information on what is wrong with, or the condition of, each patient and *(e)* (i) a list of patients by ward and bed for nurses' handover and (ii) a list of patients by consultant for doctors' handover, each with the information in categories (a) to (c) above with lines of space between records to allow writing by nurses or doctors. [236771]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Cerner system provides all these data on line. Problems experienced at the Worthing and Southlands hospitals trust have involved the ability to print the data, and in a form acceptable to local national health service staff. Necessary modifications to facilitate this were delayed as a result of contract negotiations with the supplier between May and July 2008. These were installed in the system within the last week.

**Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means under the NHS IT Cerner system's Power Chart *(a)* a doctor transfers a patient's case between consultants and *(b)* a modification or alteration can be made to a diagnosis without deleting and re-entering the patient's data. [236791]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The transfer of care is initiated by the consultant and recorded in the system and has historically been done using a function called transfer in facility, which simultaneously provides for the transfer between wards. The ability to complete these actions in the powerchart facility has been enabled within the last week.

In the current version of the Cerner system, modification of existing diagnosis information is not possible, although there is a facility to copy existing information and allow updating of relevant information. The functionality to allow direct modification is expected to be available in the next major software release.

## NHS: Inflation

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms his Department uses to measure the rate of inflation as it applies to NHS costs. [238539]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Between 1992-93 and 2003-04, the Department used the NHS inflation index to measure the rate of inflation specific to the NHS. The NHS inflation index is constructed using five sub-indices; these cover expenditure on Hospital and Community Health Sector (HCHS) pay, HCHS prices, HCHS capital, Family Health Services (FHS) and 'other'.

The overall NHS inflation index is not available from 2004-05 onwards due to the introduction of new contracts for general medical services in 2004-05, pharmaceutical services in 2005-06 and general dental services in 2006-07 which provide flexibility for practitioners to expand the range of services they offer to patients. These new contracts mean that there are insufficient data to continue producing the FHS index.

The Department continues to measure HCHS inflation using the pay, prices and capital indices.

### NHS: Labour Turnover

**Mr. Cameron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* NHS nurses and *(b)* NHS doctors who left their employment with between two and five years experience in (a) 2005, (b) 2006, (c) 2007 and (d) 2008 to date. [234832]

**Ann Keen:** The estimated headcount number of national health service doctors and nurses leaving the English NHS for the years 2005 and 2006 is shown in the following table.

| | *Joiners in 2006* | *Leavers from 2005* | *Joiners in2007* | *Leavers from 2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hospital doctors | 5,473 | 4,720 | 5,787 | 4,990 |
| Nurses | 27,293 | 27,452 | 21,483 | 24,901 |
| GPs | 2,864 | 2,368 | 2,721 | 1,966 |

*Source:*
NHS Information Centre Medical and Non Medical workforce censuses
http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/workforce/nhs-turnover

Data for 2007 and 2008 have not yet been collected. No data are available to show how many of the leavers shown in the aforementioned table left the NHS with between two and five years experience.

### NHS: Mental Health Services

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether mental health service users will be guaranteed a choice of hospital under the proposed NHS Constitution. [239577]

**Ann Keen:** The draft constitution states that

"you have a right to make choices about your NHS care. The options available to you will develop over time and depend on your individual need".

In the handbook to the draft constitution it states that directions will be given by the Secretary of State under section 8 of the NHS Act to require primary care trusts to ensure that patients have a right to choose their providers. A copy of the handbook has been placed in the Library. Directions will specify services covered, exceptions and whether mental health service users are included. We have recently consulted on the draft constitution and the final constitution will be published in due course.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the guaranteed choice of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence approved treatments as outlined in the NHS constitution will apply to mental health treatment guidelines. [239579]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The proposed NHS constitution right applies to all drugs and treatments that are recommended in technology appraisal guidance issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and covered by the associated funding direction.

### NHS: Procurement

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procurement guidance his Department provides to NHS trusts on in-house bids received during a tendering process for clinical support services. [238427]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department published a PCT Procurement Guide for Health Services in May 2008. The Guide supports NHS Commissioners in deciding whether and how to procure health services through formal tendering and market-testing exercises. It is one of the system management tools and guidance documents and it is referenced in the Principles and Rules for Cooperation and Competition.

Copies of both documents have been placed in the Library and are also available at:

PCT Procurement Guide for Health Services:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_084778

Principles and Rules for Cooperation and Competition:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081098?IdcService=GET_FILE8idID=156035&Rendition=Web

### NHS: Public Participation

**Mr. Meale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider providing funding for the establishment and operation of a national association of local involvement networks. [237867]

**Ann Keen:** We have always made clear that the drive to strengthen the voice of patients, users and the public is local: local people and communities influencing their local services.

Local involvement networks (LINks) are independent and have the power to develop their own priorities and agendas based on feedback from their communities. We recognise, however, that they need to develop relationships with a number of stakeholders to fulfil their statutory role effectively. There is nothing to prevent LINks using some of their funding to establish local, regional or national networks if they so wish. We do not believe this is a decision for Government but rather a matter for LINks themselves.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to increase the budgets for local involvement networks to reflect the number of activities they will undertake. [239299]

**Ann Keen:** I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Mansfield (Mr. Meale) on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 202W.

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will provide indemnity to members of local involvement networks in undertaking their scrutiny functions; and if he will make a statement. [239552]

**Ann Keen:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Mansfield (Mr. Meale) on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 202W.

### NHS: Translation Services

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the annual cost to the NHS of the language interpreting service is. [239565]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** National health service bodies are not required to report their planned or actual spending on interpretation and translation services to the Department. When planning such services, NHS bodies should take due account of their legal duties, the composition of the communities they serve, and the needs and circumstances of their patients, service users and local populations.

### Nurses: Schools

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was provided for school nurses in each primary care trust area in 2008-09. [238412]

**Ann Keen:** It is for primary care trusts, in discussion with their local authorities, to take decisions on how to commit the resources available to them to meet local needs, including decisions on how much to spend on school nurses, taking account of the NHS Operating Framework and of local priorities and plans developed in partnership with local schools and children's services.

### Nutrition

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the applicability to food supplements of nutrient profiles set under the provision of the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation; and what steps he is taking to advance that policy in discussions on these matters at the Council of Ministers and its Working Groups. [239281]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Nutrient profiles are to be established in order that health or nutrition claims are not made on foods that contain high levels of saturated fat, salt or sugar as this could mislead consumers as to the true nutritional quality of those foods. Foods that have no nutritional impact because they contain very low or no levels of these nutrients, or are consumed in very small quantities, including food supplements as defined by the food supplements directive, are to be exempt from compliance with nutrient profiles in the European Commission proposal. The United Kingdom has and will continue to support the proposed exemption.

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on the European Food Safety Authority's procedures to distinguish between the processes and criteria adopted in relation to claims submitted under *(a)* Article 14 and 13.5 and *(b)* Article 13.1 of the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation; and if he will make a statement. [239282]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation requires that (a) all nutrition and health claims must be substantiated by generally accepted scientific evidence to be authorised and listed as approved for use (Article 6); and (b) the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) must be consulted during the assessment of claims for its opinion on the scientific substantiation (Articles 13 and 14). The Article 13 process where member states submitted generic lists of claims for assessment is different to that under Article 14 where individual dossiers are required from applicants. It is for EFSA as the independent advisory body to decide if and how it may tailor its approach to delivering a scientific opinion on these claims and member states have no influence on this – nor should they. Whatever EFSA's approach, the requirements of the regulation must be satisfied.

### Nutrition Strategy Steering Group

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of widening the remit of the Nutrition Strategy Steering Group to allow it to consider malnutrition amongst older people; whether the membership of this body will be expanded to include a professional working this area; and if he will make a statement. [236945]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board was set up with a narrow remit to oversee delivery of Improving Nutritional Care: A joint Action Plan from the Department of Health and Nutrition Summit Stakeholders. The Board will make a final report to Ministers in the new year. It is planned that the Board will dissolve at that point but Ministers will consider this in the light of the final report.

The plan identifies five key priorities for action, one of which is:

"To raise awareness of the link between nutrition and good health and that malnutrition can be prevented".

The Board's membership includes Professor Marinos Elia from the British Association for Parental and Enteral Nutrition which has done pioneer work on screening for malnutrition.

### Obesity: Drugs

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each age group have received oral medication of each type for the treatment of obesity in each of the last 10 years. [237219]

**Ann Keen:** Data are not held on the number of people receiving medication for the treatment of obesity. However, data are collected on the number of prescription items dispensed in the treatment of obesity. This information is provided in the following table:

*Prescription items of drugs used in the treatment of obesity dispensed in England, 1998–2007*

*Number ('Thousand)*

| BNF chemical name | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dexfenfluramine Hydrochloride | 0.1 | * | * | * | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diethylpropion Hydrochloride | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 | * | * | * | * | * |
| Fenfluramine Hydrochloride | * | * | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Mazindol | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 | * | * | — | — |
| Orlistat | 17.9 | 127.8 | 156.3 | 416.0 | 541.4 | 485.7 | 493.1 | 646.7 | 775.7 | 829.8 |
| Phentermine | 20.5 | 19.8 | 5.5 | 0.2 | * | * | * | — | * | — |
| Rimonabant | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 25.5 | 185.2 |
| Sibutramine | — | — | — | 53.4 | 197.0 | 264.1 | 208.4 | 227.0 | 264.4 | 295.0 |
| Sterculia | * | * | * | — | — | * | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 39.2 | 148.1 | 162.3 | 470.3 | 738.9 | 690.0 | 701.8 | 873.7 | 1,065.7 | 1,237.0 |

— signifies less than 50 items dispensed.

Notes:

1. Specific age group data do not exist on the Prescription Cost Analysis database.
2. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.

## Obesity: Surgery

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each age group have received gastric surgery of each type for the treatment of obesity in each of the last 10 years. [237402]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Data on finished consultant episodes for gastric surgery related to obesity by age group is provided in the following table:

*Count of finished consultant episodes where there was a main operative procedure for gastric surgery and a primary diagnosis of Obesity in data years 1997-98 to 2006-07*

| | | Gastric bypass | Stomach stapling | Banded gastroplasty | Sleeve gastrectomy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | Under 15 | — | — | — | — |
| | 15-44 | 462 | 75 | 588 | 25 |
| | 45-64 | 337 | 38 | 309 | 15 |
| | 65+ | * | — | 9 | — |
| | Age Unknown | — | — | * | — |
| 2005-06 | Under 15 | — | — | — | — |
| | 15-44 | 268 | 13 | 274 | — |
| | 45-64 | 200 | 9 | 203 | — |
| | 65+ | — | — | * | — |
| | Age Unknown | — | — | * | — |
| 2004-05 | Under 15 | — | — | — | — |
| | 15-44 | 188 | * | 263 | — |
| | 45-64 | 110 | * | 156 | — |
| | 65+ | * | — | * | — |
| | Age Unknown | — | — | * | — |
| 2003-04 | Under 15 | — | — | * | — |
| | 15-44 | 141 | * | 147 | — |
| | 45-64 | 80 | * | 90 | — |
| | 65+ | — | — | * | — |
| | Age Unknown | — | — | — | — |
| 2002-03 | Under 15 | — | — | — | — |
| | 15-44 | 72 | * | 142 | — |
| | 45-64 | 55 | * | 65 | — |
| | 65+ | * | — | — | — |
| | Age Unknown | — | — | — | — |
| 2001-02 | Under 15 | — | — | — | — |
| | 15-44 | 44 | * | 120 | — |
| | 45-64 | 31 | — | 66 | — |
| | 65+ | * | — | * | — |
| | Age Unknown | — | — | * | — |
| 2000-01 | Under 15 | — | — | — | — |
| | 15-44 | 39 | 8 | 129 | — |
| | 45-64 | 16 | * | 64 | — |
| | 65+ | — | — | * | — |
| | Age Unknown | — | — | * | — |
| 1999-00 | Under 15 | — | — | — | — |
| | 15-44 | 30 | * | 100 | — |
| | 45-64 | 17 | * | 38 | — |
| | 65+ | — | — | — | — |
| | Age Unknown | — | — | — | — |
| 1998-99 | Under 15 | — | — | — | — |
| | 15-44 | 20 | — | 119 | — |
| | 45-64 | 5 | — | 31 | — |
| | 65+ | * | — | * | — |
| | Age Unknown | — | — | — | — |
| 1997-98 | Under 15 | — | — | — | — |

*Count of finished consultant episodes where there was a main operative procedure for gastric surgery and a primary diagnosis of Obesity in data years 1997-98 to 2006-07*

| | Gastric bypass | Stomach stapling | Banded gastroplasty | Sleeve gastrectomy |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17-44 | 21 | * | 74 | – |
| 45-64 | 5 | * | 40 | – |
| 65+ | – | – | – | – |
| Age Unknown | – | – | * | – |

Notes:

*Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)*

An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

*Data Quality*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and works to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*Assessing growth through time*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS, there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when studying time series.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when studying time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

*Diagnosis / Primary Diagnosis:*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (3 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

*Diagnosis Code Used*

E660 - Obesity due to excess calories

E661 - Drug-induced obesity

E662 - Extreme obesity with alveolar hypoventilation

E668 - Other obesity

E669 - Obesity, unspecified

*Exposure Data*

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are unpooled).

*Small numbers*

Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed in order to protect patient confidentiality.

*Main Operation*

The main operation is the first recorded operation on the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, e.g. none wanted, but the figures for 'all operations count of episodes' give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.

*Secondary Procedure*

As well as the main operation procedure, there are up to 11 (3 prior to 2002-03) secondary operation fields in HES that show secondary or additional procedures performed on the patient during the episode of care.

*Source:*

HES. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

The following information needs to be taken into account when interpreting these data:

Data are defined as ICD-10 code E66 (obesity) paired with the following categories of gastric surgery.

Gastric bypass surgery

Stomach stapling

Banded gastroplasty

Sleeve gastrectomy

Banded Gastroplasty is also known in some circumstances as stomach stapling, and is a common restrictive operation for weight control. Both the band and staples are used to create a small stomach pouch.

There are no dedicated codes for Sleeve Gastrectomy prior to April 2006 and therefore these data cannot be identified. However, in 2006-07 these codes are also included in the 'gastric bypass surgery' category therefore it is not possible to add all categories to calculate the total number of finished consultant episodes with gastric surgery 2006-07.

Prior to April 2006 there was no dedicated code for 'Stomach Stapling'. However, it was possible to provide information from two operation codes used to identify stomach stapling operations.

## Ophthalmology: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of opticians in the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* the number of opticians per 1,000 population in the London borough of Bexley. [258133]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available in the format requested.

The number of general ophthalmic services (GOS) ophthalmic practitioners in England and Wales, as at 31 December 2007, is included within Table B1 of Annex 3 of the report "General Ophthalmic Services: Workforce Statistics for England and Wales: 31 December 2007". Table B2 of Annex 3 of the report includes the number of ophthalmic practitioners per 100,000 population in England and Wales, as at 31 December 2007. Information is available by strategic health authority, primary care trust, Welsh region and local health board.

This report, published on 20 November 2008, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/generalopwork1stats07

## Opticians: Hemel Hempstead

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of opticians and *(b)* the number of opticians per 1,000 population in Hemel Hempstead constituency. [259144]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available in the format requested.

The numbers of General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) ophthalmic practitioners in England and Wales, as at 31 December 2007, are included within Table B1 of Annex 4 of the "General Ophthalmic Services: Workforce Statistics for England and Wales: 31 December 2007" report. Information is available by strategic health authority (SHA), primary care trust (PCT), Welsh Region and Local Health Board (LHB).

Table B2 of Annex 4 of the above publication includes the numbers of ophthalmic practitioners per 100,000 population, in England and Wales, as at 31 December 2007. Information is presented by the same regional boundaries as above.

This report, published on 20 November 2008, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/generalopwork1stats07

## Patient Choice Schemes

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the failure rate was for attempted connections under the Choose and Book system at the latest date for which figures are available [236476]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The secure log-on and authentication process to access systems under the national programme for information technology provides access to the care record spine services and choose and book. It is not possible therefore to differentiate choose and book connection failures from other national application connection failures.

Information on availability of the choose and book computer system for use by national health service staff and patients over the past 12 months is shown in the following table.

*Choose and book availability*

| | Core hours | Percentage Non-core hours |
|---|---|---|
| 2007 | | |
| November | 99.98 | 100.00 |
| December | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 2008 | | |
| January | 99.58 | 100.00 |
| February | 99.64 | 99.79 |
| March | 99.83 | 100.00 |
| April | 99.66 | 99.81 |
| May | 99.96 | 100.00 |
| June | 99.73 | 100.00 |
| July | 99.22 | 98.70 |
| August | 100.00 | 99.11 |
| September | 98.65% | 99.33 |
| October | 98.42 | 100.00 |

*Note:*
Core hours are 7.00 am to 10.00 pm daily.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls to the NHS Direct national Choose and Book appointments line *(a)* were unanswered, *(b)* received an engaged tone, *(c)* were abandoned and *(d)* were answered in each of the last 36 months. [236952]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The number of calls to the Choose and Book Appointments Line (TAL) run by NHS Direct on behalf of the national health service which were unanswered, received an engaged tone, abandoned or answered in each of the last 36 months are shown in the following tables.

*Breakdown of calls received by British Telecom (BT) switch (the telephone network provider) and those calls transferred to the Choose and Book Appointments Line (TAL)*

| | November | December | January | February | March |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | | | | | |
| Calls received by BT switch | 7,248 | 7,184 | 11,606 | 15,122 | 23,139 |
| Ineffective[1] | — | — | — | — | — |
| Engaged[2] | — | — | — | — | — |
| Calls received by TAL | 7,248 | 7,184 | 11,606 | 15,122 | 23,139 |
| Calls answered | 7,094 | 7,102 | 11,469 | 14,952 | 22,926 |
| Calls abandoned (received some answer) | 154 | 82 | 137 | 170 | 213 |
| Calls abandoned (after threshold)[3] | — | — | — | — | — |

| | April | May | June | July | August | September |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 to 2008 | | | | | | |
| Calls received by BT switch | 23,442 | 63,137 | 108,266 | 91,764 | 90,844 | 113,013 |
| Ineffective[1] | — | — | — | — | — | 474 |
| Engaged[2] | — | — | — | — | — | 13 |
| Calls received by TAL | 23,442 | 63,137 | 108,266 | 91,764 | 90,844 | 112,526 |
| Calls answered | 23,039 | 47,650 | 62,722 | 87,200 | 89,208 | 107,388 |
| Calls abandoned (received some answer) | 403 | 15,487 | 45,544 | 4,564 | 1,636 | 5,138 |
| Calls abandoned (after threshold)[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| | October | November | December | January | February | March |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 to 2009 | | | | | | |
| Calls received by BT switch | 139,675 | 144,025 | 127,237 | 189,717 | 182,639 | 193,585 |
| Ineffective[1] | 1,003 | 1,772 | 1,077 | 2,336 | 2,617 | 4,770 |
| Engaged[2] | 1351 | 11 | 55 | 1679 | 0 | 2072 |
| Calls received by TAL | 137,321 | 142,242 | 126,105 | 185,702 | 180,022 | 186,743 |
| Calls answered | 127,449 | 137,621 | 121,822 | 173,469 | 169,200 | 173,923 |
| Calls abandoned (received some answer) | 9,872 | 4,621 | 4,283 | 12,233 | 10,822 | 12,820 |
| Calls abandoned (after threshold)[3] | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| | April | May | June | July | August | September |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2007 to 2008* | | | | | | |
| Calls received by BT switch | 198,769 | 198,348 | 211,977 | 261,911 | 242,953 | 237,329 |
| Ineffective[1] | 4,089 | 2,181 | 2,770 | 6,221 | 5,836 | 7,268 |
| Engaged[2] | 1216 | 1 | 2 | 9425 | 6 | 14 |
| Calls received by TAL | 193,464 | 196,166 | 209,205 | 246,265 | 237,111 | 230,047 |
| Calls answered | 169,100 | 193,642 | 202,989 | 217,877 | 226,942 | 220,480 |
| Calls abandoned (received minus answered) | 24,364 | 2,524 | 6,216 | 28,388 | 10,169 | 9,567 |
| Calls abandoned (after threshold)[3] | | 862 | 3,035 | 18,291 | 4,583 | 4,433 |

| | October | November | December | January | February | March |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2007 to 2008* | | | | | | |
| Calls received by BT switch | 270,624 | 267,112 | 207,074 | 285,655 | 282,907 | 277,247 |
| Ineffective[1] | 4,647 | 3,925 | 2,623 | 4,958 | 6,979 | 7,118 |
| Engaged[2] | 18 | 19 | 0 | 7 | 66 | 200 |
| Calls received by TAL | 265,959 | 263,168 | 204,451 | 280,690 | 275,862 | 269,929 |
| Calls answered | 262,776 | 260,812 | 202,543 | 274,203 | 267,235 | 260,899 |
| Calls abandoned (received minus answered) | 3,183 | 2,356 | 1,908 | 6,487 | 8,627 | 9,030 |
| Calls abandoned (after threshold)[3] | 799 | 455 | 428 | 1,960 | 3,420 | 3,165 |

| | April | May | June | July | August | September | October |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2008 to 2009* | | | | | | | |
| Calls received by BT switch | 306,532 | 306,618 | 311,301 | 346,001 | 296,747 | 327,394 | 337,839 |
| Ineffective[1] | 8,921 | 7,869 | 11,510 | 11,357 | 6,270 | 6,175 | 8,797 |
| Engaged[2] | 1411 | 2279 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Calls received by TAL | 296,200 | 296,470 | 299,791 | 334,643 | 290,476 | 321,218 | 329,042 |
| Calls answered | 285,982 | 285,689 | 285,204 | 322,462 | 284,450 | 312,592 | 320,415 |
| Calls abandoned (received minus answered) | 10,218 | 10,781 | 14,587 | 12,181 | 6,026 | 8,626 | 8,627 |
| Calls abandoned (after threshold)[3] | 4,040 | 3,937 | 4,936 | 3,769 | 1,259 | 3,056 | 2,722 |

[1] Data on the number of ineffective calls were not collected by NHS Direct prior to September 2006.
[2] Data on the number of engaged calls were not collected by NHS Direct prior to September 2006.
[3] Data on the number of calls abandoned after the threshold were not collected prior to May 2007.

*Definitions*

Ineffective call: consists of two groups of calls:

1. Calls where the caller abandons after 10 seconds after the end of the message and before the service's equipment can accept the call. The presence of such calls may indicate a problem with NHS Direct's call transfer processes.

2. Calls routed to a "courtesy" message during service hours. The intelligent network occasionally routes calls to this message when average wait time exceeds a certain threshold. Engaged call: The proportion of calls that are routed to NHS Direct and receive the engaged tone.

Calls abandoned: Calls where the caller abandoned after 10 seconds after the end of the message and before TAL's equipment can accept the call. Calls abandoned after threshold: When calls are presented to a Choose and Book site the customer has the ability to abandon the call before it is answered. If this happens the call is recorded as an abandoned call. Only calls abandoned after 30 seconds of the call being presented to Choose and Book are included for this key performance indicator.

*Source*

NHS Direct.

## Patients: Safety

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patient safety incidents classified as causing *(a)* no harm, *(b)* low harm, *(c)* moderate harm, *(d)* severe harm and *(e)* death were recorded in each NHS trust in each quarter since the inception of the National Reporting and Learning System; and if he will break these figures down by type of incident. [239575]

**Ann Keen:** As a consequence of national health service reconfigurations over the past five years, the information requested is not currently available. The regular National Reporting and Learning System Quarterly Data Summaries from the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) provide a breakdown for incidents in England and Wales by degree of harm and incident type, for a range of care settings.

In addition, from February 2009 the NPSA will be publishing NHS trust level data, including a breakdown by incident type and degree of harm.

## Pests

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the World Health Organisation's publication The Public Health Significance of the Urban Pests; and what consideration he has given to the recommendation that governments should *(a)* collect information on vectors and *(b)* develop capacity to identify pest-related risks in the urban environment. [239507]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The recommendations of the World Health Organisation in relation to the risks posed to

public health by urban pests emphasise the need for a multi-disciplinary approach to risk assessment, management and control measures.

We are satisfied that we have in place in the United Kingdom the necessary capability for the identification and assessment of risks posed by vector-borne infection and pest-related health risks, together with the appropriate infrastructure for a co-ordinated approach to the control and management of such risks.

### Pharmacy: Northumberland

**Sir Alan Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason the reconvened hearing by the Family Health Services Appeal Authority into the application for a pharmacy at Widdrington Station, Northumberland, has been moved from Northumberland to Harrogate, North Yorkshire. [239934]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This is a matter for the Family Health Services Appeals Unit.

### Pregnancy: Domestic Violence

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of domestic violence victims treated by the NHS who were pregnant at the time they received treatment in the last 12 months; [217575]

(2) what guidance his Department provides to healthcare professionals on *(a)* questioning of pregnant women about domestic violence and *(b)* provision of treatment to a victim of domestic violence who is pregnant. [217713]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested on the number of victims of domestic violence treated by the national health service who are pregnant is not collected centrally.

The Department of Health has conducted initial pilot work to explore the best way to collect data in an emergency department, a maternity hospital and GP surgery. Following that, the Department has undertaken feasibility pilots to test and develop a dataset template in accident and emergency departments to collect de-personalised data on domestic violence.

The updated domestic abuse handbook and cd-Rom, responding to domestic abuse: a handbook for health professionals, which was published in December 2005, provides advice and guidance on how the health services can respond to pregnant women who are victims of domestic abuse. Current advice is that routine inquiries should be made of all pregnant women to explore the possibility of domestic violence, in the course of taking a social history and providing information. A copy of the handbook has been placed in the Library.

### Primary Care Trusts

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's guidance to primary care trusts on implementing separate care. [239553]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** A copy of the Department of Health's "Draft Guidance on NHS patients who wish to pay for additional private care" has been placed in the Library and is also available at the Department's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_089926

### Prostate Cancer: Medical Treatments

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with prostate cancer have received brachytherapy treatment in each treatment centre in each of the last five years. [237400]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not available in the format requested.

A table containing information on the number of finished consultant episodes per provider in England where the primary diagnosis was prostate cancer, and the procedure was brachytherapy, has been placed in the Library. The information covers each of the last five years from 2002-03 to 2006-07.

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236897]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has received fewer than five complaints of racial abuse in the last 12 months, so is unable to provide specific information on the grounds of confidentiality.

The Department has taken a number of initiatives recently to continue to address issues of bullying and harassment. It launched new bullying and harassment and dispute resolution policies in March 2008. These policies reaffirm the Department's commitment to encouraging and maintaining good employee relations, recognising that everyone working in the Department has a responsibility to maintain good working relationships and not harm the well-being of others, and the right to be treated with consideration, fairness, dignity and respect with absolutely no place in the workplace for abuse of any sort. In particular, the bullying and harassment policy states that bullying or harassment is unacceptable and confirms that the Department has a zero-tolerance policy.

The Department actively supports the national Ban Bullying At Work Day, which was held this year on 7 November. The bullying and harassment policy is supported by an anti-bullying and harassment film, available via the Department's Intranet, which aids awareness and supports training. Tailored workshop sessions are also run in individual business areas. Progress on addressing bullying and harassment is also monitored through annual and quarterly staff surveys.

### Revlimid

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will report on the results of the public consultation that has taken place on the provision of Revlimid as a treatment for those suffering from myeloma. [238753]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently appraising lenalidomide (Revlimid) for the treatment of multiple myeloma in people who have received at least one prior therapy. NICE issued its appraisal consultation document (ACD) for a period of public consultation which closed on 18 November 2008. The comments received are now being considered by NICE's appraisal committee. Further information can be found on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11937

### School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* total cost and *(b)* unit cost per child of the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme if it applied to all primary school children; [239238]

(2) what the unit cost of the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme per child served by the scheme was in the last year for which data are available. [239239]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The unit cost of the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme is £20.48 per child per year and the estimated total cost of the scheme if applied to all primary school children is £83,968,000 based on 4.1 million primary school children.

### Seasonal Affective Disorder

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England have been diagnosed with seasonal affective disorder in the last 10 years. [227778]

**Phil Hope:** Information is not available in the requested format.

### Sight Impaired: Elderly

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people under the age of 65 years are registered blind, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* constituency; and if he will make a statement. [239309]

**Phil Hope:** Data on the number of registered blind people are not collected centrally by constituency but are available for Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities and Government Office Regions.

The number of people under the age of 65 who registered with Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities as at 31 March 2008 as being blind (39,760) is almost 7 per cent. greater than at 31 March 2006 (937,250).

A table showing numbers by Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities and Government Office Regions has been placed in the Library.

### Smoking: Ethnic Groups

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1204W, on smoking, which specific projects are supported by his Department at regional level to reduce the rate of smoking amongst ethnic minority communities. [237682]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not collected centrally.

A wide range of projects are run at national, regional and local level to reduce smoking prevalence among ethnic minority communities.

Examples of regionally funded projects are those with the Bangladeshi and Polish communities and with smokers who use water pipes.

The national health service and local authorities provide services and run projects with minority ethnic communities, in response to the needs of their local communities. The Department also produces information and provides telephone support for smokers from ethnic minorities.

Research and intelligence gathering activities commissioned by the Department on smoking cessation and wider tobacco control also include an ethnic component.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health trainers have been recruited from local communities to effect a reduction in smoking amongst ethnic minority groups in each year since 2004. [237703]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Health trainers are not recruited to be smoking cessation advisers. Their role is to work with individuals to assess their health and lifestyle risks, helping to build their motivation to change. Where appropriate they will signpost individuals to local smoking cessation services.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total budget is of the Asian Tobacco Helpline; and how many full-time staff are employed by the helpline. [237704]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In the financial year 2008-09 it is estimated that the total spend for the national health service Smoking Helpline will be £2.6 million. There are currently 33 staff who are fully trained to answer calls for this service, which is open seven days a week from 7 am to 11 pm.

It is estimated that the specific spend for the NHS Asian Tobacco Helplines will be £12,100.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which languages his Department provides resources designed to effect a reduction in smoking amongst ethnic minority groups. [237705]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department produces resources to help smokers to quit in the following languages: Albanian, Arabic, Belarusian, Bengali, Czech, Estonian, Farsi, French, Greek, Gujarati, Hindi, Kurmanji, Latvian, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Simplified Chinese, Slovak, Somali, Sorani, Spanish, Traditional Chinese, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu and Vietnamese.

### Smoking: Foster Care

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department and its agencies has provided to local authorities on whether adults who smoke may be eligible to become foster parents. [235927]

**Beverley Hughes** I have been asked to reply.

The Fostering Services Regulations 2002 set out in detail the process for approving foster carers and require fostering services to conduct an assessment of the suitability of the prospective carer based on a range of prescribed information. The regulations require information about the health of the potential carer to be considered as part of this assessment, and while the regulations do not ban smokers from becoming foster carers, smoking is an issue which fostering providers would be expected to take into account as part of the approvals process.

Standard 12.1 of the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services requires of each fostering provider that it 'provides foster care services which help each child or young person in foster care to receive health care which meets her/his needs for physical, emotional and social development.'

It is for the fostering provider, taking account of the regulations and the National Minimum Standards, to decide whether a person is suitable or not to be approved as a foster carer and to foster a particular child or young person.

## Surgery

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the current NHS tariff rates are for *(a)* hip replacement, *(b)* stent and *(c)* gallbladder operations. [238267]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following tables show the 2008-09 tariffs for hip replacement and gallbladder operations.

There is no tariff for stent operations, as this is a device which is used within cardiac and other procedures. Tariffs for these procedures are published as part of the 2008-09 mandatory prices, which have been placed in the Library, and are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Financeandplanning/NHSFinancialReforms/DH_081226

The tariff prices provided below are net of the market forces factor (MFF). MFF is the mechanism through which the basic tariff price paid to hospitals is increased to take account of unavoidable local cost pressures.

*Hip replacement*

| *HRG* | *Healthcare Resource Group (HRG) name* | *Elective spell tariff price (£)* | *Non-elective spell tariff price (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| H01 | Bilateral primary hip replacement | 7,599 | 7,531 |
| H80 | Primary hip replacement cemented | 5,220 | 7,304 |
| H81 | Primary hip replacement uncemented | 5,587 | 7,816 |
| H86 | Neck of femur fracture with hip replacement with complications | 7,884 | 7,815 |
| H87 | Neck of femur fracture with hip replacement without complications | 6,770 | 6,711 |

*Gallbladder operations*

| *HRG* | *Healthcare Resource Group (HRG) name* | *Elective spell tariff price (£)* | *Non-elective spell tariff price (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| G13 | Cholecystectomy (gallbladder removal) aged over 69 or with complications | 2,371 | 4,864 |
| G14 | Cholecystectomy (gallbladder removal) aged under 70 without complications | 1,837 | 3,219 |

Tariff prices for other bladder-related procedures are published as part of the 2008-09 mandatory prices.

## Surgery: Medical Equipment

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many staff providing surgical equipment sterilising services to the NHS are employed by *(a)* NHS trusts and *(b)* private companies; [238414]

(2) how many NHS trusts have *(a)* in-house and *(b)* private suppliers under contracts for the provision of surgical equipment sterilising services. [238426]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the format requested.

The number of staff providing surgical equipment sterilising services to the national health service, either employed directly by the NHS or by private companies, is not collected centrally.

The NHS provide information on contracted out services relating to sterile supply by NHS organisations excluding foundation trusts. For 2007-08, 27 organisations reported that they had at least one fully outsourced surgical equipment sterilising services contract.

## Surgery: Waiting Lists

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times were for *(a)* heart and *(b)* cancer operations in Bolsover constituency in each year since 2001-02. [237898]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not collected in the format requested. However, figures for median days waited for a heart operation and finished consultant episodes where a heart operation was the main or secondary procedure where Derbyshire county primary care trust (PCT), or each of the forerunner organisations, was the PCT of responsibility are shown in the tables:

*Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

| | *Median waiting time* | *Finished consultant episodes* |
|---|---|---|
| *Derbyshire County PCT of responsibility* | | |
| 2006-07 | 60 | 3,080 |

| | PCT of responsibility | Median waiting time | Finished consultant episodes |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | Chesterfield PCT | 43 | 634 |
| | Amber Valley PCT | 42 | 634 |
| | North Eastern Derbyshire PCT | 49 | 830 |
| | Erewash PCT | 65 | 479 |
| | Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT | 62 | 423 |
| | High Peak and Dales PCT | 51 | 492 |
| 2004-05 | Chesterfield PCT | 98 | 510 |
| | Amber Valley PCT | 48 | 545 |
| | North Eastern Derbyshire PCT | 89 | 702 |
| | Erewash PCT | 53 | 423 |
| | Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT | 36 | 334 |
| | High Peak and Dales PCT | 72 | 430 |
| 2003-04 | Chesterfield PCT | 112 | 446 |
| | Amber Valley PCT | 29 | 511 |
| | North Eastern Derbyshire PCT | 111 | 641 |
| | Erewash PCT | 28 | 396 |
| | Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT | 22 | 379 |
| | High Peak and Dales PCT | 76 | 400 |
| 2002-03 | Chesterfield PCT | 101 | 412 |
| | Amber Valley PCT | 56 | 422 |
| | North Eastern Derbyshire PCT | 100 | 484 |
| | Erewash PCT | 36 | 340 |
| | Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT | 56 | 263 |
| | High Peak and Dales PCT | 72 | 318 |
| 2001-02 | Chesterfield PCT | 108 | 329 |
| | Amber Valley PCT | 49 | 426 |
| | North Eastern Derbyshire PCT | 112 | 467 |
| | Erewash PCT | 47 | 323 |
| | Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT | 53 | 282 |
| | High Peak and Dales PCT | 56 | 296 |

*Notes:*
1. Prior to October 2006, Bolsover constituency was represented by North East Derbyshire PCT. On 1 October 2006 the number of Primary Care Organisations (PCOs) reduced from 303 to 152. Following the organisational changes, North East Derbyshire PCT was merged with five other trusts to make up Derbyshire County PCT. To enable better comparison, data has been provided for Derbyshire County PCT in 2006-07 and from 2001-02 to 2005-06 for all trusts that merged to make Derbyshire County PCT historically. This will include the following trusts and will mean the data provided will cover an area wider than the Bolsover constituency:
Chesterfield PCT
Amber Valley PCT
North Eastern Derbyshire PCT
Erewash PCT
Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT
High Peak and Dales PCT
2. Waiting time statistics for the Department have been provided for the same parliamentary question in the past. I refer the hon. Member to the Answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1225W, on waiting lists, what the average waiting times were for *(a)* heart and *(b)* cancer operations in Bolsover constituency in each year since 2000-01. However, the Department has not collected waiting times data on a specialty level since September 2007, and therefore can no longer answer these questions on specific types of operation.
3. Following are the main differences between time waited and waiting time statistics:
*HES Time Waited Statistics*
measures time waited of those who have completed their wait (admitted over the course of the year)
time waited includes periods where patient is either medically unfit (medical suspension) and/or periods when patient has made himself/herself unavailable for treatment (social suspension)
measures the median or mean of a flow (see following for definition)
calculates mean and median based on individual admissions—using time waited as the difference between date of decision to admit and date of admission
Flaws include that there are a large number of invalid cases where either the date of decision to admit or date of date of admission (or both) are missing, and that there are further coding problems so that there are a large number of waiters with implausibly long waits. For example, in 2002-03 HES there were over 3,500 patients who waited longer than 1,000 days according to the HES coding, and of these 3,500 nearly 1,000 patients waited longer than 1,500 days.
*Korner (Department of Health) Waiting List Statistics*
measures time waiting of those who are still waiting (at a specific point in time i.e. end-month)
discounts periods where patient is medically unfit (medical suspension) or unavailable for treatment (social suspension)
measures the median or mean of a stock
calculates means and medians based on waiting time bands therefore requires some degree of estimation, i.e. assumptions have to be made about distributions within time bands to calculate means and medians.
4. The most fundamental difference to understand is the difference between a stock and a flow. Korner reports waiting list stocks, HES reports waiting list flows. The difference between a stock and a flow is best illustrated through ghost waiters (a subset of those requiring urgent treatment). These are patients who are placed on an elective waiting list and who are admitted before the end of the calendar month in which they were placed on the list (they will usually have been clinically defined as urgent and hence are admitted rapidly). Such patients will be captured in the flow of patients but will not appear in any month end stock figures.
5. PCT of responsibility—A derived field providing the PCT responsible for the patient. Commissioning responsibility for individual patients rests with the PCT with whom the patient is registered. This means that patients with a general practitioner (GP) in one PCT area may reside in a neighbouring or other area but remain the responsibility of the PCT with whom their GP of registration is associated. PCTs are also responsible for non-registered patients who are resident within their boundaries.
6. Time waited (days)—Time waited statistics from HES are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period, whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. HES also calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.
7. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)—An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which the FCE finishes. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
8. Number of episodes with a (named) main or secondary procedure—These figures represent the number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and four prior to 2002-03) operative procedure fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one operative procedure field of the record. More procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients undergoing a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single episode.
9. Main procedure—The main procedure is the first recorded procedure or intervention in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, (e.g. time waited), but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedure.
10. Data quality—HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
11. Assessing growth through time—HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
12. Ungrossed data—Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data, i.e. the data are ungrossed.
13. FCEs where a heart operation was the main or secondary procedure have been provided to illustrate how may heart operations were being performed. FCEs will include all types of admissions to hospital including emergencies, whereas the data for time waited are only for those who were on an elective waiting list.
14. The median figures have been quoted in preference to mean as median figures are a better proxy to the average time waited. Mean figures can cloud the real picture if some anomalies (long-waiters) may be artificially increasing the average.
*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

HES has not been able to provide data on cancer operations. As confirmed by the NHS Classification Service the axis of Office of Population Census and Surveys-4 (OPCS-4) classification is body system and the majority of procedure codes remain the same regardless of the condition that is being treated. For example if a patient has a lesion removed from the skin of the eyelid, the OPCS-4 code would be the same whether the lesion was a mole or cancer. Therefore it is not possible to differentiate between 'cancer operations' and 'non-cancer' operations using OPCS-4. However you may be able to find the information you need from the Cancer Registry, who collect data specifically related to cancer.

Statistics on average waiting times for cancer patients and average waiting times for different types of cancer treatment are not collected centrally. Cancer waiting times' standards of a maximum wait of 31 days from diagnosis to first cancer treatment, and a maximum wait of 62 days from urgent referral for suspected cancer to first cancer treatment were introduced for all cancer patients from December 2005. In the last quarter (April to June 2008) national performance against these standards was 99.6 per cent. and 97.1 per cent. respectively.

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times were for *(a)* heart and *(b)* cancer operations in Hemel Hempstead constituency in each year since 2001-02. [239347]

**Ann Keen:** Data are not collected for the average waiting time for cancer operations.

Data for the average waiting time for heart operations are not available in the format requested. Data are collected at trust level. The data provided are for West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust from 2001-02 to 2006-07. The data provided are the median days waited for a heart operation[1] where the heart operation was the main procedure, and the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where a heart operation was the main or secondary procedure.

Mean and median days waited for a heart operation[2,4] where the heart operation was the main procedure and the number of finished consultant episodes[3] where a heart operation was the main or secondary procedure in West Hertfordshire Trust from 2001-02 to 2006-07.

| | *Median waiting time*[2] | *Finished consultant episodes*[4] |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 103 | 1,707 |
| 2005-06 | 104 | 1,551 |
| 2004-05 | 180 | 1,239 |
| 2003-04 | 175 | 356 |
| 2002-03 | [5]0 | 146 |
| 2001-02 | [5]0 | 149 |

[1] Very few heart operations were performed in West Hertfordshire Trust between 2001-02 and 2002-03. Those heart operations that did take place were likely to be emergency procedures.

[2] Time waited (days)

Time waited statistics from HES are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period, whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.

[3] Finished consultant episode (FCE)

A FCE is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which the FCE finishes. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

[4] Number of episodes with a (named) main or secondary procedure

These figures represent the number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and four prior to 2002-03) operative procedure fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one operative procedure field of the record. More procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients under going a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single episode.

*Notes:*

1. *Main procedure*

The main procedure is the first recorded procedure or intervention in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, (e.g. time waited), but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedure.

2. *Changes to Coding Classifications—OPCS4*

Operative procedure codes were revised for 2006-07 and 2007-08. 2007-08 data use OPCS 4.4 codes, 2006-07 data use OPCS 4.3 codes, data prior to 2006-07 use OPCS 4.2 codes. All codes that were in OPCS 4.2 remain in later OPCS 4 versions, however the introduction of OPCS 4.3 codes enable the recording of interventions and procedures which were not possible in OPCS 4.2. In particular, OPCS 4.3 and OPCS 4.4 codes additionally include high cost drugs and diagnostic imaging, testing and rehabilitation. You may also find that some activity may have been coded under different codes in OPCS 4.2. These changes need to be borne in mind when analysing time series and may explain any trends over time.

Care needs to be taken in using the newer codes as some providers of data were unable to start using the new codes at the beginning of each data year.

The hon. Member can read more information about OPCS 4 changes on the Connecting for Health website:
www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk.

3. *Data Quality*

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

4. *Assessing growth through time*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

5. *Ungrossed Data*

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data, i.e. the data are ungrossed.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care

### Syringes: Injuries

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many needlestick injuries to health care staff have been recorded in each trust in each of the last five years; [239846]

(2) how much time off work health care staff in each trust have taken due to needlestick injuries in the last 12 months. [239847]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Data on the number of days of absence relating to needlestick injuries to national health service staff are not collected centrally. However, the Health Protection Agency (HPA) collects information on surveillance of significant occupational exposures to blood borne viruses in health care workers in the United Kingdom; its latest report is available on the HPA's website at:

http://www.camr.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1205394781623

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 585-86W.

### Thrombosis

**John Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many strategic health authorities have met the Chair of the national venous thromboembolism (VTE) implementation working group to discuss their strategies for implementing VTE risk assessment in their hospitals; [238911]

(2) what measure is being used to assess the uptake by NHS acute trusts of the Chief Medical Officer's venous thromboembolism risk assessment tool; [238912]

(3) what plans he has to introduce a hospital admission code for patients readmitted to hospital with a deep vein thrombosis acquired following a hospital stay; [238913]

(4) what financial support his Department is supplying to the NHS venous thromboembolism exemplar centres; [238914]

(5) what the costs to the NHS of treating venous thromboembolism were in each of the last five years; [238915]

(6) whether he plans to recommend the inclusion of venous thromboembolism as a measurable indicator in the annual Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check. [238916]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Dr. Anita Thomas, the chair of the venous thromboembolism (VTE) Implementation Working Group (IWG) has had discussions with four strategic health authorities since July 2008. We are currently looking at the options that are available for assessing the uptake of the Departments policy of a risk assessment on admission for all patients, and we also keep under review the necessary support for the Exemplar Centres as mentioned in the VTE Expert Working Group's report and the VTE strategy as a whole. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

The IWG is working closely with Professor Jarman at Imperial College on VTE metrics and how these can be improved so that data collection is as effective and accurate as possible. The cost of VTE to the national health service was estimated at £640 million per year based on 2004 data. We do not have more recent data at present.

The annual health check reflects performance against the Government's priorities as set out in vital signs tier 1 and tier2. Vital signs can be found in Operational Plans 2008-09 to 2010-11. A copy of this document has been placed in the Library.

### Tobacco: Sales

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prosecutions of *(a)* vending machine operators and *(b)* premises managers there have been for the sale of tobacco to minors from vending machines since the age of sale was raised to 18 years. [239211]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Ministry of Justice does not keep separate data on sale of cigarettes to young people under 18. Figures on such prosecutions are included in overall data on prosecutions for under-age sale of tobacco. 2007 figures are not yet available. Trading standards departments do not prosecute routinely for such offences as the preferred approach is to advise and educate retailers and managers of premises where vending machines are sited.

However, a recent survey from the Local Authority Coordinators of Regulatory Services found that in over 40 per cent. of test purchases, children under 18 were able to access cigarettes from vending machines, with a number of local authorities reporting a 100 per cent. failure rate in test purchases from vending machines.

Vending machines remain a significant source of cigarettes for children who say they are regular smokers, with 17 per cent. of 11 to 15-year-old smokers reporting in 2006 that they are their usual source of cigarettes.

### Tobacco: Young People

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward legislative proposals to criminalise the purchase of tobacco on behalf of those under 18 years. [237637]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Legislation making it illegal to sell tobacco to young people under the age of 18 came into force on 1 October 2007.

The issue of making it illegal for young people to buy tobacco was considered by Parliament in the spring of 2008 during a debate on the tobacco provisions of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. An amendment to introduce such an offence was debated in both Houses and was subsequently withdrawn in the House of Lords. Serious concerns were expressed that this would unnecessarily criminalise young people. The issue was also included in the Department's recent consultation on the future of tobacco control. Stakeholders were given an opportunity to submit their views on the issue and the results are being considered by Ministers.

### World War II: Chemical Weapons

**Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on research into the health effects on workers who were employed in the manufacture of mustard gas during the Second World War. [238626]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department holds no such information.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### Airwave Service

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234703]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** No organisations for which the Department for Energy and Climate Change has responsibility either use or are planning to use Airwave handsets.

### British Energy: EDF

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has offered compensation to EDF in exchange for the sale of land to potential new-build competitors at existing British Energy sites; and what discussions his Department has had with other shareholders in British Energy over the sale of British Energy to EDF. [239180]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]:* No. The undertaking agreed with EDF provides for it to release BE sites that would be surplus to its requirements and allows it to retain the proceeds of a sale and so the issue of compensation has not arisen. The only discussion that HMG has had with other shareholders in BE was a meeting held in August with Invesco, at Invesco's request.

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Office of Fair Trading has contacted his Department concerning potential monopoly issues relating to the sale of British Energy and access to sites by competitors; and what discussions he has had with EDF over referring its buyout of British Energy to the EU Competition Commission. [239181]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]:* The Office of Fair Trading has not contacted my Department concerning potential monopoly issues relating the to sale of British Energy. In accordance with EU regulations, EDF has notified its proposed acquisition British Energy to the European Commission which is in the process of conducting an inquiry. EDF has kept my officials broadly informed about the process for seeking competition clearance.

### British Energy: Nuclear Liabilities Fund

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the monetary value of the British Energy bonds held by the Nuclear Liabilities Fund. [234611]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The market value of the British Energy bonds held by the Nuclear Liabilities Fund was £208,345,642 as at September 2008.

### Carbon Emissions

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the greenhouse gas emissions of the UK, including shipping and the UK's aviation sector, including domestic and international flights, were in the latest period for which figures are available. [227861]

**Joan Ruddock:** In 2006, the UK's published emissions of the basket of six greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol were estimated to be 652.3 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent. In 2007, these emissions were provisionally estimated to be 639.4 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent. The final results for 2007 are due to be published in January 2009.

The basket of greenhouse gases consists of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride, all of which are weighted by global warming potential (GWP). The GWP for each gas is defined as its warming influence relative to that of carbon dioxide. Emissions are presented as carbon dioxide equivalent, in line with international reporting and carbon trading protocols.

Reporting of greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol is based on emissions in the UK, and those Crown Dependencies (Jersey, Guernsey, and the Isle of Man), and Overseas Territories (Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar and Montserrat) that are party to the UK ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.

Greenhouse gas emissions from domestic aviation and shipping in 2006 were estimated at 2.5 and 5.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent respectively. There are no provisional estimates for 2007.

Emissions from international aviation and shipping can be estimated from refuelling from bunkers at UK airports and ports, whether by UK or non-UK operators. These are recorded as memo items in the UK's Greenhouse Gas Inventory, as reported to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), but do not count towards national totals. There is no agreement on how, or whether, to allocate emissions from international aviation and shipping sources to individual countries.

In 2006, as memo items in the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory, UK greenhouse gas emissions from international aviation and shipping bunkers were estimated at 36 million tonnes and 6.9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent respectively.

These figures are for total greenhouse gas emissions from international aviation and shipping bunkers and will differ from those figures which are given for carbon dioxide only. For example, the estimated 2006 figures for carbon dioxide emissions for international aviation and shipping bunkers are 35.6 and 6.8 million tonnes respectively.

I refer the hon. Member to the detailed statistics provided very recently in my answer to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, West and Royton (Mr. Meacher).

### Carbon Emissions: Scotland

**Mr. Ingram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 570W, on carbon emissions: Scotland, which individual projects based in Scotland have been funded under the UK Environmental Transformation Fund; how many Scotland-based projects are currently being considered for funding; and how much has been allocated to Scotland-based projects to date. [236128]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]*: DECC provides capital grant and other funding for the demonstration and pre-commercial deployment of low carbon and renewable energy technologies under the Environmental Transformation Fund, which has a budget of £400 million over the 2008-11 CSR period. This includes support for the Carbon Trust innovation portfolio. A number of existing BERR and DEFRA programmes were brought into the Environmental Transformation Fund when it started operating on 1 April 2008. The answer lists projects that were running on or after 1 April 2008 when the ETF was formally created.

*Capital Grants*

*Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1*

The following projects in Scotland received funding under Phase 1 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme to April 2008.

| | *Technology* |
|---|---|
| Dormont Estate | Heat Pump |
| EAE Distribution Ltd | Wind Turbine |

The following numbers of grants have been paid to householders in Scotland to April 2008.

| *Technology* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Ground Source Heat Pump | 1 |
| Solar Photovoltaic | 17 |
| Solar Thermal Hot Water | 3 |
| Wind Turbine | 47 |
| Wood Fuelled Boiler System | 1 |
| Total | 69 |

In addition, there are £1,277,000 outstanding offers for 14 larger projects in Scotland made before 1 April 2008.

The following projects in Scotland received funding under Phase 1 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme from April 2008.

| | *Technology* |
|---|---|
| Motomo | Heat Pump |
| Ardochy and Rona Estates | Wind Turbine |

The following numbers of grants have been paid to householders in Scotland from April 2008.

| *Technology* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Solar Photovoltaic | 5 |
| Wind Turbine | 2 |
| Wood Fuelled Boiler System | 2 |
| Total | 9 |

£272,000 has been allocated to Scotland-based projects to April 2008. £11,000 has been allocated to Scotland-based projects from April 2008.

Only the Householder stream remains open for new projects. Instant decisions on funding are given.

*Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2*

The following projects in Scotland received funding under Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme to April 2008

Mid Annandale Playcare (MAP)

Moray Art Centre

Scottish Seabird Centre

Scottish Court Services

Scottish Court Services

The following projects in Scotland received funding under Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme from April 2008

St. Columba's Primary School

Bankier Primary School

Scottish Seabird Centre

South Ayrshire Council

South Ayrshire Council

South Ayrshire Council

Dundee City Council, Architectural Services

47 Scotland-based projects are currently being considered for funding.

£405,000 has been allocated to Scotland-based projects to April 2008. £519,000 has been allocated to Scotland-based projects from April 2008.

*Carbon Abatement Technologies*

The ETF is funding one Carbon Abatement Technologies project based in Scotland. This is a demonstration of a 40 MW Oxyfuel combustion system at Doosan Babcock's Renfrew facility. Work on project started in September 2007 and is expected to run till 2012.

No other projects are currently being considered.

*Offshore Wind*

The ETF is funding two ongoing Offshore Wind projects based in Scotland. These are wind farms Robin Rigg (OERL) and Robin Rigg (SOL).

*Resource Grants*

*Electricity Networks*

The following projects are based in Scotland: Novel Protection Methods for Active Distribution Networks with High Penetrations of Distributed Generation; Characterisation of Wind Power Output; Demand Side Participation; and UK Generic Distribution System and Planning and Operation of Active Distribution Networks. *Devolved Activities*

For areas of ETF activity where responsibility is devolved, which includes bio-energy, anaerobic digestion, and Energy Saving Trust and Carbon Trust activities, schemes are restricted to activities in England. Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust have separate funding arrangements with Devolved Administrations.

## Carbon Emissions: Standards

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of emissions reductions in the EU power sector from a 1990 baseline he estimates will arise *(a)* as a result of reductions in EU domestic emissions from this sector and *(b)* as a result of the purchase of clean development mechanism or joint implementation credits. [238729]

**Joan Ruddock:** It is not possible to estimate the exact levels of EU emissions reductions that have been made against a 1990 baseline in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). This is because data from 1990 on emissions from the power sector do not correlate exactly to the emissions which have been included in the EU ETS power sector from 2005. To determine this would

require a detailed breakdown of 1990 emissions data in all member states, which we do not have access to. Moreover, there is no sector specific cap for the power sector in Phase III of the EU ETS so again it would not be possible to calculate effort specifically attributable to that sector.

For the same reasons we cannot determine the precise level of reductions attributed to the power sector since 1990 that have been achieved through the Clean Development Mechanism.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the percentage of total effort required under *(a)* EU effort sharing arrangements and *(b)* the EU Emissions Trading Scheme between 2013 and 2020 which could be delivered through the purchase of clean development mechanism or joint implementation credits. [238730]

**Joan Ruddock:** For a 20 per cent. EU reduction target, 35 per cent. of the absolute emissions reductions required from the UK non-traded sector over the period 2013-20 (against 2005) could be met through project credits under the proposed greenhouse gas (GHG) Effort Sharing Decision. However, this does not mean that the UK would necessarily make use of this facility. For a 30 per cent. target, the Commission's proposal allows for half the additional reduction to be met through project credits.

In the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) it is not possible to accurately predict what absolute emissions reductions will be required over the period 2013-20. This is because installations in the EU ETS can "bank" access to project credits from Phase II (2008-12) into Phase III (2013-20). Looking across the whole period (2008-20), for a 20 per cent. EU target, 45 per cent. of the absolute emissions reductions required from all EU sectors in the EU ETS over the period 2008-20 (against 2005) can be met through project credits. For a 30 per cent. target, the Commission's proposal allows for half the additional reduction to be met through project credits in the EU ETS.

### Carbon Sequestration

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the carbon price which will enable commercial deployment of carbon capture and storage technology to take place in the UK. [234111]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The carbon price which will enable commercial deployment of carbon capture and storage technology in the UK depends on several variables, including *(a)* how much demonstration projects succeeded in confirming the technical performance of the technology, *(b)* the scale of cost reductions gained from economies of scale and learning, and *(c)* the cost of fossil fuels.

Modelling undertaken by DECC suggests that CCS deployment at £40-£60/t$CO_2$ however the early stage of development of the technology and the variables outlined above that will affect this figure mean that there is significant uncertainty surrounding this range.

### Christmas

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruits to be served by his Department at Christmas functions which will be sourced from British producers. [239727]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

### Climate Change

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what additional (a) personal and (b) financial resources his Department has allocated to addressing climate change in accordance with the undertaking given in the Written Ministerial Statement on 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 52 WS, on the new Strategic Framework. [237449]

**David Miliband:** In accordance with the new Strategic Framework for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), I have substantially increased the resources devoted to addressing climate change at the FCO. The Climate Change and Energy programme budget in the FCO's Strategic Programme Fund has been increased from £4.7 million in financial year 2007/08 to £10 million for financial year 2008/09, £16 million for financial year 2009/10 and £21 million for financial year 2010/11. Additionally, the FCO has increased the number of staff working to deliver climate change and energy objectives. A new financial resource of £0.8 million has been provided to create 19 new positions in London. An extra £5.7 million for diplomatic missions in priority countries has created 32.5 new positions for British diplomats on postings, and 73 positions for locally engaged members of staff.

I have personally invested more time in this priority issue, stepping up the frequency of my discussions on climate change with counterparts and wider stakeholders and will continue to do so, in co-ordination with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, in advance of the critical Framework Convention on Climate Change of Parties at Copenhagen in December 2009

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the oral statement of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 23, on the European Council, what the evidential basis is for his statement that the United Kingdom cannot fulfil its climate change aspirations without nuclear power. [232157]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Nuclear will be an important part of an affordable climate change policy for the UK. In the face of climate change and our 80 per cent. target, we need all low carbon energy technologies available in the mix. Not having nuclear as an option would increase the costs of delivering our energy goals and increase the risks of failing to meet our targets for reducing emissions. In the absence of nuclear power, and if carbon capture

and storage is not a viable or technical option, the costs of generating the UK's electricity could increase by up to 40 per cent.

Both the consultation document, "The Future of Nuclear Power" and the Nuclear White Paper are evidence bases for the Government's decision that it is in the public interest to give energy companies the option of investing in nuclear power stations. The Department published a cost-benefit analysis of nuclear power[1] at the time of the 2006 Energy Review. The recently published DECC energy and emissions projections[2] provide further support for these assumptions.

[1] http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39525.pdf

[2] http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file48514.pdf

### Coal Authority

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much surplus land the Coal Authority owns, expressed in *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated monetary value. [238693]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Coal Authority owns 5.59 hectares of surplus land with an estimated book value of £334,786 as at 31 March 2008.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans there are for each of the sites owned by the Coal Authority which are registered on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land; what construction projects are planned for each site; and when he expects each site to be returned to use. [238694]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Although the Coal Authority has no immediate plans for those sites in its ownership which appear on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land, it does ultimately have a statutory duty to make such sites available for acquisition by others and, in doing so, to secure the best terms reasonably available.

### Coal: Imports

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average cost per tonne of imported coal was in 2007. [239271]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In 2007, the value of coal (and other solid fuels) imports was provisionally £2,072.3 million, while the volume of coal (and other solid fuels) imports was 43.9 million tonnes. This gives an average cost of £47.20 per tonne of imported coal (and other solid fuels).

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the effect on the balance of payments of coal imports and exports was in 2007. [239274]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** In 2007, the value of coal (and other solid fuel) imports was provisionally £2,072.3 million. The value of exports was provisionally £65.3 million. This gives a net effect of-£2,007 million on the balance of payments.

Value of imports figures are only available for coal and other solid fuels combined.

### Departmental Absenteeism

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its non-departmental public bodies has been since its inception; what the target rates set for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [239134]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which was formed on 3 October 2008, will consist of posts taken from the existing Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA). Information for this question is covered by the BERR and DEFRA responses. There are on-going negotiations to determine the overall functions of and staff numbers for the Department and which additional regulators, inspectorates, executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) might become the responsibility of the Department. It is not possible to identify what the rate of absence and sickness absence is in DECC and its NDPBs until these negotiations are complete. The Department has not at this stage set target rates for absences or sick absences.

### Departmental Advertising

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its non-departmental public bodies have spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [239156]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department for Energy and Climate Change was formed on 3 October 2008, before which its expenditure and that of its non-departmental public bodies was the responsibility of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Discussions to determine the functions transferring to the Department, including which non-departmental public bodies become its responsibility, are progressing well but are not yet complete.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [237415]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was formed on 3 October 2008. Negotiations with BERR and DEFRA on the machinery of government changes are ongoing. Catering arrangements for DECC premises will be determined once negotiations are complete. DECC staff in 3-8 Whitehall Place, Atholl House and temporary accommodation in 1 Victoria Street and Ergon House at present make use of the BERR and DEFRA catering services in these premises, the arrangements for which will be covered in BERR's and DEFRA's answers to this question.

**Departmental Civil Servants**

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many civil servants have been employed by each of his Department's non-departmental bodies since his Department's inception; and if he will make a statement. [239137]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** With a couple of exceptions, executive NDPBs are non-Crown bodies and employees are not civil servants—although civil servants can be seconded or loaned to NDPBs. Information on the number of employees in executive NDPBs is published in the annual Cabinet Office "Public Bodies" publication. Copies are available from the Libraries of the House.

Advisory NDPBs do not usually employ staff. They are typically supported by civil servants from the sponsoring Department.

**Departmental Consultants**

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its non-departmental public bodies has spent on external consultancy since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [239135]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department for Energy and Climate Change was formed on 3 October 2008, before which its expenditure and that of its non-departmental public bodies was the responsibility of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Discussions to determine the functions transferring to the Department, including which non-departmental public bodies become its responsibility, are progressing well but are not yet complete.

**Departmental Early Retirement**

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many employees in his Department have taken early retirement since its inception; and at what total cost. [239058]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which was formed on 3 October 2008, will consist of posts transferred from the existing Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA). The detail is still being worked on, but staff will come to DECC from Energy Group in BERR and Climate Change Group in DEFRA. No DECC staff have taken early retirement since the formation of the Department.

**Departmental Electronic Equipment**

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on *(a)* flat screen televisions, *(b)* DVD players and *(c)* stereo equipment since its creation. [233432]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was formed on 3 October 2008. Since its formation, the Department has spent £1,039.90 on flat screen televisions and DVD players. Please note that this expenditure was also included in DEFRA's response to this question.

**Departmental Internet**

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for which Government websites his Department is responsible; how many visitors each has received since his Department's creation; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [239043]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which was formed on 3 October 2008. Negotiations with BERR and DEFRA on the machinery of government changes are ongoing. Website arrangements for DECC functions will be determined once negotiations are complete. In the interim, the DECC website (www.decc.gov.uk) is currently hosted on the DEFRA internet platform. Websites for Energy and Climate Change issues continue, for the present, to be hosted on the BERR and DEFRA internet platforms respectively, as they were prior to the formation of DECC. As such, DECC has not incurred any costs, separate from those incurred by BERR and DEFRA, for site maintenance. It has not been possible to separate the number of visitors to the DECC website from the total number of visitors to websites on the DEFRA internet platform.

**Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers**

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to appoint a Departmental Chief Scientific Adviser. [236491]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Given the significant role of science in our work on energy and climate change, the Department will be appointing a dedicated Chief Scientific Adviser. We will be running an open application process for the post to allow all interested candidates to apply in due course.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff has been since his Department's creation. [237316]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has one full-time equivalent member of staff engaged in assisting special advisers. It is not possible to provide information on the cost of this staff member as to reveal the cost could identify an individual's salary, which is confidential between the individual and the employer.

**Departmental Personnel**

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many permanent staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are classified as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [236739]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which was formed on 3 October 2008, will consist of posts taken from the existing Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA). The detail is still being worked on, but approximately 500 staff will come to DECC from Energy Group in BERR and 400 from Climate Change Group in DEFRA. It is not possible to answer this question until the detail of the staff transfers has been agreed.

### Departmental Postal Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department uses the Royal Mail as the primary company for sending its post, parcels and packages. [238123]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was formed on 3 October 2008. Negotiations with BERR and DEFRA on the Machinery of Government changes are ongoing. Provision of mail services for DECC will be determined once negotiations are complete. DECC staff in 3-8 Whitehall Place, Atholl House and temporary accommodation in 1 Victoria Street and Ergon House at present make use of the BERR and DEFRA mail services, both of whom currently use the Royal Mail as their primary provider of mail services.

### Departmental Procurement

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish a list of names and addresses of each organisation that supplied goods or services to his Department since its creation. [236785]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether there has been any negative cost to his Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract. [239647]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I know of none since the formation of the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

### Departmental Public Bodies

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 455W, on public bodies, by what date he expects the negotiations to determine which regulators, inspectorates, executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are to become the responsibility of his Department to be completed. [236583]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Negotiations on the machinery of government changes, as they affect the Department of Energy and Climate Change, are continuing. These negotiations should be completed in time to allow the spring supplementary estimates to be finalised early in 2009.

### Departmental Public Service Agreements

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what Public Service Agreements his Department is *(a)* a formal delivery partner and *(b)* a contributor. [236599]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Cabinet Office Paper in the House Library "Machinery of Government: economy, business, climate change, energy and environment" sets out much of this information. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) took on responsibility for the public service agreement (PSA) to lead the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change. This PSA was transferred to DECC on its formation on 3 October 2008. Negotiations on the machinery of government changes, as they affect DECC and its PSAs, are continuing.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to recruit staff from the private energy sector. [230621]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which was formed on 3 October 2008, will consist of posts taken from the existing Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA). The detail is still being worked on, but once this has been agreed, it will be possible to determine DECC's recruitment requirements and policy.

### Departmental Special Advisers

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 553-554W, on departmental special advisers, from which department's budget the Special Representative on Energy Issues will draw expenses. [232349]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Special Representative of the Prime Minister on International Energy Issues will be entitled to claim reasonable travel and subsistence expenses incurred as part of his work. These expenses will normally be drawn from the Department of Energy and Climate Change and paid in accordance with existing departmental guidelines on allowances and subsistence.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many questions for written answer have been tabled to his Department since its creation; and how many have been *(a)* answered substantively and *(b)* not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235396]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information, which is available on the Parliamentary Information Management System, was, at 24 November 2008, as follows:-

Number of questions tabled to DECC: 613

Number answered: 386

Number still to answer: 227

None of the questions answered received a reply citing disproportionate costs.

## Energy

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the package of energy measures announced by the Prime Minister on 11 September 2008. [232854]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government have made good progress with the various elements of the package announced by the Prime Minister.

A key aspect of the announcement was a 20 per cent. uplift to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target. This is estimated to lever an additional £560 million of energy supplier investment in the energy efficiency of housing stock in Great Britain to 2011. We will consult shortly on the legislative changes needed to enact this. In the meantime, we have been working closely with energy suppliers and the insulation industry to maximise action this winter—meaning that insulation activity is some 70 per cent. higher than for the same period last year.

As part of the package the Government also announced an additional £74 million for the Warm Front scheme. The scheme managers are carrying out household surveys and we estimate that the additional investment will deliver up to 9,000 central heating systems and 5,000 insulation measures by Christmas.

We have launched a major communications campaign: "Save Money, Save Energy. Act on $CO_2$", with an intensive first stage running from 17 September to the end of November. This includes adverts on TV, online, radio and in national newspapers encouraging people to save money on their fuel bills by becoming more energy efficient. It also encourages people to call the Government-funded Act on $CO_2$ helpline, run by the Energy Saving Trust (EST). Following the announcement, the EST took 89,000 calls in September (against 27,000 in September 2007), and 92,000 calls in October (against 33,000 in October 2007).

The amendments to primary legislation needed to take forward the new Community Energy Savings Programme have been included in the Climate Change Bill.

And, as a result of the individual voluntary agreements negotiated between the Government and the energy suppliers under which they are providing increased social assistance to their vulnerable customers, over 770,000 customer accounts have already been put onto a discounted tariff—roughly double the number since this time last year.

Jobcentre Plus is on course to launch the first stage of the Energy Efficiency Employment Initiative at the end of November. It will provide access to information and training that will help more people to secure insulation related jobs. Similar routes are being developed to improve access to other energy related jobs.

## Energy Saving Week

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will set out the programme of events which his Department has organised or participated in during Energy Saving Week; what resources were committed to this programme; and what plans he has to evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign. [230017]

**Joan Ruddock:** This year's Energy Saving Trust (EST) Energy Saving Week took place from 20 to 26 October.

DECC grant funds the Energy Saving Trust year-on-year, supporting the valuable work it undertakes to tackle climate change through the reduction of household carbon dioxide emissions, which includes their awareness-raising work in Energy Saving Week. DECC's participation in the events of the week included a visit to the Department from EST's Home Energy Doctor. Representatives provided a plasma screen presentation in the Nobel House foyer and spent the day talking with staff from DECC and DEFRA, advising them how they could save money by making their homes and lifestyles more energy efficient.

In addition, I have been writing an Energy Saving Week diary on the EST website. The diary is updated daily and is very informative, providing a personal account of how I balance energy saving around my life and busy work schedule.

EST operates a continuing evaluation programme to monitor the effectiveness of its activities, including this campaign.

Ed Miliband contributed a quote to the Energy Savings Trust national press release.

## Energy Technologies Institute

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the Heads of Agreement for the Energy Technologies Institute and *(b)* any contracts the Government has with the Institute. [234570]

**Mr. Simon:** I have been asked to reply.

I do not propose to place these documents in the Library. The documents are confidential to members of the partnership.

## Energy: Conservation

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to promote as an energy-saving measure the *(a)* development and *(b)* use of washing powder that utilises cold water. [235818]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government are firmly committed to improving energy efficiency in the UK and DEFRA's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) works to bring forward products that use less energy, water and other resources.

The Government are aware that detergents have been developed in recent years that are effective at lower temperatures and MTP has conducted initial investigations into the energy saving potential from using 30° C washes. While there will be further energy savings to be made from washes at even lower temperatures, further research is required to compare these to the embedded $CO_2$ from the manufacture and disposal of detergents.

Further research would also be required to assess the capacity of washing machines to wash at cold temperatures and to ascertain whether there could be any other unintended consequences.

**Energy: Departmental Responsibilities**

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what work is expected to be carried out by the Special Representative of the Prime Minister on International Energy Issues; and if he will make a statement. [231592]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Special Representative of the Prime Minister on International Energy Issues will work with me to analyse global trends in energy supply and demand and energy security and their implications for UK, European and global policy.

**Energy: Fees and Charges**

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many social tariff accounts were available to consumers of each energy supply company in each of the last three years; and how many customers of each company were on social tariffs. [235322]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Ofgem published its first review of suppliers "Voluntary Initiative to Help Vulnerable Customers" on 6 August 2007, which covered the period to July 2007. Ofgem updated this report in October 2007. Both reports can be found online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/Review%20of%20suppliers%20voluntary%20initiatives.pdf

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/CSR_update_open_letter_23507.pdf

The October update report shows that the number of gas and electricity customer accounts on suppliers' social tariffs per suppliers was around:

| *Supplier* | *Number (as at 31 August 2007)* |
|---|---|
| British Gas | 280,000 |
| EDF Energy | 59,979 |
| Npower | 2,457 |
| Powergen | 10,373 |
| Scottish Power | 0 |
| SSE | 12,521 |
| Total | 365,330 |

Following the announcement in Budget 2008, energy suppliers agreed in April, to increase how much they are spending on social programmes. This year they will be spending collectively £100 million, rising to £125 million in 2009-10 and £150 million in 2010-11. Suppliers have only provided forecast numbers for the first time for 2008, which shows around 600,000 customer accounts are expected to be on social tariffs this winter. The actual number of customer accounts on social tariffs during the first year of the voluntary agreement will be published in Ofgem's next reporting cycle in 2009.

Ofgem will shortly be publishing a report on suppliers' social programmes, which will show the number of customer accounts, by each supplier, on social tariffs, to the end of March 2008.

**Energy: Manpower**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* Civil Service support and *(b)* office space will be given to the special representative on international energy issues; and what expenses the representative will be able to claim. [229195]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Special Representative of the Prime Minister on International Energy Issues will support me and the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and will receive support from my Department in his role. He will be entitled to claim reasonable travel and subsistence expenses incurred as part of his work.

**Energy: Meters**

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to decide on the roll-out of the smart meter programme; and if he will make a statement. [227383]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Government announced on 28 October their plan to roll out smart meters to all domestic customers, 28 October 2008, *«Official Report, House of Lords*, column 1515, along with an indicative timetable of around two years to design and establish the full details of a roll-out followed by a ten year roll-out period.

In the Budget 2008 the Government announced the roll-out of advanced metering to larger business customers over a five-year period, beginning early in 2009. A consultation on the provision of smart and advanced metering for remaining businesses customers closed on 17 October. The Government will respond soon.

**Energy: Per Capita Costs**

**Mr. Ingram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average annual cost per domestic energy consumer of the subsidies provided by his Department to the renewable energy sector. [230028]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* The Government's main mechanism for supporting renewable generation is the Renewables Obligation (RO). Ofgem, who administer the RO, have calculated the annual cost of the RO for 2008-09 to be around £10 per customer. This information, along with details of other measures to tackle climate change, can be found at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Media/FactSheets/Documents1/energy%20prices%20jan08.pdf.

**Environment Protection: European Parliament Members**

**Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the European Commission on the environmental effects of travel by MEPs and officials from Brussels to Strasbourg for plenary sessions of the European Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [229820]

**Joan Ruddock:** Ministers and officials have regular discussions with Commissioners and officials in the European Commission on a range of topics. In particular, at present negotiations are continuing on the Commission's

Climate and Energy Package which will deliver the 2020 emissions reductions targets agreed at the 2007 spring European Council. The environmental effects of all travel within the EU will be addressed once the package is agreed.

**Environmental Transformation Fund**

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what projects have received funding from the Environmental Transformation Fund since its inception. [236598]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** DECC provides capital grant and other funding for the demonstration and pre-commercial deployment of low carbon and renewable energy technologies under the Environmental Transformation Fund, which has a budget of £400 million over the 2008-11 CSR period. A number of existing BERR and DEFRA programmes were brought into the Environmental Transformation Fund when it started operating on 1 April 2008. The answer lists projects that were running on or after 1 April 2008 when the ETF was formally created.

*Biomass (ex-BERR)*

The ETF is funding two ongoing Biomass projects: Eccleshall Biomass, Farming for Energy; and Balcas Limited.

*Carbon Abatement Technologies*

The ETF is funding one carbon abatement technologies capital project. This is a demonstration of a 40 MW Oxyfuel combustion system at Doosan Babcock's Renfrew facility. Work on the project started in September 2007 and is expected to run until 2012.

The ETF is funding the following carbon abatement technologies resource projects:

Advanced Materials for low Emission Power plant: Development of UGG for Power Generation;

A Study of the Reaction Chemistry in the production of hydrogen from coal using a novel process concept;

A study of the release of trace elements during combustion and gasification under conditions relevant to power technology in China;

Development of a UK Capability for Monitoring and Verification of $CO_2$ Geological Storage within the EC—($CO_2$ReMoVe);

Development of a UK Capability for Long-Term Performance Assessment of $CO_2$ Geological Storage within the $CO_2$GeoNet Network of excellence—($CO_2$GeoNet);

Development of a UK Capability for Long-Term Performance Assessment of $CO_2$ Geological Storage within the EC-($CO_2$ReMoVe);

Monitoring, Reporting and Verification Guidelines for CCS under EU ETS—Extension of Methodology to Enhanced Oil Recovery;

Chinese Advanced Power Plant Carbon Capture Options (CAPPCCo); and

UK-China Cooperation for Technology Transfer to Establish the Co-Utilisation of Waste Biomass with Coal.

In addition to the above we are providing funding to British Coal Utilisation Research Association Limited (BCURA) which amounts to £256,000 between 2008 and 2011. This money goes to BCURA to help in their role alongside industry in funding R and D projects in universities. There are currently 11 projects running which are being funded by BCURA. Our arrangement with BCURA will come to an end in 2011.

*Hydrogen and Fuel Cells*

The hydrogen and fuel cell projects that have received funding from the Environmental Transformation Fund since its inception are:

Remote welfare cabin (Voller);

London Bus Services Ltd—buses;

Penner Road CHP (Scottish and Southern Energy); and

Microcab demonstration for zero emission campus.

*Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1*

The following projects have received funding under Phase 1 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme since April 2008.

| *Organisation Name* | *Technologies* |
|---|---|
| Uttlesford District Council | Solar PV |
| North East Bio Mass Community Association | Wood boiler |
| Metanno | Heat Pump |
| Plumpton College | Heat Pump |
| Treglos Hotel | Solar Thermal |
| The Greenshop | Solar PV, Solar Thermal, Wood Boiler |
| Dunster National Trust | Solar PV |
| Denholme Primary School | Wind Turbine |
| Broxtowe Borough Council | Solar Thermal |
| Rochdale Boroughwide Housing | Solar Thermal |
| Liverpool City Council | Solar PV, Solar Thermal, Wind Turbine |
| Gorran Primary School | Wind Turbine |
| Shrewsbury Environmental Technology Centre | Wood boiler |
| Cwm Maddock Barns Residents Management Company | Solar Thermal, Wood boiler |
| The National Trust | Solar PV |
| The Campbell Village Trust | Wood boiler |
| Bayfield Locations | Wood boiler |
| Regent lodge hotel ltd | Solar PV |
| W.A. Howarth (Aphrodites Lodge Ltd) | Wood boiler |
| Orchard Acre Farm | Solar Thermal |
| Claremont School | Solar PV |
| Mole Oak Primary School | Solar PV |
| Environment Agency for England and Wales—south west region | Solar PV |
| Ebenezer Limited | Solar Thermal, Pellet Stove |
| Blackdown Hills Business Association | Pellet Stove |
| Breezy Dean | Wind Turbine |
| Holsons Brewery and Co. Ltd | Heat Pump |
| D T Rutherford, B A Farr. | Wind Turbine |
| Kippax North Junior and Infant School | Wind Turbine |
| Lincolnshire Rural Housing Association | Solar Thermal |
| Woodland Smith and Associates ltd | Solar PV |
| South Camden Community School | Solar PV |
| Meadow Well Connected | Wind Turbine, Heat Pump |
| Ousby Community Hall | Wood boiler |
| Farms for City Children | Wood boiler |
| Harrison Cameras/Ian Harrison | Solar PV |
| Kielder Partnership | Solar PV, Wind Turbine |
| Halton Borough Council | Wind Turbine |
| Holywood Old School Preservation Trust | Solar Thermal |
| Cwmnofiola Centre Ltd | Solar Thermal |
| Ardtoe and Resta Estates | Wind Turbine |
| Sandhills Community Primary School | Wind Turbine |
| Dover District Council | Wind Turbine |
| Cornwall rural housing association | Heat Pump |
| Tom Ramsden | Wood boiler |
| Girlguiding Anglia | Heat Pump |

| Organisation Name | Technologies |
|---|---|
| Wear Valley District Council | Solar Thermal |
| Golden Gates Housing | Solar Thermal |
| Creagan Education and Research centre | Wind Turbine |
| Ipley Manor farm limited | Wood boiler |
| Gloucestershire County Council | Wood boiler |
| BBS Plumbing and Heating Supplies | Solar PV |
| South Yorkshire Housing Association | Solar Thermal |
| Weymouth and Portland BC | Wood boiler |

The following numbers of grants have been paid to householders since April 2008.

| Technology | Number |
|---|---|
| Ground Source Heat Pump | 75 |
| Small Scale Hydro | 2 |
| Solar Photovoltaic | 322 |
| Solar Thermal Hot Water | 942 |
| Wind Turbine | 62 |
| Wood Fuelled Boiler System | 74 |
| Total | 1,477 |

£9.6 million of grants allocated before April 2008 are currently outstanding for 176 larger projects. £82,000 of grants allocated before April 2008 to householders are currently outstanding for 87 installations.

Only the Householder stream remains open for new projects. £2.9 million under this stream has been allocated to projects since April 2008.

*Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2*

A list of projects that have received funding under Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme since April 2008 has been placed in both Libraries of the House.

*Bio-energy Capital Grants and Bio-energy Infrastructure Schemes*

12 projects have received a total of 16 grant payments, totalling £283,000.

*Offshore Wind*

The ETF is funding eight ongoing offshore wind projects with grants to the following wind farms: Kentish Flats; Barrow Offshore; Robin Rigg (OERL); Robin Rigg (SOL); Gunfleet; Inner Dowsing; Lynn Offshore; and Rhyl Flats.

*Electricity Networks*

The following projects are running: Wind turbine experimental rig; Novel Protection Methods for Active Distribution Networks with High Penetrations of Distributed Generation; Characterisation of Wind Power Output; Demand Side Participation; Investment, access and pricing of transmission in systems with significant penetration of wind power; UK Generic Distribution System and Planning and Operation of Active Distribution Networks; Analysis of system operation in systems with significant penetration of renewable generation; Update of offshore GB SQSS; Multi - terminal DC Transmission Systems for Offshore Wind; and Dynamic Economical and Environmental Impact of Dynamic Demand in Frequency Response Services and Grid integration of Wind Generation. The total value of grants is £940,000.

*Carbon Trust*

£47.4 million has been allocated to the Carbon Trust's technology programmes in 2008-09, including more funding for their SME loan scheme and the similar scheme in the public sector operated by Salix Finance Ltd.

*Detail of projects*

ETF funding is provided to the Carbon Trust as part of their annual grant funding from DECC. It is used to fund activities in the following areas:

Innovations: development of commercially promising low carbon technologies through partnerships, funding, expert advice and large-scale demonstrations;

Enterprises: creation of new, high-growth, low-carbon businesses;

Investments: finance for emerging clean energy technology businesses that demonstrate commercial potential;

Insights: explaining the issues and opportunities surrounding climate change and carbon reduction, and developing low carbon strategies that engage Government and business;

Loans: interest free loan scheme, which offers loans of up to £200,000 for SMEs installing energy efficient equipment;

Public sector loans: public sector "invest to save" schemes for energy efficiency (delivered by Salix finance);

Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme: promotion and management of the Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme for energy saving technologies, which provides enhanced tax relief for businesses investing in designated energy efficient equipment.

As at the end of October, the Carbon Trust had claimed £17 million of the £47.4 million ETF funding for 2008-9 and this has been spent as follows:

| | Total expenditure (1 April to 31 October) (£ million) |
|---|---|
| Innovations | 5.7 |
| Enterprises | 1.5 |
| Investments | 2.6 |
| Insights | 0.3 |
| Loans | 5.1 |
| Salix | 0.6 |
| ECAs | 1.2 |
| Total | 17 |

## EU Emissions Trading Scheme

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the merits of extending the EU Emissions Trading Scheme to cover surface transport; and if he will make a statement. [230059]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** A UK Government discussion paper setting out some of the issues associated with road transport's potential inclusion in the EU ETS was published on 24 May 2007 and can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/climatechange/euemistrascheme.

The European Commission's January 2008 proposal on revising the ETS directive stated that further analysis of the costs and benefits of extending the support to surface transport was needed, before deciding whether this was the most appropriate way of tackling rising emissions from this sector. As a result the Review does not recommend the inclusion of surface transport in the ETS from phase 3 (2013 to 2020).

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what basis his Department set the quantity of emission allowances to be auctioned in

the second stage of the European Emissions Trading Scheme; for what reasons his Department has not auctioned the maximum number of allowances possible at this stage; what additional revenue he estimates he would have received from such an auction; and if he will make a statement. [239549]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]:* The Government published a consultation on the proportion of allowances to be auctioned in Phase II of EU ETS in March 2006 and our response in August 2006. This set out our decision to auction or sell 7 per cent. of the overall UK emissions cap. Our decision took account of the consultation responses as well as the final level of the cap and total number of allowances to be allocated in Phase II. This means that 86 million allowances will be auctioned during the period 2008 to 2012.

Up to an additional 36.9 million allowances could be sold during the phase because allowances from closures and any surplus new entrant reserve will be added to the auctioning 'pot' up to the maximum 10 per cent. of the cap (120 million allowances) allowed by the directive to be sold by member states. Any surplus allowances above this limit will be cancelled.

These arrangements are set out in detail in the UK's National Allocation Plan for Phase II which has been submitted to the European Commission and approved under the terms of the directive.

It is not Government policy to speculate on revenues from EU ETS auctions.

### Fuel Poverty: Disabled

**Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people in receipt of mobility benefit received *(a)* discounts on their bills and *(b)* assistance in another form from energy companies in the last 12 months. [238259]

**Joan Ruddock:** Energy suppliers voluntarily provide a range of social assistance to households vulnerable to fuel poverty, including discounts on their bills. Following the announcement in Budget 2008, energy suppliers agreed in April, to increase how much they are spending on social programmes. This year they will be spending collectively £100 million, rising to £125 million in 2009-10 and £150 million in 2010-11. This will be spent on a number of initiatives including social tariffs, rebates and trust funds. A breakdown to show recipients of this help per benefit is not available.

Ofgem monitors suppliers' social assistance and published a review of this in August 2007 which was updated in October 2007. Both reports can be found online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk//Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/Review%20of%20suppliers%20voluntary%20initiatives.pdf

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/CSRupdateopenletter23507.pdf

### Fuels: Scotland

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the average annual fuel bill for households in Scotland has changed in each of the last 10 years. [239263]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Livestock Industry

**Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1333W, on meat and dairy consumption, what the timescale is for the work being undertaken to establish the extent to which all points in the meat production chain contribute to greenhouse gas emissions; what steps he intends to take once that work is completed; and what assessment he has made of the accuracy of the UN's estimate that 18 per cent. of global greenhouse gas emissions are related to animal production. [237638]

**Jane Kennedy:** Emissions from agriculture and livestock production and consumption are very complex and our aim is to continue to improve our knowledge over time.

Our work to tackle emissions from meat production includes a workstream on agriculture and climate change which aims to enable the agriculture, forestry and land management sector (which includes livestock farming) to fulfil its potential in contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation. As part of this we are looking to establish a cost-effective package of policy measures to help reduce emissions. This will inform the sector's contribution to meeting the UK's carbon budgets under the Climate Change Bill. This work is supported by a strong programme of research (around £5 million per year), which includes studies on ruminant nutrition regimes to reduce methane and nitrogen emissions from livestock, research to improve the productivity of dairy cattle and a study to assess the level and type of farming activity in the livestock sector that UK resources can sustain in order to reach UK greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and ammonia targets.

The Government have made no official assessment of the 18 per cent. global estimate from the Food and Agricultural Organisation report Livestock's Long Shadow. We note however that it includes life-cycle emissions associated with livestock production and consumption. These emissions include not only emissions from enteric fermentation and agricultural waste disposal, but also emissions associated with feed production and from deforestation related to livestock production. The uncertainties with estimates of this type are significant, but the order of magnitude of the emission estimates is likely to be correct.

The most recent available GHG Inventory for the UK shows that direct emissions from livestock were 3.1 per cent. of total emissions in 2006.

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of efficiency measures installed under the *(a)* Warm Front scheme and *(b)* Home Energy Efficiency scheme which were installed in rural areas. [234715]

**Joan Ruddock:** Action to tackle fuel poverty is a devolved matter, as such this response is restricted to action undertaken in England (under the Warm Front Scheme) only.

The following table illustrates the proportions of measures delivered, through the Warm Front Scheme, in rural and urban households presented as a percentage split of all measures delivered between 1 April 2005 and 30 March 2008. Rural definitions follow closely those used by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Percentages for urban households are derived by subtracting figures for rural households from total measures provided.

| *Measure category* | *Rural households* | *Urban households* |
|---|---|---|
| Boiler Replacement Gas | 9 | 91 |
| Boiler Replacement LPG | 70 | 30 |
| Boiler Replacement Oil | 92 | 8 |
| Boiler Replacement Solid Fuel | 36 | 64 |
| Cavity Wall Insulation | 18 | 82 |
| Compact Fluorescent Light-bulbs | 15 | 85 |
| Draught-proofing | 16 | 84 |
| Electric Storage Heating | 30 | 70 |
| FIDHWT | 29 | 71 |
| Gas Central Heating | 7 | 93 |
| Gas Wall Heaters | 9 | 91 |
| Heating Repairs | 11 | 89 |
| Loft Insulation | 18 | 82 |
| Oil Central Heating | 93 | 7 |
| Solid Fuel Fire Cassettes | 89 | 11 |
| Tank Jackets | 19 | 81 |

**Mr. Crausby:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many boiler replacement grants awarded through the Warm Front scheme have included monies for maintenance insurance provided by Eaga plc. [236512]

**Joan Ruddock:** No boiler replacement grants awarded through the Warm Front scheme have included monies for maintenance insurance provided by Eaga.

Two years of cover and two annual service visits are applied to all gas boiler replacements provided through the Warm Front Scheme. However, neither are paid for by individual household grant monies. Householder contributions for measures above the grant limit are not related to funding for maintenance or aftercare assistance.

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applicants for a Warm Front grant aged *(a)* under and *(b)* over 60 years who were informed that they would need to pay a contribution (i) took up the grant and (ii) did not proceed in each year since the introduction of the scheme. [236740]

**Joan Ruddock:** The following tables illustrate the number of households assisted by the Warm Front Scheme where the eligible householder was either *(a)* under or *(b)* over 60 years of age, of these how many were asked to contribute to the cost of work and of these how many have (i) paid this contribution and (ii) those that did not proceed, as at 27 October 2008.

| | | *Contribution requests made (under 60s only)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Scheme year* | *Assisted households (under 60s only)* | *Paid* | *Did not proceed* | *Total* |
| 2005-06 | 47,364 | 3,968 | 353 | 4,321 |
| 2006-07 | 104,399 | 15,213 | 1,268 | 16,481 |
| 2007-08 | 108,154 | 25,368 | 3,077 | 28,445 |
| 2008-09 (to 25 October 2008) | 44,581 | 9,083 | 5,084 | 14,167 |

| | | *Contribution requests made (over 60s only)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Scheme year* | *Assisted households (over 60s only)* | *Paid* | *Did not proceed* | *Total* |
| 2005-06 | 65,612 | 5,937 | 465 | 6,402 |
| 2006-07 | 147,547 | 20,606 | 1,353 | 21,959 |
| 2007-08 | 161,322 | 35,246 | 2,955 | 38,201 |
| 2008-09 (to 25 October 2008) | 64,306 | 15,420 | 5,936 | 21,356 |

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average contribution requested from householders assisted under the Warm Front scheme was in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* England since the inception of contributions. [240003]

**Joan Ruddock:** The average contributions up until 27 October 2008 (the latest time for which figures are available) are as follows:

| | *Average contribution (£)* |
|---|---|
| (a) Suffolk | 808.76 |
| (b) England | 532.57 |

The figures shown are representative of the contributions requested during the second phase of Warm Front, beginning in 2005. Contributions were requested prior to this time but the data retained by the new scheme manager do not permit me to provide the figures required.

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: East Midlands

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, which contractors the Warm Front scheme uses in the East Midlands. [238078]

**Joan Ruddock:** The following list illustrates the contractors registered with the Warm Front Scheme who are contracted to carry out work in the East Midlands.

*Company name*

Better Plumbing Services Ltd.
BGC Gas Services Ltd.
Blue Flag Ltd.
East Coast Gas Services
Fenhams Contracts
Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.
Heating Solutions
Iguana
Interglow (Contracts) Ltd.
JJ Crump
Johnson and Starley
Kershaw Contracting Services Ltd.

KHI Ltd
Lionheart Heating Services Ltd.
Mark Insulations
Miller Pattison
Eaga Home Services
Paul Brant Plumbing and Heating
Perry Electrical Ltd.
Smethwick Energy Action
Staywarm Insulation
Sun Realm Heating Co. Ltd.
Westville Ltd.

### Industrial Diseases: Compensation

**Mr. Skinner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many claims for *(a)* miners' hearing loss, *(b)* vibration white finger and *(c)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease were paid in Bolsover constituency in each of the last six years. [238667]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The following table shows how many miner's claims have been settled by payment for noise induced hearing loss, vibration white finger and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in Bolsover constituency in each of the last six years.

| | *NIHL* | *VWF* | *COPD* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 203 | 601 | 1,528 |
| 2004 | 144 | 395 | 1,481 |
| 2005 | 170 | 497 | 2,533 |
| 2006 | 86 | 584 | 1,787 |
| 2007 | 23 | 886 | 891 |
| 2008 | 5 | 1,375 | 370 |

### Insulation: Housing

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what grants his Department makes available to meet the cost of insulation in older properties without cavity walls; and what additional grants are likely to be available under the recently announced special energy efficiency scheme in the next two years. [228521]

**Joan Ruddock:** Warm Front is the Government's main programme for tackling fuel poverty in vulnerable households in the private sector through the provision of heating, insulation and energy efficiency measures. Currently Warm Front provides grants for both cavity wall and loft insulation. However, Warm Front does have mechanisms in place for assessing alternative technologies, with a particular emphasis on those that can assist hard to treat properties. As part of these processes Warm Front is currently reviewing whether there are solid wall insulation products in the marketplace which are appropriate for the scheme. However, Warm Front will only integrate a new technology onto the scheme following a full assessment of its suitability, which will look at factors such as energy savings, installer and manufacturer capacity, customer satisfaction and the cost of installation.

Finding innovative, cost effective and attractive ways of insulating hard to treat homes will be core to both our carbon saving and fuel poverty alleviation ambitions. The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), although specifically designed to deliver carbon savings as cost effectively as possible, includes incentives to encourage suppliers to promote more costly measures appropriate for hard to treat homes, such as solid wall insulation. This has resulted in some 40,000 solid wall homes benefiting from insulation in the last three years, with a further 100,000 expected to be treated by 2011.

**Mr. Letwin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will amend the Government's insulation scheme for disabled householders to cover households with disabled children. [239187]

**Joan Ruddock:** It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Lighting: Greater London

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many low energy light bulbs have been distributed without charge at the expense of the public purse to pensioners in *(a)* the London Borough of Hillingdon and *(b)* Uxbridge constituency. [234161]

**Joan Ruddock:** In the last full Warm Front Scheme year, 1 April 2007-30 March 2008, the Warm Front Scheme distributed 562 compact fluorescent light-bulbs to 281 households in Hillingdon, at no cost to the household. 228 light-bulbs were delivered to 114 households in Uxbridge over the same period.

Compact fluorescent light-bulbs are also distributed by energy suppliers as part of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Targets (CERT) scheme and Energy Efficiency Commitment. There have been 27,662,035 compact fluorescent light bulbs distributed to households in Great Britain for the period covering the first two quarters of CERT (April-September), which commenced in April 2008. Ofgem, who regulate the schemes for the Government, are only required to monitor the energy suppliers' activity across Great Britain as a whole and data are not collected by region or any other local area.

### Lighting: Hertfordshire

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many low energy light bulbs have been distributed without charge and at the expense of the public purse to pensioners in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire; and at what cost. [234578]

**Joan Ruddock:** In the last full Warm Front Scheme year, 1 April 2007-30 March 2008, the Warm Front Scheme distributed 370 compact fluorescent light-bulbs to 185 households in Hemel Hempstead, at no cost to the household. 2,430 light-bulbs were delivered to 1,215 households in Hertfordshire over the same period. All of these householders were on disability or income related benefits, as required to qualify for the scheme.

Associated costs are £1,421 and £9,337 plus 5 per cent. VAT, respectively. The cost associated with light-bulb provision covers the purchase, storage, packaging and delivery of these items.

Under the previous Energy Efficiency Commitment and the current Carbon Emissions Reduction Target programme, Ofgem, who regulate the scheme for the Government, are only required to monitor energy suppliers'

activity across Great Britain as a whole. Data are not collected by region or any other local area.

### Lighting: Housing

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many low energy light bulbs have been distributed without charge to pensioners in York. [230258]

**Joan Ruddock:** The two principal schemes providing assistance for energy efficiency measures, including to pensioner households are Warm Front and the energy supplier obligation.

Between 1 June 2005 and 30 August 2008 the Warm Front Scheme distributed 4,704 compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) to 2,352 pensioner households resident in the city of York and the Vale of York constituencies.

CFLs are also distributed by energy suppliers as part of the energy supplier obligation, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Targets (CERT). There have been 27,662,035 compact fluorescent light bulbs distributed to households in Great Britain for the period covering the first two quarters of CERT (April to September), which commenced in April 2008. Ofgem, who regulate the schemes for the Government, are required only to monitor the energy suppliers' activity across Great Britain as a whole and data are not collected by region or any other local area.

### Marine Renewable Deployment Fund

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many projects have received funding from the Marine Renewable Deployment Fund, broken down by *(a)* nation and *(b)* region. [239230]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

### Marine Renewables Deployment Fund

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what projects have received funding from the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund in 2007-08; and which have been allocated funding for 2008-09. [238642]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* In 2007-08 three projects received funding from the MRDF. These were:

| *Contractor* | *Description* |
|---|---|
| EMEC | Development of protocols on "Assessment of performance for tidal energy conversion systems" |
| EMEC | Development of protocols on "Assessment of the performance of wave energy conversion systems in open sea test facilities" |
| Sustainable Development Commission | BERR contribution to the cost of its study of tidal power in the UK |

The two EMEC projects mentioned in the table also received funding during 2008-09, and Hartley Anderson Ltd. has been commissioned to undertake a project on "Data acquisition to inform the Strategic Environmental Assessment programme, with regard to marine renewables."

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his latest estimate is of the surplus in each budget category of the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund for 2007-08; and what the projected spending is for each category for 2008-09. [238643]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* The Marine Renewables Deployment Fund has a £50 million budget which is not allocated to individual years. The projected expenditure by budget category for 2008-09 is:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Complementary research | 20,300 |
| MRDF grants to industry under the scheme | 0 |
| MRDF infrastructure grants | 0 |
| Environmental research programme | 725,000 |

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when a Minister in his Department plans to reply to the letter to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 23 September 2008 on the Planning Bill and climate change. [232218]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The hon. Member's letter has been transferred to Communities and Local Government for response, as it relates to the Planning Bill. A letter confirming the transfer was sent on 31 October.

### Ministerial Policy Advisers: Pay

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the special representatives on *(a)* international energy issues and *(b)* carbon trading receive remuneration in respect of those roles. [232468]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** No. Both will be entitled to claim reasonable travel and subsistence expenses incurred as part of their work. These expenses will be paid in accordance with existing departmental guidelines on allowances and subsistence.

### Near Zero Emissions Coal Initiative

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps have been taken by the Near Zero Emissions Coal Initiative; what assessment he has made of its progress; and if he will make a statement. [236410]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Following the start of the UK-China Near Zero Emissions Coal (NZEC) Initiative in November 2007, two interim workshops have been held in May and October 2008 to enable collaborative discussion on the work packages and presentation of initial findings.

The UK Government are working with the European Commission to develop Phases 2 and 3 of the EU-China NZEC agreement, particularly to secure finance and to develop a financial model. We are also working closely with the Chinese Government to reach agreement on

costs and intellectual property rights (IPR) in particular ahead of the commencement of Phase 2.

### Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when ministerial responsibility for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority will be transferred to his Department. [235554]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Discussions are continuing and we will provide details as soon as possible.

### Nuclear Installations Inspectorate

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what minimum levels of (a) qualifications and (b) experience are expected of applicants for inspector posts in the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate. [236574]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have been asked to reply.

Applicants for nuclear inspector grade posts are expected to have a good honours degree and to be a corporate member of a senior professional engineering or scientific institution, or to have an equivalent status. In all cases applicants are expected to have considerable work experience either in the nuclear industry or in other relevant high hazard industries.

### Nuclear Power Stations

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the security of supply of uranium for the whole lifetime of any new nuclear power station built in the UK. [237795]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Government believes that there are sufficient uranium resources to fuel another generation of nuclear power plants in the UK. The Government's White Paper on nuclear energy, published in January 2008, stated that backed up by a number of authoritative reports, including one from the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, the evidence shows that sufficient fuel will be available to fuel a new programme of nuclear power stations constructed in the UK.

Two recent reports published since the White paper support this view:

(1) The OECD Nuclear Energy Agency and International Atomic Energy Agency's Uranium 2007: Resources, Production and Demand report, published in 2008, states, "Regardless of the role that nuclear energy ultimately plays in meeting rising electricity demand, the uranium resource base [described in this document] is adequate to meet projected future requirements."

(2) The Euratom Supply Agency's Annual Report 2007, published in 2008, states, "According to specialists, the most recent developments in the field of uranium geology, uranium exploration and exploitation technology show that sufficient resources exist to support significant growth in nuclear capacity."

### Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

**Dr. Alasdair McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the average cost of decommissioning a nuclear power station borne by *(a)* the public purse and *(b)* the nuclear power industry. [238750]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to his previous question, dated 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 629W.

It is the Government's policy that operators of new nuclear power stations must set aside funds to cover the full costs of decommissioning. Clauses in the Energy Bill create a framework for implementing this policy. The Bill requires any operator of a new nuclear power stations to have a Funded Decommissioning Programme approved by the Secretary of State in place before construction begins and to comply with this programme thereafter.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Flood Control

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the impact of projected changes in *(a)* sea level and *(b)* the frequency and severity of storm-related events on the (i) working lifetime and (ii) decommissioning period of new nuclear power stations located on the coast; and what arrangements are in place for funding (A) protective measures and (B) insurance costs for such stations. [238256]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Climate change is a key consideration for the future viability of sites for new nuclear power stations. The Government therefore believe that issues relating to flood risk and flood protection should receive national level consideration in the forthcoming Strategic Siting Assessment.

The recent Consultation on the Strategic Siting Assessment Process and Siting Criteria for New Nuclear Power Stations in the UK proposed that sites nominated in the Strategic Siting Assessment process may be unsuitable (on a discretionary basis) unless nominators are able to confirm that they can protect the site against flood-risk throughout the (operational and decommissioning) lifetime of the site, including the potential effects of climate change; and outline the countermeasures they would take to protect the site from flood risk, as far as practicable. Funding arrangements and insurance costs will be the responsibility of the operator.

The consultation closed on the 11 November and consultation responses are currently being analysed. The Government will issue a response to consultation in the new year.

### Power Stations: Insurance

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has offered a full or partial waiver of liability on insurance claims regarding British Energy's existing stations to the purchaser of the stations; and if he will make a statement. [238714]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* No waiver of liability for insurance claims in respect of British Energy's existing power stations was sought from or offered by the Department in the context of the proposed takeover of British Energy by EdF.

### Public Bodies

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will list the public bodies *(a)* for which he has responsibility, *(b)* which receive funding from his Department and *(c)* which are sponsored by his Department. [228252]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Cabinet Office paper in the House Library "Machinery of Government: economy, business, climate change, energy and environment" sets out much of this information, including that the Department of Energy and Climate Change will sponsor the Carbon Trust, Energy Savings Trust and Ofgem. There are ongoing negotiations to determine the overall functions of the Department and which additional regulators, inspectorates, Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) might become the responsibility of the Department. Once these are completed, they will be a matter of public record. The final budget for DECC and its NDPBs will be agreed once negotiations on the machinery of government changes with BERR and DEFRA are complete.

### Renewables Advisory Board: Manpower

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff are employed by the Renewables Advisory Board on a *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* headcount basis. [234645]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** None.

### Sellafield

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the proposed new Parent Body Organisation for Sellafield led by URS Washington Group is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [237771]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]*: No.

### Towards Carbon Capture and Storage

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on the consultation project Towards Carbon Capture and Storage. [229397]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The costs to date of the "Towards Carbon Capture and Storage" consultation comprise only internal staff costs and those for document design, printing and distribution of the final consultation document (£6,000). These costs are not expected to increase significantly since the ministerial response to the consultation will be published online in due course.

### Warm Front Scheme

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people who have made financial deposits for new boilers through the Warm Front scheme have not received them to date. [238843]

**Joan Ruddock:** It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many properties in Copeland are awaiting improvement work to be carried out under the Warm Front scheme. [239240]

**Joan Ruddock:** As at 24 November 2008, there were 69 households awaiting energy efficiency measures under the Warm Front scheme in the Copeland constituency.

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* households in Copeland constituency which received a Warm Front grant and *(b)* Warm Front grants made for the installation of (i) central heating, (ii) loft insulation, (iii) draughtproofing, (iv) cavity wall insulation and (v) hot water tank insulation in properties in Copeland constituency in each financial year since the commencement of the Warm Front scheme. [239352]

**Joan Ruddock:** It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the average waiting time for *(a)* an assessment visit to, *(b)* installation work to be carried out in and *(c)* repair work on faulty installations in properties in Copeland constituency which qualified for Warm Front grants in each financial year since the commencement of the Warm Front scheme began; and how many households in Copeland were awaiting an assessment visit in the last period for which figures are available. [239485]

**Joan Ruddock:** It has not been possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the value of *(a)* work carried out and *(b)* reductions in energy bills achieved as a result of work carried out under the Warm Front scheme on properties in Copeland constituency in each financial year since the scheme's inception. [239486]

**Joan Ruddock:** The following table illustrates *(a)* the value of work carried out and *(b)* estimated reductions in energy bills as a result of works undertaken by the Warm Front Scheme by year from the inception of the scheme.

Savings are calculated based on embedded algorithms within the National Home Energy Rating software.

| *Scheme year* | *Total measure spend* | £ *Running cost saving (per household)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 28,112 | 59 |
| 2001-02 | 542,928 | 67 |
| 2002-03 | 336,546 | 79 |
| 2003-04 | 187,762 | 117 |
| 2004-05 | 227,525 | 118 |
| 2005-06 | 240,776 | 138 |
| 2006-07 | 351,554 | 201 |
| 2007-08 | 622,028 | 281 |

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Warm Front scheme registered installers are based in Copeland constituency. [239487]

**Joan Ruddock:** Currently there are no installers registered to carry out work for the Warm Front Scheme that have head offices based in the Copeland constituency.

### Warm Front Scheme: ICT

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the computer system for Warm Front has cost to install. [238842]

**Joan Ruddock:** DECC does not hold this information. It is part of Eaga's internal operating costs which are covered by the administration fee paid by DECC to Eaga.

### Water: Meters

**Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the prospects for including water companies in the intelligent metering roll-out. [237202]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** There are possible synergies between the roll-out of energy smart metering and the development of intelligent water metering, including in the provision of information to consumers. We have ensured that DEFRA water policy officials and representatives of the water sector (including their Intelligent Metering Initiative) have been informed and are able to contribute to the development of plans for energy smart metering. However, we also recognise that the positions of these two sectors are very different in terms of the stage of development of smart metering plans.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 4th March 2008, Official Report, columns 102-5WS, on tackling alcohol-related problems, when the further research into post-midnight drinking patterns and their impact on crime commenced; who is carrying it out; what the terms of reference for the research are; what the total cost of the research is; and when the results are expected to be published. [234223]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The latest national statistics on Alcohol, Entertainment, and Late Night Refreshment Licensing produced by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport were released on 30th October 2008, according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority. These include information about the number of premises with permission to trade for up to 24 hours. Further work on evaluating the impact of the sale of alcohol between 3am and 6am is being developed with the Home Office, but no decisions have yet been taken on who should carry it out and the terms of reference. It is therefore too soon to give an estimate of likely costs or an expected date for publication.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 102-105WS, on tackling alcohol-related problems, what stage of development the toolkit has reached; when the toolkit will be launched; and what the total cost of producing the toolkit will be. [234224]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The toolkit is being developed by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary in close consultation with my Department. We expect it to be launched shortly. The cost of producing the toolkit will not be known until it is fully developed.

### Architecture: Education

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which external organisations are assisting his Department in the development and launch of the Engaging Places online resource. [239595]

**Barbara Follett:** Engaging Places is now being taken forward as a joint project by English Heritage and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. Culture24 has been commissioned to build the Engaging Places online resource, with artwork designed by Atelier Works, and Grayling and Together Design have been engaged to assist with its launch. Numerous historic and built environment organisations have also provided advice on the development of the resource.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Engaging Places online resource has cost to develop; and what he expects to be the annual cost of maintaining the resource. [239598]

**Barbara Follett:** The development of the Engaging Places online resource has cost £37,259; this figure excludes staff costs which it has not been possible to calculate. The annual cost of maintaining the resource is still under consideration.

### Arts Council of England: Finance

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much grant-in-aid was allocated for Arts Council England in 2007-08; and how much has been allocated in each year for which projections have been made, broken down by budget sub-head. [239622]

**Barbara Follett:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Arts Council of England: Research

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff Arts Council England employs to carry out research. [239582]

**Barbara Follett:** The Arts Council England have confirmed that they employ seven members of staff to carry out research.

### Arts: Finance

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the funding available under the Quality and Innovation Fund has been *(a)* committed and *(b)* spent. [239624]

**Barbara Follett:** We have no record of any funds being committed or spent under the banner Quality and Innovation Fund.

### Arts: Schools

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding was provided to the Artsmark scheme in each of the last five years; what proportion of schools have been accredited; and what the scheme's budget is for each year for which projections have been made. [239621]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested, provided by Arts Council England, is set out in the following tables.

£

| | *Funding for Artsmark* | *Projected budget for Artsmark* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 657,979 | |
| 2004-05 | 854,977 | |
| 2005-06 | 593,575 | |
| 2006-07 | 564,950 | |
| 2007-08 | 634,000 | |
| 2008-09 | | 640,000 |
| 2009-10 | | 640,000 |
| 2010-11 | | 640,000 |

| | *Number of awards* | *Percentage of schools accredited*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 376 | 1.67 |
| 2002 | 564 | 2.51 |
| 2003 | 782 | 3.48 |
| 2004 | 1,118 | 4.98 |
| 2005 | 1,166 | 5.19 |
| 2006 | 1,226 | 4.67 |
| 2007 | 1,441 | 5.72 |
| 2008 | 1,430 | 5.71 |

[1] Based on 22,457 schools in England, updated to 25,170 schools from January 2006.
[2] Accreditation of a school lasts for three years.

### BBC: Internet

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many letters of complaint his Department has received on the BBC's decision to create a network of 65 local video news websites; and if he will make a statement. [236446]

**Andy Burnham:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### British Library: Security

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will request the British Library to use closed circuit television and to take other security measures in its reading rooms where rare books are consulted; and if he will make a statement. [239038]

**Barbara Follett:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### CABE: Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment spent on employing press and communications officers in each of the last five years. [225670]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested has been supplied by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. Inclusive of NIC and pensions, the total spent in each of the last five years is:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 147,800 |
| 2004-05 | 217,300 |
| 2005-06 | 242,000 |
| 2006-07 | 229,400 |
| 2007-08 | 246,400 |

*Note:*
For consistency, figures are rounded up to the nearest £100.

### Christmas

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables and *(h)* fruit to be served by his Department at Christmas functions which will be sourced from British producers. [239543]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]:* The information requested is not collected.

The Government will shortly be publishing a report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by government departments and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and National Offender Management Service (previously HM Prison Service) between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008.

This report will be available on the PSFPI web site at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm.

### Churches Conservation Trust

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support his Department has provided to the Churches Conservation Trust in each year since 1997. [239382]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport currently provides 70 per cent. of the Churches Conservation Trust's statutory funding, the other 30 per cent. coming from the Church Commissioners for England. The amounts provided by DCMS in grant in aid since 1997 are set out in the table.

| | *Amount (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 2,400 |
| 1997-98 | 2,480 |
| 1998-99 | 2,480 |

| | Amount (£000) |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 2,480 |
| 2000-01 | 2,830 |
| 2001-02 | 3,000 |
| 2002-03 | 3,000 |
| 2003-04 | 3,000 |
| 2004-05 | 3,000 |
| 2005-06 | 3,000 |
| 2006-07 | 3,000 |
| 2007-08 | 3,000 |
| 2008-09 | 3,161 |

The Churches Conservation Trust also benefits under the Department's Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme, which makes grants equivalent to the VAT incurred in making repairs. The amounts disbursed to the trust under this scheme are set out in the table.

| | Amount (£) |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 307,676.11 |
| 2003-04 | 371,654.46 |
| 2004-05 | 304,837.46 |
| 2005-06 | 280,604.13 |
| 2006-07 | 588,444.59 |
| 2007-08 | 385,396.57 |
| 2008-09 | [1]75,917.07 |

[1] To date

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Churches Conservation Trust received in private donations in each year since 1997. [239383]

**Barbara Follett:** This is not a matter for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The Churches Conservation Trust is a church body and a charity; the Department does not hold the information requested.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for how many buildings the Churches Conservation Trust was responsible in each year since 1997. [239384]

**Barbara Follett:** The number of buildings for which the Churches Conservation Trust was responsible in each year since 1997 is set out in the following table.

| | Number of vested churches[1] |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 312 |
| 1998 | 315 |
| 1999 | 319 |
| 2000 | 323 |
| 2001 | 325 |
| 2002 | 329 |
| 2003 | 332 |
| 2004 | 333 |
| 2005 | 336 |
| 2006 | 340 |
| 2007 | 340 |
| 2008 | [2]340 |

[1] At 31 December.
[2] At 24 November 2008.

## Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to improve its arrangements for co-ordination with other Government departments of policy affecting coastal towns in the last two years. [238653]

**Barbara Follett:** A cross-Whitehall coastal towns group, led by the Department for Communities and Local Government, is working in partnership with a Regional Development Agency (RDA)-led network to improve knowledge of the challenges and opportunities facing coastal towns in order to inform action at a national and sub-national level. In addition, VisitBritain has been conducting a strategic framework review which, among other things, is examining the better co-ordination of public expenditure and strategic engagement by Government Departments, Regional Development Agencies and Local Authorities in support of tourism in Britain, including the coastal areas. VisitWales and VisitScotland have been involved in the Review, which will report its findings soon.

## Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to fulfil the Government's commitment to the principles established in the Annex to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. [238465]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* As confirmed in the answer given on 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 46, the Government's maritime heritage policy recognises the Annex to the 2001 UNESCO Convention as best practice for underwater archaeology and have advocated adherence to the principles of this where this has been compatible with existing United Kingdom legislation. English Heritage is the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment of England and English coastal waters. Their new technical guide on assessing risk to English Designated Wreck sites, which was published in November 2008, refers to the Annex, and the fact that the issuing of Licences by the Secretary of State to carry out activities specified in the 1973 Protection of Wrecks Act on designated sites is also carried out with regard to the general principles of the Annex. Although English Heritage's "Protection of Wrecks Act: Guidance for Divers and Archaeologists", which was published in 2007, does not specifically refer to the Annex, it reflects the principles within it.

## Convergence Think Tank

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many more Convergence Think Tank seminars he expects to take place. [239590]

**Andy Burnham:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Culture: Community Development

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what events have been planned to share research and best practice from the priority places initiative. [239613]

**Barbara Follett:** The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council are the lead body for the Priority Places Programme and its parent programme, Living Places. It held a successful event to share research and best practice on Thursday 20th November 2008 and intend to hold a further research and evaluation seminar early in the next financial year. In addition, the new Living Places website (www.living-places.org.uk) acts as a source of research and best practice for those participating.

### Culture: Education

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date each of the Find Your Talent pilots began; when he expects to report on the findings from the pilots; and if he will make a statement. [239385]

**Andy Burnham:** The information requested is set out in the table.

| *Pilot* | *Launch date* |
|---|---|
| Bolton | 21 September 2008 |
| Leeds | 21 September 2008 |
| Shepway | 22 September 2008 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 22 September 2008 |
| North Somerset | 23 September 2008 |
| Leicestershire | 23 September 2008 |
| Tower Hamlets | 23 September 2008 |
| Liverpool city region | 23 September 2008 |
| North and South Tyneside | 23 September 2008 |
| Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton | 23 September 2008 |

Find Your Talent is a three-year programme running to 2011. The first interim report from the independent evaluation of the pilots will be in April 2009. Pilots will also be supplying regular monitoring data to the National Delivery Team throughout the life of the programme and learning and success stories from the pilots will be shared as they develop.

### Culture: Sustainable Development

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 109W, on culture: planning, what the reason is for the time taken to *(a)* launch and *(b)* commence the Cultural Planning Toolkit training. [239395]

**Barbara Follett:** The Cultural Planning Tools and Guidance (CPTG) was due for completion by Culture East Midlands earlier this year. However, personal circumstances concerning the lead consultant with responsibility for the project resulted in delays and the eventual appointment of new consultants. Training for the product can only commence once the CPTG is fully complete. The new consultants are now taking this work forward, with a projected launch date of March 2009.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost to his Department of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers (i) was in the last 12 months and (ii) has been since 1997-98. [232803]

**Barbara Follett:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Buildings

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many offices *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* each of its non-departmental public bodies occupy; what the location of each is; how many staff are employed at each location; and what the floor area of each office is. [238432]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested is as follows.

*(a)* The Department occupies the following offices. Queens Yard includes office space for 15 Government Art Collection staff as well as a gallery, workshop and storage space.

| *Office location* | *Staff* | *Area sq m* |
|---|---|---|
| 2-4 Cockspur Street, London | 459 | 7,995 |
| Queens Yard, 179a Tottenham Court Rd, London | 15 | 1,532 |

*(b)* The Royal Parks occupy the following offices.

| *Office location* | *Staff* | *Area sq m* |
|---|---|---|
| Old Police House, Hyde Park, London | 40 | 665 |
| Rangers Lodge, Hyde Park, London | 15 | 244 |
| The Magazine, Kensington Gardens London | 7 | 383 |
| St. James' Park Office, St. James' Park, London | 7 | 267 |
| Greenwich Park Office, Greenwich Park, London | 4 | 234 |
| The Regent's Park, Regent's Park London | 12 | 216 |
| Richmond Park Office, Richmond Park | 10 | 599 |
| White Lodge, Bushy Park Office, Bushy Park | 7 | 300 |

*(c)* Due to the large number of NDPBs that are sponsored by DCMS it is not possible to provide the information requested without incurring disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* each of its non-departmental public bodies spent on office accommodation from 2005-06 to 2007-08; and what the estimated outturn for 2008-09 is. [238433]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* The Department spent the following on office accommodation:

| | *£* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 8,117,154.80 |
| 2006-07 | 9,255,464.97 |
| 2007-08 | 8,858,113.28 |
| 2008-09 | [1]9,418,564.00 |

[1] Estimated outturn

*(b)* The Royal Parks aggregate the cost of all buildings (offices, stores, workshops, WC's etc) by park. The information relating to office buildings only could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*(c)* Due to the large number of NDPBs that are sponsored by DCMS it is not possible to provide the information requested without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in each year since 1997-98; how much is planned to be spent by each in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [238515]

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on external consultancy in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08; what the estimated outturn of each body is for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [238437]

**Barbara Follett:** Due to the large number of non departmental public bodies that are sponsored by DCMS it is not possible to provide the information requested for part *(c)* without incurring disproportionate cost.

*(a)* 1997-98 £465,336; 1998-99 £329,911; 1999-2000 £588,321; 2000-01 £194,075; 2001-02 £318,416; 2002-03 £469,480; 2003-04 £473,785; 2004-05 £643,924; 2005-06 £1,161,306; 2006-07 £852,525; 2007-08 £1,180,354.

*(b)* 1999-2000 £595,615; 2000-01 £558,030; 2001-02 £495,694; 2002-03 £632,276; 2003-04 £566,314; 2004-05 £625,517; 2005-06 £574,157; 2006-07 £833,722; 2007-08 £1,958,514.

Due to changes at the time in the accounting structure, figures cannot be provided for 1997-98 and 1998-99 without incurring disproportionate cost.

The estimated outturn in 2008-09 for DCMS is £1.3 million and for Royal Parks Agency is £1.7 million, both of which are subject to revision.

### Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department submitted its Value For Money programme progress report to HM Treasury; and if he will place a copy of the report in the Library. [239594]

**Andy Burnham:** We will publish our assessment of progress towards the Value for Money programme in our upcoming Autumn Performance Report.

This will be laid before Parliament and published on our website no later than 15 December 2008.

### Departmental Equality

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to review the progress of his Department's Diversity Strategy. [239593]

**Barbara Follett:** My Department is in the process of reviewing progress on our Equality Scheme and will publish our report on progress early in 2009.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* Arts Council England, *(b)* Sport England, *(c)* UK Sport, *(d)* the Museums and Libraries Archive and *(e)* English Heritage. [224779]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested has been provided by the following organisations:

*Arts Council England*

The Arts Council currently employs 49 members of staff as press and communications officers.

*Sport England*

Sport England currently employs 14 full-time equivalent members of staff as press and communications officers.

*UK Sport*

UK Sport currently employs five full-time equivalent members of staff as press and communications officers.

*The Museums and Libraries Archive*

The Museum and Libraries Archive currently employs one full-time equivalent member of staff on press and communications.

*English Heritage*

English Heritage currently employs 10 full-time equivalent members of staff as press and communications officers.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers (1) *(a)* the Heritage Lottery Fund and *(b)* the Big Lottery Fund employed at the latest date for which figures are available; [224844]

(2) are employed by the National Heritage Memorial Fund. [224847]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested has been provided by the following organisations:

*The Heritage Lottery Fund*

The Heritage Lottery Fund currently employs 8.1 full-time equivalent staff as press and communications officers.

*The National Heritage Memorial Fund*

The National Heritage Memorial Fund is the parent body of the Heritage Lottery Fund and shares their press and communication resource.

*The Big Lottery Fund*

The Big Lottery Fund currently employs 13.4 full-time equivalent staff as press and communications officers.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by *(a)* Arts Council England, *(b)* Sport England, *(c)* UK Sport, *(d)* the Museums Libraries and Archives Council and *(e)* English Heritage on employing press and communications officers in each of the last five years. [224864]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested has been provided by the following organisations. Inclusive of NIC and pensions, the total spent in each of the last five years is:

*The Arts Council*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | [1] |
| 2004-05 | 1,047,800 |
| 2005-06 | 1,533,400 |
| 2006-07 | 1,447,100 |
| 2007-08 | 1,501,700 |

[1] Figure not available as Arts Council cannot provide information prior to the merger of the regional arts boards.

*Sport England*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | [1] |
| 2004-05 | 650,100 |
| 2005-06 | 745,300 |
| 2006-07 | 564,800 |
| 2007-08 | 602,200 |

[1] Figure not available as the payroll system of Sport England does not pre-date 2004.

*UK Sport*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 128,800 |
| 2004-05 | 91,400 |
| 2005-06 | 119,600 |
| 2006-07 | 152,300 |
| 2007-08 | 168,800 |

*The Museums Libraries and Archives Council*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | [1] |
| 2004-05 | 219,900 |
| 2005-06 | 202,000 |
| 2006-07 | 213,500 |
| 2007-08 | 367,000 |

[1] Figure currently unavailable.

*English Heritage*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 422,900 |
| 2004-05 | 437,100 |
| 2005-06 | 467,400 |
| 2006-07 | 476,600 |
| 2007-08 | 496,900 |

*Note:* For consistency, figures are rounded up to the nearest £100.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much was spent by *(a)* the Heritage Lottery Fund and *(b)* the Big Lottery Fund on employing press and communications officers in each of the last five years; [224866]

(2) how much was spent by the National Heritage Memorial Fund on employing press and communications officers in each of the last five years. [227205]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information requested has been provided by the following organisations for the total spent in each of the last five years.

*The Heritage Lottery Fund*[1]

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 266,300 |
| 2004-05 | 272,100 |
| 2005-06 | 255,800 |
| 2006-07 | 283,500 |
| 2007-08 | 262,200 |

[1] The Heritage Lottery Fund has confirmed that these figures exclude NIC and pension contributions as these could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*The National Heritage Memorial Fund*

The National Heritage Memorial Fund is the parent body of the Heritage Lottery Fund and shares their press and communication resource.

*The Big Lottery Fund*[1]

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 470,700 |
| 2006-07 | 477,200 |
| 2007-08 | 583,500 |

[1] The Big Lottery Fund was established in June 2004. These figures are inclusive of NIC and pensions.

*Note:*

For consistency, figures are rounded up to the nearest £100.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* the National Gallery, *(b)* the Tate, *(c)* the Science Museum, *(d)* the Science Museum Manchester and *(e)* the Museum of London. [225293]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested has been provided to us by the following organisations:

*The National Gallery*

The National Gallery currently employs 4.4 full time equivalent staff as press and communications officers.

*The Tate*

The Tate currently employs nine full time equivalent staff as press and communications officers. This figure includes staff in London and Regional Galleries.

*The Science Museum*

The Science Museum currently employs 3.5 full time equivalent staff as press and communications officers.

*The Museum of Science and Industry*

The Museum of Science and Industry currently employs 1.2 full time equivalent staff as press and communications officers.

*The Museum of London*

Although the Museum of London are not a NDPB sponsored by DCMS, they have confirmed that they currently employ three full time equivalent staff as press and communications officers.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* the Royal Armouries Museum, *(b)* Sir John Soane's Museum, *(c)* Chatham Historic Dockyard and *(d)* the Wallace Collection. [225294]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested has been provided to us by the following organisations:

*The Royal Armouries*

The Royal Armouries currently employs one full-time equivalent member of staff on press and communications.

*Sir John Soane's Museum*

Sir John Soane's Museum does not employ any staff as press and communications officers.

*Chatham Historic Dockyard*

Chatham Historic Dockyard is not an NDPB of DCMS. However, they have confirmed that they currently employ one full-time equivalent member of staff on press and communications.

*The Wallace Collection*

The Wallace collection currently employs 1.5 full-time equivalent staff as press and communications officers.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* the British Library, *(b)* the British Museum, *(c)* the Geffrye Museum, *(d)* the Horniman Museum and *(e)* the Imperial War Museum spent on press and communications officers in each of the last five years. [225756]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested has been provided by the following organisations. Inclusive of NIC and pensions, the total spent in each of the last five years is:

*The British Library*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 229,300 |
| 2004-05 | 147,100 |
| 2005-06 | 247,400 |
| 2006-07 | 262,700 |
| 2007-08 | 283,100 |

*The British Museum*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 35,700 |
| 2004-05 | 54,800 |
| 2005-06 | 54,300 |
| 2006-07 | 83,600 |
| 2007-08 | 104,000 |

*The Geffrye Museum*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 53,200 |
| 2004-05 | 61,100 |
| 2005-06 | 61,000 |
| 2006-07 | 52,600 |
| 2007-08 | 62,700 |

*The Horniman Museum*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 24,800 |
| 2004-05 | 25,500 |
| 2005-06 | 26,300 |
| 2006-07 | 27,000 |
| 2007-08 | 28,000 |

*The Imperial War Museum*[1]

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 87,000 |
| 2004-05 | 108,000 |
| 2005-06 | 129,000 |
| 2006-07 | 166,000 |
| 2007-08 | 171,000 |

[1] These figures represent the spend on staff across all five Imperial War Museum branches (IWM London, IWM North, IWM Duxford, HMS Belfast, Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms). *Note:* For consistency, figures are rounded up to the nearest £100.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on employing press and communications officers in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies in each of the last three years. [239612]

**Barbara Follett:** The total cost of employing press and communications officers of the Department for the last three-years is as follows:

*DCMS press officers*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | [1]550,124 |
| 2006-07 | [1]733,412 |
| 2007-08 | [1]682,858 |

[1] This includes press officers working on the Olympics.

*DCMS communications officers*

2007-08—£289,907.14

The Department did not have a "communication officer" grade during 2005-06 and 2006-07. The "White Book" of contacts in Government Departments and agencies contains listings for the Department and the book is updated twice yearly.

*The Royal Parks*

The Royal Parks is the only Agency of DCMS. For financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Barking and Dagenham on 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 540W.

For 2007-08, the figure as supplied by The Royal Parks, is £40,866.05

*NDPB's*

Due to the large number of NDPB's sponsored by DCMS, information regarding costs of press officers could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many civil servants were employed by each of his Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08; what the estimated figures are for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [238528]

**Barbara Follett:** The Royal Parks is the only Executive agency DCMS is responsible for. The staff figures for the specified period are:

| | Average number of staff |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 236 |
| 1998-99 | 234 |
| 1999-2000 | 229 |
| 2000-01 | 230 |
| 2001-02 | 223 |
| 2002-03 | 238 |
| 2003-04 | 140 |
| 2004-05 | 160 |
| 2005-06 | 132 |
| 2006-07 | 101 |
| 2007-08 | 99 |

With a few of exceptions, executive NDPBs are non-Crown bodies and employees are not civil servants—although civil servants can be seconded or loaned to NDPBs. Information on the number of employees in executive NDPBs is published in the annual Cabinet Office "Public Bodies" publication. Copies are available from the Libraries of the House.

Advisory NDPBs do not usually employ staff. They are typically supported by civil servants from the sponsoring Department.

Figures for 2008-09 are not available.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many civil servants were employed by *(a)* his Department's agency and *(b)* each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [238558]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Royal Parks is the only executive agency DCMS is responsible for, the staff figures for the specified period are:

| Period | Average number of staff |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 236 |
| 1998-99 | 234 |
| 1999-2000 | 229 |
| 2000-01 | 230 |
| 2001-02 | 223 |
| 2002-03 | 238 |
| 2003-04 | 140 |
| 2004-05 | 160 |
| 2005-06 | 132 |
| 2006-07 | 101 |
| 2007-08 | 99 |

With a few exceptions, executive NDPBs are non-Crown bodies and employees are not civil servants—although civil servants can be seconded or loaned to NDPBs. Information on the number of employees in executive NDPBs is published in the annual Cabinet Office "Public Bodies" publication. Copies are available from the Libraries of the House.

Advisory NDPBs do not usually employ staff. They are typically supported by civil servants from the sponsoring Department.

### Departmental Marketing

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of Government commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226519]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08; what the equivalent estimated figures are in each case for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement; [238507]

(2) how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08; what the estimated outturn of each body is for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [238436]

**Barbara Follett:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* (i) The Department has incurred the following expenditure on publicity.

| | Spend (£) |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 440,781 |
| 1998-99 | 388,100 |
| 1999-2000 | 613,630 |
| 2000-01 | 537,983 |
| 2001-02 | 318,141 |
| 2002-03 | 348,338 |
| 2003-04 | 533,549 |
| 2004-05 | 573,447 |
| 2005-06 | 892,755 |
| 2006-07 | 662,213 |
| 2007-08 | 523,963 |
| 2008-09 | [1]525,000 |

[1] Estimated figure.

*(a)* (ii) The Department incurred zero expenditure on campaign advertising between 1997-98 and 2003-04. Expenditure in subsequent years is set out as follows:

| | Campaign | Spend (£) |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | BBC Charter | 58,072 |
| 2005-06 | Licensing | 51,028 |
| 2006-07 | Tourism | 4,903 |
| 2007-08 | London 2012 Ask the Team | 8,430 |
| 2008-09 | | [1]25,000 |

[1] Estimated figure.

*(b)* (i) The Royal Parks Agency has incurred the following expenditure on publicity between 1997-98 and 2007-08.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | [1] |
| 1997-98 | [1] |
| 1998-99 | [1] |
| 1999-2000 | 0 |
| 2000-01 | 0 |
| 2001-02 | 18,648 |
| 2002-03 | 34,198 |
| 2003-04 | 43,902 |
| 2004-05 | 88,802 |
| 2005-06 | 83,366 |

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 131,735 |
| 2007-08 | 124,182 |
| 2008-09 | [2]130,000 |

[1] Given a change in the Royal Parks accounting structure, data only goes back to 1999-2000.
[2] Estimated figure.

*(b)* (ii) The Royal Parks Agency has incurred the following spend on advertising between 1997-98 and 2007-08.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 727 |
| 1997-98 | 3,372 |
| 1998-99 | 37,614 |
| 1999-2000 | 7,187 |
| 2000-01 | 1,775 |
| 2001-02 | 9,647 |
| 2002-03 | 6,110 |
| 2003-04 | 2,835 |
| 2004-05 | 27,037 |
| 2005-06 | 14,651 |
| 2006-07 | 19,496 |
| 2007-08 | 30,953 |
| 2008-09 | [1]12,000 |

[1] Estimated figure.

*Outturn for 2008-09:*

£21,856,000

Information on publicity and advertising costs by non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many special advisers his Department employed in each year since 1997-98; and at what cost. [238438]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by his Department in each year since 1997-98; and at what cost in each such year. [238513]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which key words or terms *(a)* Arts Council England, *(b)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives, *(c)* the Big Lottery Fund, *(d)* English Heritage and (e) the Heritage Lottery Fund monitored in the media in each of the last three years. [225503]

**Barbara Follett:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; and what budget they have been set for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [236919]

**Barbara Follett:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 14 October, *Official Report*, column 1196W.

The information on the remits of each non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) can be found in the DCMS publication DCMS Public Bodies Directory 2008, copies of which are available from the Library and on line at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5125.aspx

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on entertainment by his Department in 2007-08; and how much of that sum is accounted for by *(a)* food, *(b)* alcohol, *(c)* staff and *(d)* accommodation. [232846]

**Barbara Follett:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on official entertainment in each year since 1997-98. [238442]

**Barbara Follett:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Pay

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226415]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [239658]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. and learned Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Press

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* Sport England, *(b)* English Heritage, *(c)* the Heritage Lottery Fund, *(d)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, *(e)* the Big Lottery Fund and *(f)* Arts Council England spent on (i) transcripts or recordings, (ii) fees to the Newspaper Licensing Authority and (iii) analysis of press coverage in each of the last three years. [224843]

**Barbara Follett:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of the money spent by *(a)* Arts Council England and *(b)* Sport England on media monitoring services came from National Lottery income in each of the last three years. [224959]

**Barbara Follett:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether there has been any nugatory cost to his Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [239638]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of his Department's outturn expenditure on administration for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [238526]

**Andy Burnham:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of his Department's outturn expenditure on administration for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [238527]

**Andy Burnham:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he will publish his assessment of progress made towards meeting the Public Service Agreement performance targets since the Spending Review in 2004. [239629]

**Andy Burnham:** We will publish our latest assessment of progress towards the Public Service Agreement performance targets from the Spending Review in 2004 in our upcoming Autumn Performance Report.

This will be laid before Parliament and published on our website no later than 15 December 2008.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [238440]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department has spent the following on focus groups and opinion polls:

*(a) Focus groups*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 221,670 |
| 2004-05 | 102,005 |
| 2005-06 | 32,515 |
| 2006-07 | 24,400 |
| 2007-08 | 80,105 |
| 2008-09 | 30,623 |

Other research commissioned is likely to have included a focus group element but it is not possible to determine the costs of these elements. Further estimated costs for 2008-09 will be £100,000.

*(b) Opinion polls*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 43,662 |
| 2002-03 | 74,701 |
| 2003-04 | 83,010 |
| 2004-05 | 20,000 |
| 2005-06 | 42,700 |
| 2006-07 | 13,200 |
| 2007-08 | 98,304 |
| 2008-09 | 58,700 |

There are no further estimated costs for 2008-09.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much he estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [238509]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department has spent the following on focus groups and opinion polls:

*(a) Focus groups*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 221,670 |
| 2004-05 | 102,005 |
| 2005-06 | 32,515 |
| 2006-07 | 24,400 |
| 2007-08 | 80,105 |
| 2008-09 | 30,623 |

Other research commissioned is likely to have included a focus group element but it is not possible to determine the costs of these elements.

Further estimated costs for 2008-09 will be £100,000.

*(b) Opinion polls*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 43,662 |
| 2002-03 | 74,701 |
| 2003-04 | 83,010 |
| 2004-05 | 20,000 |
| 2005-06 | 42,700 |
| 2006-07 | 13,200 |
| 2007-08 | 98,304 |
| 2008-09 | 58,700 |

There are no further estimated costs for 2008-09.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* entertainment, *(b)* advertising and promotion and *(c)* public relations consultancy in 2007-08. [228081]

**Barbara Follett:** For the year 2007-08 the Department spent the following in each of the requested categories:

*(a)* Entertainment (where we have defined "entertainment" to be all events and functions hosted by the Department for the purpose of entertaining guests): £16,764.92.

*(b)* Advertising and promotion: £81,132.21.

*(c)* Public relations consultancy: £0.00.

The Government Olympic Executive, which is part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport with responsibility for ensuring the London 2012 Games are delivered, has also spent the following in each of the requested categories for 2007-08:

*(a)* Entertainment (where we have defined "entertainment" to be all events and functions hosted by the department for the purpose of entertaining guests): £0.00.

*(b)* Advertising and promotion: £23,094.55

*(c)* Public relations consultancy: £0.00.

### Departmental Research

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff are employed by his Department to carry out research. [239581]

**Barbara Follett:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport employs 14 analytical staff in the Evidence and Analysis Unit, of whom five are social researchers.

### Departmental Responsibilities

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what responsibilities his Department has in relation to broadcasting; what changes have been made to these responsibilities since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [225525]

**Barbara Follett:** *[holding answer Thursday 9 October 2008]*: There is no change. My Department is responsible for policy on the regulatory framework for broadcasting in the United Kingdom. This includes responsibility for policy relating to the BBC and other public service broadcasters and for setting the television licence fee. My Department has joint responsibility for digital switchover with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations provided Ministers in his Department with media training in each of the last three years; and how much was spent on media training in each year. [238035]

**Andy Burnham** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]*: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 816W, on departmental training, what the *(a)* nature, *(b)* duration and *(c)* cost was of the training he received. [238416]

**Andy Burnham:** The cost of training provided was £1,986.84.

### Digital Broadcasting: Skelmersdale

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 11, on television (access), what progress has been achieved in ensuring that residents of Skelmersdale can continue to watch television after the date of digital switchover. [238728]

**Andy Burnham:** The spectrum planners have identified frequencies that are suitable for the local transmitter to use and broadcasters have instructed their transmission company to go ahead with building the new transmitter. A suitable site has been found. The transmission company is currently carrying out some pre-planning consultation work and expects to put in a formal planning application very shortly. I understand that the process of building the transmitter is therefore on course to be complete in time for switchover in the Granada region in November 2009.

### Disabled

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects his Department's Disability Reference Group to report to the Department's Board on progress in addressing actions on disability. [239592]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### English Heritage: Research

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff are employed by English Heritage to carry out research. [239584]

**Barbara Follett:** English Heritage have estimated that they employ 84 full time equivalent members of staff who carry out research.

The majority of the staff (61) are employed in English Heritage's Research Department and in addition to procuring and monitoring front-line research into the fabric of the historic environment, they provide advice, guidance, standard-setting, capacity-building and outreach to colleagues providing external services and to a wide range of external audiences (public and professional).

### Film: Digital Technology

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what stage has been reached in negotiations between the UK Film Council, the Arts Council and the Humanities Research Council on developing mixed media centres. [227184]

**Barbara Follett:** The completion of a study, jointly commissioned by the Arts Council England (ACE); the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the UK Film Council (UKFC), entitled "Crossing Boundaries" in 2008 marked the end of the first stage of negotiations between the three bodies about the development of a digital network of mixed media centres. ACE and UKFC will now build on, and enhance, the work that some of the venues, like the Watershed in Bristol and the Broadway in Nottingham, are already doing to develop this network by, for example, exploiting the opportunities afforded by new digital technologies. The development of the network is in addition to ongoing growth in provision at individual centres, which has brought a wider range of film related activities to local audiences, including ones such as the Spanish film festival in Manchester, educational work for young people and adults, visiting directors and screenings of specialised film throughout the year.

### Gambling: Children

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the evaluation framework used to identify and monitor measures or indicators associated with protecting children and other vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling, as referred to in his Department's publication, Lifting the Burden. [239628]

**Barbara Follett:** The Gambling Act 2005 was fully implemented from 1 September 2007 and my Department believes it is too soon to make a full and meaningful assessment of the effectiveness of the new system of gambling regulation without at least two full years of solid experience.

In preparation for a future assessment, my Department and the Gambling Commission have been undertaking preparatory work to gather evidence to monitor the impact of the 2005 Act. Therefore an evaluation framework for monitoring the impact of the 2005 Act has not yet been published.

The three licensing objectives will provide the standard by which the effectiveness of the regulatory regime will be evaluated, including the measures on the protection of children and the vulnerable.

This will include evidence from the Gambling Prevalence Survey 2007 published in September 2007, and the work for the next prevalence survey to ensure that problem gambling including the protection of children and the vulnerable is adequately understood and researched.

### Horse Racing

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the number of thoroughbred racehorses which die or are destroyed *(a)* on racecourses and *(b)* within a month of sustaining an injury on a racecourse. [237643]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government does not collect these figures.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will consider the merits of introducing legislative proposals to ensure that when a decision is taken to destroy an injured horse on a racecourse that the horse is first sedated. [237684]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have been asked to reply.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 already requires that the destruction of any animal must be done in an appropriate and humane manner. We do not believe that any further legislation is necessary.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of surplus breeding of thoroughbred horses by the racing industry. [237923]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have been asked to reply.

We have not made such an assessment.

### Horse Racing: Animal Welfare

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if he will take steps to make it a requirement that when an injured horse is destroyed by a veterinary surgeon on a racecourse that at least two means of humane despatch are immediately available; [239185]

(2) if he will bring forward legislative proposals to limit the number of thoroughbred horses which may be bred by the racing industry; and if he will make a statement; [239186]

(3) if he will take steps to ensure that veterinary surgeons who destroy injured thoroughbreds on racecourses have *(a)* sufficient training and *(b)* are periodically assessed to ensure that their standard of competence is maintained; [239189]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have been asked to reply.

It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Hotels: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* hotels and *(b)* guest houses classified as (i) one star, (ii) two star, (iii) three star, (iv) four star and (v) five star there were in each of the principal English seaside towns in each year for which figures are available. [238918]

**Barbara Follett:** VisitBritain has advised that the numbers of hotels and guest houses in the eight seaside resort destinations that feature in the top 20 English destinations for domestic holiday visits, that are star rated by VisitBritain and/or the AA, are as follows:

| *Area* | *Designator* | *5 Star* | *4 Star* | *3 Star* | *2 Star* | *1 Star* | *Budget Hotel* | *Awaiting Grading* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Blackpool | Hotel | 0 | 4 | 6 | 16 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 30 |
| | Guest Accommodation | 3 | 36 | 132 | 7 | 0 | — | 6 | 184 |

| Area | Designator | 5 Star | 4 Star | 3 Star | 2 Star | 1 Star | Budget Hotel | Awaiting Grading | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scarborough | Hotel | 0 | 1 | 17 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 35 |
| | Guest Accommodation | 5 | 140 | 65 | 7 | 0 | .. | 3 | 220 |
| Bournemouth | Hotel | 0 | 5 | 27 | 17 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 53 |
| | Guest Accommodation | 1 | 19 | 11 | 3 | 0 | .. | 0 | 34 |
| Skegness | Hotel | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| | Guest Accommodation | 0 | 8 | 34 | 3 | 0 | .. | 2 | 47 |
| Torquay | Hotel | 0 | 4 | 12 | 27 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 46 |
| | Guest Accommodation | 6 | 81 | 27 | 1 | 0 | .. | 2 | 117 |
| Great Yarmouth | Hotel | 0 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| | Guest Accommodation | 0 | 28 | 33 | 1 | 0 | .. | 0 | 62 |
| Brighton and Hove | Hotel | 1 | 11 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 27 |
| | Guest Accommodation | 2 | 39 | 18 | 2 | 0 | .. | 0 | 61 |
| Newquay | Hotel | 0 | 1 | 10 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 |
| | Guest Accommodation | 0 | 17 | 27 | 1 | 1 | .. | 0 | 46 |

This information is correct as at end of October 2008. VisitBritain has advised that data for previous years is either unavailable or is stored in such a way that disaggregation of the listed resorts from the national figures would be possible only at disproportionate cost.

### Hotels: Disabled

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the proportion of guest houses and hotels that are fully wheelchair accessible. [231375]

**Barbara Follett:** *[holding answer Thursday 30 October 2008]:* Tourism for All estimates that only 2 per cent of visitor accommodation in the United Kingdom, including guest houses and hotels, is fully accessible to wheelchair users.

The Government's recent report "Winning: A tourism strategy for 2012 and beyond" recognises that much more needs to be done to improve this figure. That is why the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has set up an Accessible Stakeholders Forum to identify the barriers to service provision and work towards speedy solutions. The London Development Agency has also launched their London Open to All Programme which offers a range of support to help tourism businesses become fully accessible to visitors.

### Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* the Gambling Commission and *(b)* the National Lottery Commission spent on press and communications officers in each of the last five years. [225501]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested has been provided by the following organisations, and totals are inclusive of NIC and pensions:

*The Gambling Commission*[1]

| | £ |
|---|---|
| October 2005 to March 2006 | 43,600 |
| 2006-07 | 176,400 |
| 2007-08 | 225,400 |

[1] The Gambling Commission was established in October 2005 so figures have been provided as appropriate.

*The National Lottery Commission*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 100,900 |
| 2004-05 | 111,400 |
| 2005-06 | 116,600 |
| 2006-07 | 129,400 |
| 2007-08 | 124,900 |

*Note:*

For consistency, figures are rounded up to the nearest £100

### Licensing Act 2003

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to review the operation of the Licensing Act 2003; and if he will make a statement. [232214]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Mass Media

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what discussions his Department has had with the BBC Trust on its public value inquiry test of proposals by the BBC to establish local news websites and a local news video network; and if he will make a statement; [235879]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* competitiveness and *(b)* diversity of the local and regional media industry; and if he will make a statement; [235880]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of trends in the future expansion of the local and regional media industry; and if he will make a statement; [235881]

(4) what assessment he has made of the compatibility with the BBC Charter of BBC proposals to establish local news websites and a local news video network; and if he will make a statement; [235933]

(5) what steps his Department is taking to help develop local and regional media industries; and if he will make a statement; [235934]

(6) what steps his Department is taking to assist local and regional media industries; and if he will make a statement. [235935]

**Andy Burnham:** No assessments of the local and regional media industry have been undertaken.

The Department has regular meetings with the BBC Trust, at which a range of issues are covered.

Under the terms of the BBC's Charter and Agreement, public value tests are a matter for the BBC Trust and there is no provision for Government to intervene. On 21 November, the BBC Trust announced its provisional conclusion that the local video proposal should be rejected. The Trust is due to make its final decision by 25 February.

The growth of local media industries is an important issue that we will consider within the Digital Britain Report, which will be published spring next year. This report is part of the Government's aim to develop a coherent strategy for a fully digital Britain. It will address a number of areas related to this issue including the future of public service content and the future of news provision.

The report will also address around Nations, regions and local provision, and consider the actions necessary to support the growth of the digital and communications industries.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to publish the Convergence Think Tank's interim report on the future policy and legislative framework for the communications industries; and if he will make a statement. [238019]

**Andy Burnham:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Museums and Galleries: Finance

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has allocated to each of its sponsored museums and galleries for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [225524]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1197W.

### Museums and Galleries: Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* the Royal Armouries Museum, *(b)* Sir John Soane's Museum, *(c)* Chatham Historic Dockyard and *(d)* the Wallace Collection spent on employing press and communications officers in each of the last five years. [226250]

**Barbara Follett:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by *(a)* the National Gallery, *(b)* the Tate, *(c)* the Science Museum, *(d)* the Science Museum Manchester and *(e)* the Museum of London on employing press and communications officers in each of the last five years. [227207]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested has been provided by the following organisations and is inclusive of NIC and pensions:

*The National Gallery*

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 99,400 |
| 2004-05 | 122,000 |
| 2005-06 | 131,600 |
| 2006-07 | 138,200 |
| 2007-08 | 133,100 |

*The Tate*

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 191,900 |
| 2004-05 | 199,800 |
| 2005-06 | 268,500 |
| 2006-07 | 279,500 |
| 2007-08 | 289,200 |

*Note:*
These figures do not include consultancy costs.

*The Science Museum*

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 123,500 |
| 2004-05 | 187,600 |
| 2005-06 | 211,800 |
| 2006-07 | 227,400 |
| 2007-08 | 182,800 |

*The Museum of Science and Industry—Manchester*

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 25,200 |
| 2004-05 | 26,100 |
| 2005-06 | 27,000 |
| 2006-07 | 25,600 |
| 2007-08 | 26,100 |

*Note:*
Please note that, for consistency, figures are rounded up to the nearest £100.

*The Museum of London*

The Museum of London is not an NDPB sponsored by DCMS and we do not have figures for this organisation.

### Museums Libraries and Archives Council: Research

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council employs to carry out research. [239585]

**Barbara Follett:** The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council have confirmed that they employ four members of staff to carry out research.

### National Lottery

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to publish the accounts for 2007-08 of *(a)* the National Lottery Distribution Fund and *(b)* the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund. [239161]

**Andy Burnham:** I expect to publish both these accounts by the end of the year.

### National Lottery Commission: Recruitment

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by the National Lottery Commission on advertising for recruitment in each of the last five years. [225469]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information requested has been provided by the National Lottery Commission. Their spend on advertising for recruitment in each of the last five years is:

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 44,700 |
| 2004-05 | 13,000 |
| 2005-06 | 13,800 |
| 2006-07 | 12,200 |
| 2007-08 | 30,500 |

*Note:*
Please note, for consistency, figures are rounded up to the nearest £100.

### Olympic Games: Finance

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on the Olympic Games: finance, how much of the £290 million has been allocated to each home country sports council; how much money has been committed by Sport England to date; and to what. [239190]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Home Country Sports Councils' contribution of £290 million to the overall Olympic budget is from their existing National Lottery resources. It is for the Home Country Sports Councils to determine how this money is spent on support for elite athletes and coaches, facilities for elite and community use, and community sport programmes.

The total committed expenditure by Sport England as at the end of October 2008 is set out in the table.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Elite | 17.5 |
| Facilities | 12.8 |
| Community | 151.1 |
| Total | 181.4 |

### Plain English

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent by his Department on Plain English Campaign training courses for its staff in each year since 2005. [230610]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has spent £0 on training courses titled Plain English Campaign training for its staff for each financial year 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

However, its staff have attended training events that include Plain English communication guidance within the content of other training events. Namely "Effective Writing and Communication" events and "Effective Speech Writing". The total cost of this training for financial years since 2005 are as follows:

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 4,925.00 |
| 2006-07 | 7,342.00 |
| 2007-08 | 4,510.00 |

### Playgrounds: Schools

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Zonepacs are in operation; and how much funding for these projects has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent. [239627]

**Barbara Follett:** The Youth Sport Trust advise that there are 425 Zonepacs in operation, for which *(a)* £8,250,000 has been allocated and of this *(b)* all has now been spent.

### Playing Fields

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the Answer of 1 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 421W, on playing fields, how many planning applications have been approved affecting sites which either were too small or of the wrong shape to accommodate a playing pitch as currently defined in each year since 2004-05. [239692]

**Barbara Follett:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Public Libraries: Finance

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has allocated to public libraries in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [239540]

**Barbara Follett:** This information is not held centrally. However, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) publishes figures of total revenue expenditure and total revenue income for each library authority in its report "Public Library Statistics"—the figures are provided per thousand population. When used with resident population statistics (also provided in the publication), the amount of core funding allocated by Hertfordshire county council to its public libraries

can be calculated. The House of Commons Library holds copies of the report, including the most recent edition which contains estimated figures for 2007-08 and actual data for 2006-07.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has policy responsibility for public libraries, but core funding for public libraries is paid to the 149 library authorities in England as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Local authorities' net current expenditure on public libraries, as advised by DCLG, is set out in the following table.

*Net current expenditure: public libraries, England*

£000

| | Historic prices | Current prices[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 889,382 | 916,605 |
| 2005-06 | 865,161 | 915,669 |
| 2004-05 | 825,327 | 891,388 |
| 2003-04 | 796,169 | 853,270 |
| 2002-03 | 757,737 | 864,602 |

[1] Calculated using gross domestic product deflators 2007-08 supplied by Her Majesty's Treasury.

**Religious Buildings**

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers and *(c)* his officials have had with the Church Commissioners on alternative uses for places for worship in the last three years. [239189]

**Barbara Follett:** The Secretary of State and his predecessor, the right hon. Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (James Purnell), both met the Bishop of London to discuss access to funding to support alternative uses of places of worship.

The future of closed and closing Church of England church buildings, including alternative uses, is settled by the Church Buildings (Uses & Disposals) Committee of the Church Commissioners, on which the Secretary of State has a nominee. The Secretary of State's nominee meets regularly with Departmental officials.

Officials are regularly party to discussions with officials from the Commissioners and the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) on specific church buildings already redundant or approaching redundancy, which are being considered for alternative use or which might justify preservation in the interests of the nation by vesting in CCT.

Officials have attended all or part of annual tours in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 whereby the Church Commissioners have visited church buildings which, among others, are already in alternative use, or are redundant churches being considered for alternative uses.

**Religious Buildings: Finance**

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Heritage Lottery Fund has provided for places of worship in each year since 1995, expressed in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* 2008-09 prices. [239188]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested, provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, is set out in the table. The figures refer to funding to cathedrals, churches, chapels, and non-Christian places of worship.

£

| | Award in cash terms | Award in 2007-08 prices[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 7,688,695 | 10,393,885 |
| 1996-97 | 27,974,963 | 36,469,280 |
| 1997-98 | 19,967,111 | 25,364,221 |
| 1998-99 | 25,616,366 | 31,862,660 |
| 1999-2000 | 21,553,597 | 26,292,370 |
| 2000-01 | 30,851,439 | 37,147,292 |
| 2001-02 | 28,845,563 | 33,974,592 |
| 2002-03 | 28,546,881 | 32,572,847 |
| 2003-04 | 48,817,073 | 54,158,148 |
| 2004-05 | 20,626,540 | 22,277,488 |
| 2005-06 | 21,676,818 | 22,941,877 |
| 2006-07 | 26,831,108 | 27,652,139 |
| 2007-08 | 41,901,444 | 41,901,444 |

[1] 2008-09 prices are not yet available.

**Royal Parks Agency: Information Officers**

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by the Royal Parks Agency on employing press and communications officers in each of the last five years. [227204]

**Barbara Follett:** For information on the spend on press and communications officers by the Royal Parks in financial years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge) on 31 March 2008, Official Report, columns 540-41W.

For 2007-08, the figure as supplied by the Royal Parks, is £40,866.05

**S4C**

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on S4C in each year since 1997-98; and how many viewers it is estimated S4C had in each year. [238434]

**Andy Burnham:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Schools: Swimming**

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the PE and school sport national professional development programme on the standard of swimming teaching in England. [239287]

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** I have been asked to reply.

The PE and sport professional development programme is a key part of our national strategy for PE and sport and aims to raise standards of teaching and learning in the subject across the country. As part of the programme, over 11,000 swimming resources have been accessed by teachers since January 2005. In addition, around 9,000 teachers will have benefited from the Amateur Swimming Association's National Curriculum Swimming training course over the last five years.

## Sport England: Research

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff Sport England employs to carry out research. [239583]

**Barbara Follett:** Sport England have advised that they employ six members of staff to carry out research.

## Sports

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his estimate is of the number of adults who participated in moderate intensity sport at least three times a week in each of the last five years. [239625]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

## Sports: Finance

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding *(a)* the National Lottery and *(b)* his Department has allocated to support (1) (i) individual athletes and (ii) athletics national governing bodies in each year since 1997; [239378]

(2) (i) individual badminton players and (ii) badminton national governing bodies in each year since 1997; [239389]

(3) (i) individual boxers and (ii) boxing national governing bodies in each year since 1997; [239388]

(4) (i) individual canoeists and (ii) canoeing national governing bodies in each year since 1997; [239386]

(5) (i) individual gymnasts and (ii) gymnastics national governing bodies in each year since 1997; [239377]

(6) (i) individual sailors and (ii) sailing national governing bodies in each year since 1997; [239376]

(7) (i) individual tennis players and (ii) tennis national governing bodies in each year since 1997; [239375]

(8) (i) individual rowers and (ii) rowing national governing bodies in each year since 1997. [239462]

**Barbara Follett:** DCMS exchequer funding does not directly fund individual athletes, and exchequer funding for National Governing Bodies is channelled through UK Sport and Sport England. National lottery funding for individual athletes and National Governing Bodies is channelled primarily through UK Sport and Sport England.

UK Sport has advised that the following funding has been granted towards elite athletics, badminton, boxing, canoeing, gymnastics, hockey, rowing, sailing and tennis since 1997.I have asked Sport England to write with details of the allocated funding in their areas of responsibility.

*(a) Lottery funding*

UK Sport has provided the following information on lottery funding for athletes personal awards since 1997:

| *APA* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Athletics | 723,840 | 1,468,287 | 1,252,896 | 934,238 | 732,800 | 777,895 | 826,921 | 729,917 | 596,489 | 754,828 | 817,201 |
| Badminton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 276,670 | 438,345 |
| Boxing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 284,511 | 317,792 |
| Canoeing | 356,167 | 534,252 | 516,217 | 412,871 | 352,902 | 315,534 | 279,610 | 280,170 | 287,682 | 324,091 | 303,821 |
| Gymnastics | 194,183 | 376,451 | 590,655 | 390,553 | 266,540 | 273,545 | 263,010 | 206,762 | 70,302 | 85,299 | 142,006 |
| Hockey | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 369,239 |
| Rowing | 618,113 | 810,182 | 1,066,880 | 1,068,962 | 729,680 | 789,888 | 911,595 | 786,043 | 647,967 | 819,254 | 1,024,240 |
| Sailing | 308,120 | 449,589 | 719,940 | 562,620 | 381,488 | 511,982 | 492,558 | 414,492 | 516,193 | 686,684 | 687,190 |
| Tennis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

UK Sport has provided the following information on lottery funding to National Governing Bodies since 1997:

| *Lottery* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003304* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Athletics | 934,200 | 1,264,516 | 2,038,227 | 2,009,629 | 2,069,059 | 2,233,324 | 328,204 | 164,115 | 0 | 2,219,734 | 1,164,000 |
| Badminton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 62,500 | 62,500 | 83,600 | .. 82,500 | 104,000 | 1,173,680 | 1,101,270 |
| Boxing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16,800 | 0 | 75,000 | 37,500 |
| Canoeing | 507,368 | 620,118 | 751,500 | 808,600 | 826,557 | 855,199 | 875,467 | 364,958 | 900,000 | 1,623,881 | 2,177,453 |
| Gymnastics | 838,690 | 849,701 | 1,342,200 | 1,314,632 | 1,027,182 | 1,278,654 | 1,323,582 | 1,246,651 | 514,016 | 1,338,560 | 1,382,747 |
| Hockey | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 105,154 |
| Rowing | 1,186,937 | 1,640,782 | 1,740,748 | 1,685,659 | 1,893,200 | 1,666,990 | 304,245 | 0 | 0 | 52,075 | 208,300 |
| Sailing | 320,814 | 490,297 | 1,105,684 | 1,181,700 | 1,566,500 | 1,288,166 | 389,334 | 0 | 0 | 2,447,158 | 2,089,413 |
| Tennis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*(b)* UK Sport has provided the following information on exchequer funding for National Governing Bodies since 1997:

| *Exchequer* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Athletics | 217,500 | 408,128 | 404,091 | 450,000 | 452,435 | 500,283 | 2,107,198 | 2,462,699 | 2,418,550 | 3,476,724 | 2,171,251 |
| Badminton | 63,000 | 7,500 | 56,500 | 56,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Boxing | 18,000 | 20,360 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8,400 | 432,370 | 1,031,859 |
| Canoeing | 243,200 | 225,000 | 225,000 | 225,000 | 225,000 | 232,460 | 243,790 | 808,819 | 477,000 | 979,000 | 1,001,509 |
| Gymnastics | 379,800 | 379,800 | 375,600 | 342,500 | 407,500 | 385,258 | 381,016 | 501,258 | 720,000 | 424,043 | 822,981 |
| Hockey | 112,500 | 68,250 | 37,500 | 30,000 | 0 | 0 | 27,118 | 70,000 | 21,780 | 2,419,453 | 2,536,331 |
| Rowing | 320,200 | 21,000 | 0 | 130,000 | 123,000 | 122,600 | 1,860,199 | 2,160,617 | 2,439,789 | 6,343,283 | 5,886,241 |
| Sailing | 411,300 | 411,000 | 411,000 | 411,000 | 360,800 | 446,000 | 1,999,083 | 1,178,197 | 1,847,185 | 3,152,553 | 3,052,509 |
| Tennis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

## Sports: Per Capita Costs

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent per capita from the public purse on sporting infrastructure in each of the last five years. [239626]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

## Swimming

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations the Amateur Swimming Association has made to his Department on his policy of getting two million more people active by 2012; and if he will place a copy of each in the Library. [237586]

**Andy Burnham:** The Department has not received representations from the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) in relation to the policy of getting 2 million more people active by 2012. As the National Governing Body of Swimming, the ASA are working with Sport England to develop their new whole sport plan. This will identify the contribution they will make to Sport England's commitment of getting 1 million more people playing sport by 2012, as part of the wider 2 million target. The ASA are also working with the Department, Sport England and the LGA to develop the free swimming offer.

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consideration he has given to consulting the Swimming Teachers' Association on future work and policy initiatives concerning swimming on the same basis as he consults the Amateur Swimming Association. [239935]

**Andy Burnham:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

## Swimming: Finance

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many local authorities have taken up grants for free swimming for the under-16s. [238737]

**Andy Burnham:** The Government's Free Swimming Programme will begin on 1 April 2009. The closing date for local authorities to confirm their participation in all elements of the programme has now passed. We are collating responses and I will be making an announcement shortly.

## Theatres: Finance

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department made available to theatre companies in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency and *(b)* England in each year between 1999 and 2007. [239349]

**Barbara Follett:** The information requested, provided by Arts Council England, is set out in the following tables.

*(a) Regularly funded theatre organisations in the constituency of Hemel Hempstead*

| | *Grant-in-aid (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 20,000 |
| 2000-01 | 20,600 |
| 2001-02 | 21,218 |
| 2002-03 | 21,855 |
| 2003-04 | 22,511 |
| 2004-05 | 23,073 |
| 2005-06 | 23,650 |
| 2006-07 | 24,300 |
| 2007-08 | 24,969 |

*(b) Regularly funded theatre organisations in England*

| | *Grant-in-aid (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | — |
| 2000-01 | — |
| 2001-02 | — |
| 2002-03 | 71,669,239 |
| 2003-04 | 85,501,441 |
| 2004-05 | 90,692,439 |
| 2005-06 | 95,032,382 |
| 2006-07 | 98,097,691 |
| 2007-08 | 100,575,479 |

*Note:*
Prior to 2002-03, the Regional Arts Boards were independent bodies and maintained records according to their own systems and requirements. Consequently, it is not possible to provide consolidated figures for England prior to this year.

In addition, Lottery funding has been provided for theatre-related activity as set out in the table. There have been no theatre-related Lottery awards in Hemel Hempstead in the period in question.

*Lottery funding for theatre-related activity*

| | *Funding (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 53,628,834 |
| 2000-01 | 24,331,041 |
| 2001-02 | 39,273,730 |
| 2002-03 | 21,756,267 |
| 2003-04 | 78,253,906 |
| 2004-05 | 47,823,833 |
| 2005-06 | 16,637,447 |
| 2006-07 | 16,082,474 |
| 2007-08 | 10,023,637 |

## Tourism

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to develop a satellite account for tourism statistics; and if he will make a statement. [238018]

**Barbara Follett:** A Tourism Intelligence Unit funded by the English Tourism Intelligence Partnership was set up by the Office National Statistics in August 2008. The aim of the unit is to make improvements to national and regional tourism statistics, especially those that relate to the tourism industry, the visitor economy and the economic impact of tourism.

One of the first items on the work programme of the unit is to review existing Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSAs) and to plan how these could be used and developed in future.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average amount spent per visit during tourism day trips to *(a)* seaside towns, *(b)* cities and *(c)* rural destinations in each of the last 10 years. [238302]

**Barbara Follett:** Information on day trips is gathered through Day Visits Surveys which are run on an intermittent basis. Surveys were conducted in 1998 and in 2002-03 for Great Britain, and in 2005 for England only. The available information on average spend per day trip to the seaside, town/city and countryside in the last 10 years is therefore as follows:

| *Year (and scope of survey)* | *Destination* | *Average expenditure per trip (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1998 (Great Britain)[1] | Seaside/coast | 20.30 |
| | Town/City | 30.90 |
| | Countryside | 16.60 |
| 2002-03 (Great Britain)[2] | Seaside/coast | 18.50 |
| | Town/City | 30.80 |
| | Countryside | 20.70 |
| 2005 (England only)[2] | Seaside town/city | 36.43 |
| | Seaside/Coast | 35.31 |
| | Inland town/City | 46.20 |
| | Countryside | 29.77 |

[1] Expenditure in 2002 prices.
[2] Expenditure in 2005 prices.
*Source:*
Leisure Day Visits Survey (1998, 2002/03) and England Leisure Visits Survey (2005)

Please be aware that figures quoted above are not directly comparable due to changes in the survey methodologies.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the contribution made by tourism to the national economy in each of the last three years; and what estimate he has made of its expected contribution in each of the next three years. [239374]

**Barbara Follett:** The departmental estimate of the contribution made by tourism to the national economy in each of the last three years are as follows:

| | *Tourism consumption on UK trips (£ billion)* | *Tourism GVA as percentage of UK GVA* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 86.3 | 2.7 |
| 2006 | 85.5 | 2.9 |
| 2005 | 84.9 | 3.0 |

Estimates are based on the publication 'UK Tourism Satellite Account—First Steps'.

No forecasts of expected contribution in the next three years have been made.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport from which 10 countries the UK received the most visitors in each year since 1997. [239379]

**Barbara Follett:** Full information on the number of visitors from other countries to the UK, each year since 1993, is available through VisitBritain's insight and Market Intelligence section of its website. This can be found at the following link:

www.tourismtrade.org.uk/Images/country%20ranks%201993-2007_tcm12-37820.xls

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made in the establishment of a tourism intelligence unit; and when he expects the unit to be operational. [239463]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 25 November 2008]:* A Tourism Intelligence Unit funded by the English Tourism Intelligence Partnership was set up by the Office of National Statistics in August 2008. The aim of the unit is to make improvements to national and regional tourism statistics, especially those that relate to the tourism industry, the visitor economy and the economic impact of tourism.

## Tourism Forum

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department's Tourism Forum was wound up; and when it held its last meeting. [238029]

**Barbara Follett:** The Tourism Forum held its last meeting in December 2002 and was wound up by March 2003. It was replaced by the Tourism Review and Implementation Group (TRIG) which was set up to monitor progress against delivery of the Tomorrow's Tourism Today strategy and to consider wider issues of productivity in the tourism industry. The TRIG, in turn was replaced by the Ministerial Advisory Group in January 2006 to develop and deliver the current DCMS Tourism Strategy; Winning: A tourism strategy for 2012 and beyond.

The Government have also maintained an ongoing engagement with the Tourism Alliance which was established with the support of my Department in 2001.

### Tourism: Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to share best practices in developing tourism between the principal seaside towns in England. [238092]

**Barbara Follett:** A cross-Whitehall coastal towns group, led by Communities and Local Government is working in partnership with a regional development agency (RDA)-led coastal towns network to improve knowledge of the challenges and opportunities facing coastal towns in order to inform action at a national and sub-national level. RDAs have a key role to play in helping coastal areas in their regions to achieve their full economic potential, as part of wider regional strategies to deliver sustainable growth. My Department is represented on that group and we continue to work closely with the RDAs on strategic leadership of tourism and important aspect of economic growth.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the amount that domestic visitors to UK coastal destinations spent in *(a)* 1978, *(b)* 1988, *(c)* 1998 and *(d)* the latest year for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the amount that domestic visitors to each principal seaside town spent in each of the last 10 years. [238300]

**Barbara Follett:** Information on expenditure by United Kingdom residents in coastal destinations is available from the United Kingdom Tourism Survey, but this information is not broken down by town. Comparable data is not available before 2000 and the latest year for which data is available is 2007.

Based on the UK Tourism Survey 2007 UK residents spent £4.9 billion on domestic overnight trips to the seaside.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential for seaside towns to encourage tourists by means of niche marketing; and what support he provides for such activities. [238552]

**Barbara Follett:** I have made no specific assessment of the potential for seaside towns to encourage tourists by means of niche marketing.

In August, my Department announced the first series of projects to be funded through the Sea Change programme, which is intended to boost regeneration in coastal areas through investment in culture and heritage. The scheme, which will run for three years to 2011, giving £45 million in total, will encourage new visitors to coastal areas and help support and enrich existing communities.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* guest houses, *(b)* hotels, *(c)* bed and breakfasts and *(d)* other guest accommodation properties were registered for tourism use in each of the principal seaside towns of England in each of the last 20 years. [238635]

**Barbara Follett:** This information is not centrally held, as there is no statutory register of accommodation for tourism use in England. Visitors seeking accommodation in seaside towns can use VisitBritain's online directory which has listings of over 37,000 places to stay in Britain and is available at

http://www.visitbritain.co.uk/accommodation/

### Tourism: Greater London

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps are being taken to make London tourist attractions more accessible to disabled people before 2012. [233840]

**Barbara Follett:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Tourism: Housing

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what estimate he has made of the percentage of visitor accommodation in England which was accredited by tourist authorities in each year since 1997; [230774]

(2) what percentage of visitor accommodation in each region was accredited in each year since 1997. [231349] [231349]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* My Department does not hold centrally the percentage figures of visitor accommodation in England accredited by tourist authorities in each year since 1997.

However, percentage figures for serviced accommodation in England (i.e. Hotels and B&Bs/Guest Houses/Inns etc) quality assessed by VisitBritain are as follows:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 48 |
| 2004-05 | 47 |
| 2005-06 | 46 |
| 2006-07 | 47 |
| 2007-08 | 46 |

*Source:*
VisitBritain

### Tourism: Standards

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what assessment he has made of his Department's Fitness for Purpose: Quality Counts initiative of 2005; and if he will make a statement; [238027]

(2) what assessment he has made of his Department's Fit For Your Trip? initiative of 2003; and if he will make a statement. [238028]

**Barbara Follett:** In 2003 my Department announced that six local authorities had been selected as pilots under the Fitness for Purpose initiative which is intended to promote better inspection and regulation of tourist accommodation in the United Kingdom, the aim of this initiative is to tackle poor safety and trading standards to ensure that minimum legal requirements are met.

Following a review in which it was agreed that the pilot phase had been successful, my Department and the Local Government Association produced a guide for local authorities entitled, "Fitness for Purpose: Quality Counts". This covers issues like standards of accommodation; minimum legal requirements for health and safety; food safety and hygiene; fire safety and trading standards and gives advice on the handling of complaints. The Guide is available at the following link:

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/3711.aspx>

### Vacancies

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* Sport England and *(b)* Arts Council England spent on advertising vacancies in each of the last five years. [225463]

**Barbara Follett:** Sport England and Arts Council England advise that their financial systems do not easily allow disaggregation of advertising from other recruitment costs. To undertake a manual search would incur disproportionate costs.

### VisitBritain: Buildings

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Visit Britain offices there are *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas. [231621]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by my predecessor my right hon. Friend the Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 830W.

VisitBritain inform us that they have two offices in the United Kingdom, its headquarters office in Hammersmith, London, and the Britain and London Visitor Centre in Regent Street, London.

### VisitBritain: Information Officers

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers are employed by Visit Britain. [224848]

**Barbara Follett:** VisitBritain inform us that they employ seven full-time equivalent members of staff on press and communications functions in the UK. 23 posts in overseas offices also have press or communications roles.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Visit Britain spent on employing press and communications officers in each of the last five years. [226249]

**Barbara Follett:** VisitBritain inform us that due to the complex nature of their domestic and overseas work this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### VisitBritain: Manpower

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff work for VisitBritain; and how many staff are planned to work for VisitBritain in each of the next three years. [231620]

**Barbara Follett:** *[holding answer Thursday 30 October 2008]:* VisitBritain employed an average of 403 staff during the last financial year. As it is currently undertaking a restructuring exercise it is difficult to provide figures in the requested manner, but VisitBritain inform us that staffing in the VisitBritain/VisitEngland's Thames Tower headquarters is expected to reduce by 40 per cent. from 228 to around 135, and staff posts in overseas offices are expected to be reduced by 25 per cent. from 194 to around 145. These predictions are likely to be affected by market forces and business needs during the three year period in question.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff Visit Britain and its predecessor employed in each year since 1997. [239391]

**Barbara Follett:** VisitBritain was created on 1 April 2003, formed by the merger of the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourism Council. VisitBritain inform us that the average number of people they have employed is as follows:

| *Year ending March* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2008 | 403 |
| 2007 | 463 |
| 2006 | 482 |
| 2005 | 476 |
| 2004 | 476 |

VisitBritain inform us that prior to 2003, the average number of people employed by the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourism Council (from 1999-2003; and the English Tourist Board before that) were as follows:

| *Year ending March* | *BTA* | *ETC/ETB* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 484 | 59 |
| 2002 | 483 | 56 |
| 2001 | 455 | 57 |
| 2000 | 418 | 55 |
| 1999 | 414 | 63 |
| 1998 | 405 | 63 |
| 1997 | 378 | 60 |

*Note:*
Figures provided by VisitBritain from Statutory accounts.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff were employed in each of VisitBritain's overseas offices in each of the last five years. [239464]

**Barbara Follett:** VisitBritain have provided the information in the following table. The headcount list includes permanent and contract staff. VisitBritain inform us that they do not hold information for the period since April 2007.

*Staff employed in VisitBritain's overseas offices from April 2003 to April 2007*

| | As at April each year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Amsterdam | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 13 |
| Auckland | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Berlin | 6 | 31.5 | 30.5 | 32.5 | 39 |
| Brussels | 9 | 9 | 11 | 11 | 10 |
| Buenos Aires | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2.5 | n/a |
| Chicago | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| Copenhagen | 6 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Czech Republic | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1 | 0 |
| Dubai | 5.5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Dublin | 12 | 11.5 | 12 | 11 | 12 |
| Frankfurt | 24.5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Greater China | n/a | n/a | n/a | 4 | 4 |
| Greece | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1 | 1 |
| Hong Kong | 4 | 11 | 12 | 8 | 12 |
| Hungary | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1 | 1 |
| India | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| Johannesburg | 7 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| Korea | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1 | 1 |
| Lisbon | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Los Angeles | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Madrid | 11 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 13 |
| Malaysia | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1 | 1 |
| Milan | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 11.5 | 11 |
| Muhlhausen | 3.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 2.5 |

*Staff employed in VisitBritain's overseas offices from April 2003 to April 2007*

| | As at April each year | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| New York | 40 | 34 | 34 | 26 | 28 |
| Oslo | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Paris | 19 | 22 | 24 | 19.5 | 22 |
| Rio de Janeiro | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | [1]2.5 |
| Russia | n/a | n/a | n/a | 2 | 2 |
| Singapore | 7 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| Stockholm | 12 | 13 | 14 | 17.5 | 17.5 |
| Sydney | 12 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Thailand | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1 | 1 |
| Tokyo | 9 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 8 |
| Toronto | 7 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| Zurich | 5 | 6 | 4 | n/a | n/a |

[1] Office moved from Rio de Janeiro to Sao Paulo in early 2007

## VisitBritain: Offices

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in which overseas locations Visit Britain maintained an office in each year since 1997; and how many overseas offices he expects will be in operation in 2009. [238182]

**Barbara Follett:** The information in the table has been provided by VisitBritain. In addition VisitBritain now also have a representative in Moscow, Russia.

VisitBritain inform us they expect that in 2009 the overseas offices are likely to be the same as those listed for 2008.

*VisitBritain's overseas office locations 1996-2008*

| *Overseas offices* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Buenos Aires, Argentina (Virtual presence in this market, managed from Brazil) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — |
| Sydney, Australia (Virtual presence in New Zealand operated from Australia) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Vienna, Austria (Virtual presence in this market since the office closed in 1986, managed from Germany) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Brussels, Belgium and Luxembourg | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Located in Sao Paulo since 2007) (Virtual presence in Argentina and Mexico operated from Brazil) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Toronto, Canada | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Santiago, Chile | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

*VisitBritain's overseas office locations 1996-2008*

| *Overseas offices* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beijing, China (Representatives now in Beijing and Shanghai) | — | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Prague, Czech Republic (Representative in this market since end of December 2007) | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Copenhagen, Denmark | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Dubai | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Helsinki, Finland (British Travel Centre) (Virtual presence in this market, managed from Sweden) | — | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Paris, France | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Frankfurt, Germany | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — |
| Berlin, Germany (Virtual presence in Austria and Switzerland operated from Germany) | — | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Pangrati, Greece (Representative in this market since 2005) | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Hong Kong | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Budapest, Hungary | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | Yes | Yes |
| New Delhi, India (In addition, representatives now in Mumbai and Bangalore) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Dublin, Ireland | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | — |
| Tel Aviv, Israel | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Rome, Italy | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Milan, Italy | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Tokyo, Japan | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Osaka, Japan | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (Representative in this market since 2005) | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Mexico (Virtual presence in this market, managed from Brazil) | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Amsterdam, Netherlands | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Auckland, New Zealand (Virtual presence in this market, managed from Australia) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — |
| Oslo, Norway (Representative in this market) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | — |
| Warsaw, Poland (Representative in this market since beginning of Jan. 2008) | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

*VisitBritain's overseas office locations 1996-2008*

| *Overseas offices* | *1996* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lisbon, Portugal (Presence in this market since the office closed in 1993, and a representative since 2002) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Singapore | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Johannesburg, South Africa (Representative in this market since 2006) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — | — |
| Seoul, South Korea (Representative in this market since 2005) | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Madrid, Spain | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Stockholm, Sweden (Virtual presence in Finland operated from Sweden) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Zurich, Switzerland (Virtual presence in this market since 2004, managed from Germany) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — |
| Taipei, Taiwan | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Bangkok, Thailand (Representative in this market since 2005) | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| New York, USA | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Chicago, USA (Office closed October 2008) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | — |
| Los Angeles, USA | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Miami, USA | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| San Francisco, USA | — | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Caracas, Venezuela | Yes | Yes | Yes | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total number of offices | [1]40 | [2]42 | [3]40 | [4]28 | [5]28 | [6]27 | [7]26 | 26 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 22 | 19 |

[1] List of BTA's overseas offices from the 1996 Annual Accounts.
[2] List of BTA's overseas offices from the 1997 Annual Report. 3TA also had representation in Athens, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Cyprus, Istanbul, Karachi and Vienna.
[3] List of BTA's overseas offices from the 1998 Annual Report. BTA also had representation in Athens, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Cyprus, Istanbul, Karachi, Vienna and Prague.
[4] List of BTA's overseas offices from the 1999 Annual Report. BTA was represented jointly with the British Council in the following places: Santiago, Chile; Bogota, Columbia; Mexico City, Mexico; Caracas, Venezuela; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Seoul, South Korea; Taipei, Taiwan; Bangkok, Thailand; Prague, Czech Republic; Budapest, Hungary; Warsaw, Poland; Lisbon, Portugal; and Vienna, Austria.
[5] List of BTA's overseas offices from the 2000 Annual Report. BTA was represented jointly with the British Council in the following places: Santiago, Chile; Bogota, Columbia; Mexico City, Mexico; Caracas, Venezuela; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Seoul, South Korea; Taipei, Taiwan; Bangkok, Thailand; Prague, Czech Republic; Budapest, Hungary; Warsaw, Poland; Lisbon, Portugal; and Vienna, Austria.
[6] List of BTA's overseas offices from the 2001 Annual Report.
[7] List of BTA's overseas offices from the 2002 Annual Report.
*Sources:*
Various sources have been used for the information from 2003-08.

## World Creative Business Forum

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to launch the World Creative Business Forum prototype; and if he will make a statement. [239591]

**Andy Burnham:** The Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism and I held an inaugural meeting in Liverpool on 20 November with over 20 individuals who are "ambassadors" for the World Creative Business Conference (now called c&binet: creativity and business international network). We discussed the challenges and opportunities facing the creative industries and will, along with contributions from many other sources, inform the agenda of the first main c&binet event on 26-28 October 2009. The c&binet website, www.cabinetforum.org, was launched on 20 November.

### Written Questions: Costs

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 606-07W, on Department written questions, what estimate he made of the cost of answering the question fully. [239291]

**Andy Burnham:** A full response would require a manual search of 11,000 written parliamentary questions tabled during each parliamentary Session. For the current parliamentary Session, a minimum of 2,300 written answers would have to be manually checked.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Advisory Panel on Country Information

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget for the Advisory Panel on Country Information of the UK Border Agency and its predecessor was in each of the last three years. [238867]

**Jacqui Smith:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of alcohol-related crime in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency and *(b)* Hertfordshire since the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. [239345]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when alcohol arrest referral pilots will be extended to under 18 year olds. [234291]

**Jacqui Smith:** A small number of alcohol arrest referral pilots for young people aged 10 to 17-years-old will commence operation early in the new year.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many retailers have been prosecuted for persistently selling alcohol to a person under 18 years in each of the last five years. [239621]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* yellow cards and *(b)* red cards have been issued to licensees under her Department's alert system referred to in the Youth Alcohol Action Plan. [239691]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Animal Experiments: Licensing

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for animal testing licences were *(a)* received and *(b)* approved by her Department in each of the last five years. [239361]

**Meg Hillier:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much she has allocated to the Jewish community in England and Wales for self-protection measures in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; what recent representations she has received on such assistance; what meetings since June (i) she, (ii) Ministers in her Department and (iii) officials have had with the Jewish community on such funding; and if she will make a statement. [165737]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many breaches of anti-social behaviour orders have resulted in a criminal conviction in the London borough of Bexley since the inception of the orders. [238134]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) became available from April 1999. The latest ASBO breach data is only available for the period 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2006 and are not collected below criminal justice system (CJS) area.

Information collected centrally on the number of ASBO breaches only counts those instances where the breach of ASBO was proven in court. Between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2006, ASBOs were proven in court to have been breached on 2,077 occasions in the Greater London CJS area.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Kent

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in (i) Ashford constituency and (ii) Kent since 31 December 2005. [239277]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

### Antisocial Behaviour: West Midlands

**Mr. Jenkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department allocated to tackle anti-social behaviour in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* the West Midlands in each year since the inception of such programmes. [237337]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** As with all other Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), Tamworth was allocated £25,000 a year from 2003-04 as a contribution towards funding an ASB Co-ordinator Post. In 2005-06, in England the antisocial co-ordinators grant was pooled within the safer and stronger communities fund. This pooled budget supports the delivery of outcomes and indicators relating to anti-social behaviour in local area agreements (LAAs).

Respect Programmes in Staffordshire and West Midlands also have an impact on anti-social behaviour. These programmes were designed to kick start a change in the way the area worked to tackle antisocial behaviour. Other Home Office led activities also act to tackle antisocial behaviour, for example the introduction of community support officers, but a monetary value cannot be assigned to that contribution.

### Antisocial Behaviour: Young People

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many acceptable behaviour contracts have been issued to young people caught drinking and behaving anti-socially in public in each of the last five years. [239690]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Asylum

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were being required to report to a particular centre in December 2007. [179770]

**Mr. Woolas:** 10,462 asylum seekers are recorded as having been required to report in December 2007. This data is based on management information and is not a national statistic. It should be treated as provisional as it is subject to change.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 871W, on asylum, when she expects the asylum tipping point figures for 2007 to be available. [225575]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many refused asylum seekers of each nationality her Department estimates are living in each local authority area in the UK. [229284]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the additional cost to local authorities of decisions made under the Case Resolution Programme for asylum legacy cases which have resulted in the granting of leave to remain. [231582]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her estimate is of the number of failed asylum seekers from *(a)* central and southern Iraq and *(b)* Zimbabwe who remain in the UK; and what her estimate is of the numbers in each case who have returned voluntarily since the Government decision not to enforce the return of such people. [236795]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which countries her Department cannot return unsuccessful asylum seekers on humanitarian grounds; and how many unsuccessful asylum seekers from each such country were present in the United Kingdom at 1 November 2008. [239278]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

### Asylum: al-Qaeda

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* asylum seekers known to be resident in the UK are on the UN list of those belonging to or associated with al-Qaeda. [237561]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Asylum: Crimes Against Humanity

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were refused asylum on grounds that they are suspected of *(a)* a crime against peace, *(b)* a war crime and *(c)* a crime against humanity under article 1F(a) of the UN Refugee Convention in each year since 2000. [224630]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers who were refused asylum under article 1F(a) of the UN Refugee Convention were granted *(a)* humanitarian protection, *(b)* discretionary leave, *(c)* exceptional leave to remain and *(d)* indefinite leave to remain in each year since 2000. [224631]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**John Bercow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers who were refused asylum under article 1F(a) of the UN Refugee Convention were refused *(a)* humanitarian protection, *(b)* discretionary leave, *(c)* exceptional leave to remain and *(d)* indefinite leave to remain in each year since 2000. [224632]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Asylum: Finance

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unsuccessful asylum seekers were in receipt of section 4 support at 1 November 2008. [239279]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

### Asylum: Housing

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of providing *(a)* asylum support and *(b)* accommodation in asylum support in each year since 2000; how many units of accommodation were provided in each of those years; and what the cost of the National Asylum Support Service was in each year since its inception. [177471]

**Mr. Woolas:** The table to this reply shows the cost from 2000-01 to 2006-07 of: Home Office expenditure on asylum support made available via the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) or its equivalent, including the administrative costs of NASS or its equivalent; total asylum support costs; and the cost of accommodation for asylum seekers.

We are unable to provide information on the number of accommodation units provided because the data cannot be extracted without disproportionate cost.

*Home Office expenditure on asylum support for asylum seekers 2000-01 2006-07*

£million

| | Home Office expenditure on asylum support[1] | Of which: Support costs[2] | Of which: Accommodation costs[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 783 | 750 | 470 |
| 2001-02 | 1,082 | 1,046 | 733 |
| 2002-03 | 1,124 | 1,092 | 640 |
| 2003-04 | 1,070 | 1,035 | 619 |
| 2004-05 | 854 | 814 | 499 |
| 2005-06 | 667 | 626 | 329 |
| 2006-07 | 550 | 515 | 260 |

[1] Represents Home Office expenditure on asylum support channelled through the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) or equivalent function. This includes actual support costs and related NASS, or equivalent, administration costs.

[2] Support costs cover accommodation and subsistence costs of persons in receipt of support under section 95, section 98 and section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. It also includes funding of support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and the costs of transporting asylum seekers to and from accommodation.

[3] Excludes accommodation costs of unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

*Note:*

Years refer to financial years, April to March.

### Asylum: Iraq

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqis who have successfully submitted applications under the *(a)* Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme for resettlement in the UK and *(b)* Gateway Refugee Protection programme are awaiting transfer in (i) Jordan, (ii) Iraq and (iii) Syria. [233223]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Asylum: Sussex

**Ms Barlow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports she has received from *(a)* Sussex Police and *(b)* other sources on the disappearance of two minors from a social services hostel in Hove on 28 September 2006 before the outcome of their asylum hearing had been determined; what investigation there has been of the disappearance; and if she will make a statement. [230770]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

### Asylum: Zimbabwe

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the situation of Zimbabwean refugees who have been denied leave to remain in the UK but who will not be deported due to the security situation in their country of origin. [237644]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on enforced removals to Zimbabwe. [237645]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Biometrics: Pilot Schemes

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pilot schemes for new biometric technology have been carried out over the last five years. [232821]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Borders: Personal Records

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what deadlines have been set in respect of *(a)* outbound and *(b)* inbound travel document information under the e-borders scheme for (i) leisure aviation, (ii) scheduled aviation, (iii) ferries, (iv) international rail, (v) boats, (vi) light aviation and (vii) other sectors. [239288]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she made of the likelihood of compliance with requirements set under the e-borders scheme for inbound travel documents of those charter and leisure operators serving popular tourist destinations by 2009. [239289]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the projected benefits to the leisure and charter industry from the e-borders scheme to begin to flow. [239290]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

### British National Party

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information she holds on whether allegations of threats of violence have been reported to the police by members of the British National Party since the Party's membership list was posted on the internet; and if she will make a statement. [239215]

**Mr. Coaker:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

## British Nationality

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what proportion of people resident in the UK hold UK citizenship; [225102]

(2) when she plans to reply to question 225102, tabled on 3 October 2008, on UK citizenship. [238445]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each nationality were granted UK citizenship in the periods *(a)* from 1977 to 1987, *(b)* from 1987 to 1997 and *(c)* from 1997 to the most recent year for which figures are available. [233538]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people granted British citizenship had not attended citizenship ceremonies in each year since their introduction. [234786]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 11 November 2008]:* The requirement to attend a citizenship ceremony was inserted into the British Nationality Act 1981 by section 3 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 with reference to Schedule 1 of that Act.

Section 42 of the British Nationality Act 1981 (the Act) sets down the requirement that persons of full age (being 18 years) should not be registered or naturalised as a British citizen or British overseas territories citizen unless they have made the relevant citizenship oath and pledge at a citizenship ceremony.

Discretion may be exercised under section 42(6) of the Act to disapply the requirement to attend a citizenship ceremony in the special circumstances of a particular case.

The Annex provides the requested breakdown of figures since commencement of this requirement in 2004 of those who have not attended a citizenship ceremony. Children are exempted in law from the requirement to attend a citizenship ceremony and this is also represented in the Annex.

In total, 465,595 persons of full age who were therefore required to attend a citizenship ceremony were registered or naturalised as a British citizen between 2004 and 2007. A total of 650, equating to 0.14 per cent. of this total were exempted from the requirement to attend a citizenship ceremony as a result of the exercise of discretion by the Secretary of State during this period.

Exemptions are only granted in exceptional circumstances; for example, when a requirement to attend a ceremony would have national security implications or when an applicant cannot attend due to chronic illness or disability.

*Annex A: nationality grants and exemptions from ceremonies—(excluding ceremony attended)*

| *Outcome year* | *Total not attended a ceremony* | *Ceremony overseas (exemption)* | | *Grant* | | *Total grants over 18 (excluding minors)* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Over 18* | *Under 18* | *Over 18* | *Under 18* | *Over 18* | *Percentage not attended* |
| Total | 130,930 | 300 | 5 | 350 | 130,280 | 465,595 | 0.14 |
| 2004 | 15,540 | * | — | 55 | 15,480 | 109,860 | 0.05 |
| 2005 | 40,760 | 25 | — | 130 | 40,605 | 120,060 | 0.13 |
| 2006 | 42,410 | 205 | * | 100 | 42,105 | 111,575 | 0.27 |
| 2007 | 40,220 | 65 | — | 65 | 40,090 | 124,100 | 0.10 |

* = Negligible i.e. 2 or less.

*Notes:*

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Ceremonies were introduced on 1 January 2004, therefore only application dates post 1 January 2004.

*Source:*

Local Management Information

## British Nationality: Assessments

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 788W, on British nationality: assessments, if she will give a breakdown by nationality of the pass rate for the Life in the UK test in each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. [237784]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The figures in the table provide the nationality pass rates for the Life in the UK test. The nationality is recorded from the identity document presented by the candidate.

Where the data are blank no candidates with that nationality took the test in that quarter.

It is unclear why British citizens would wish to take the test and some of these records may be inputting errors.

A copy of the table has been placed in the Library.

## Brussels

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on visits by its staff to Brussels in 2007-08; and how many such visits were made by (a) air and (b) rail. [239421]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

## Cannabis

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the reclassification of cannabis as a Class B drug will be implemented; and on what date the new law will take effect. [233050]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** *[holding answer 4 November 2008]* The draft Order to reclassify cannabis to a Class B drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was laid on 13 October. If approved by Parliament, cannabis will be reclassified on 26 January 2009.

## Cannabis: Crime

**Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of the reclassifying of cannabis on the number of people receiving a custodial sentence for offences relating to the drug each year. [227806]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 20 October 2008]*: A full regulatory impact assessment (IA) has been published to accompany the parliamentary draft order to reclassify cannabis from class C to class B under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The IA can be found at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/draft/ukdsiem_9780110846088_en.pdf

Based on a number of key assumptions, the IA forecasts the potential liabilities associated with the change in classification and the proposed accompanying enforcement approach, including an estimate of the number of offenders likely to receive a custodial sentence for a possession offence. For the supply, trafficking and production offences the IA set out the reasons why an assessment has not been made at this time. These include that fact that the maximum sentence prescribed by the 1971 Act is unchanged at 14 years; current Crown court guideline judgments relate to cannabis when it was a class B offence; and new guidelines from the Sentencing Guidelines Council are due shortly.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that multiple cannabis warnings are not issued by the police to the same person. [232130]

**Mr. Coaker:** *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: The Home Secretary has accepted the Association of Chief Police Officers' proposal for an enforcement approach that allows for a process of escalation for simple possession in England and Wales. Effective recording is important. Subject to consultation and Parliamentary approval, the new approach will include Penalty Notices for Disorder for cannabis possession and these will be recorded on the Police National Computer. The new Pentip 24 hour national fixed penalty database due to be available from 2010 will be developed to include a facility to also record cannabis warnings. In the interim, it is the responsibility of individual forces to determine how they record cannabis warnings. ACPO will ensure that all forces are fully aware of the importance of more accurately recording cannabis warnings locally.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has provided to police forces on the appropriateness of issuing *(a)* warnings, *(b)* cautions and *(c)* penalty notices for disorder for the possession and supply of cannabis. [232132]

**Mr. Coaker:** *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: The Home Office has not issued guidance for any of these disposals in relation to the possession and supply of cannabis. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) issued updated guidance on dealing with cannabis possession in January 2007. Guidance on the use of the simple caution is set out in Home Office circular 16/2008. This is general guidance and does not deal specifically with drugs offences. Penalty Notices for disorder are not currently a disposal option for cannabis offences. However, subject to parliamentary approval, they could become part of the proposed escalation policy for cannabis possession.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average amount of police time taken to issue *(a)* a simple caution for cannabis possession and *(b)* a cannabis warning was in the latest period for which figures are available. [234214]

**Jacqui Smith:** My Department does not hold figures on the specific average times in relation to issuing cautions for cannabis offences or for issuing cannabis warnings.

However, as part of the regulatory impact assessment carried out to accompany the draft order to reclassify cannabis from Class C to Class B under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 an estimate of police time to issue a cannabis warning was made. This estimate, based on operational advice and experience from Merseyside and the Metropolitan police forces and available research, was 0.81 hrs (i.e. 48.6 minutes). No specific time estimate for issuing a caution over and above the time taken for arrest was made in the impact assessment. The impact assessment is published at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/draft/ukdsiem_9780110846088_en.pdf

## Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) parties and (iii) decorations in the last 12 months. [233485]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

## Coastal Areas

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list the crime and disorder reduction partnerships that cover each of the principal seaside towns in descending order according to their efficiency ranking. [230633]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in England and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Wales are not ranked centrally according to their efficiency. The requirements for CDRPs/CSPs to publish and produce three yearly audits and to report annually to the Home Secretary were repealed in 2007.

They were replaced by new statutory requirements in 2007 which introduced national minimum standards for partnership working based around six Hallmarks of Effective Practice.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences relating to *(a)* drugs, *(b)* shoplifting and *(c)* violence against the person there were in (i) each principal seaside town, (ii) each ward in each seaside town and (iii) each lower super output area in each seaside town in each of the last 10 years; and if she will rank such areas in descending order of number of offences for the latest year for which figures are available. [230636]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information is not available in the form requested. The Home Office collects and publishes statistics for each local authority area in England and Wales. It is likely that some seaside towns will equate to local authority areas.

The Home Office does not currently collect recorded crime data at Super Output Area (SOA) level for all police forces in England and Wales although data have been collected at this level for a selection of forces. These data are available on the neighbourhood statistics website at:

http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/

The Home Office intends to extend the coverage of the SOA recorded crime data collection, with full England and Wales coverage expected to be available during 2009-10.

**Community Support Officers: Complaints**

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been made against police community support officers in each police authority area in each of the last five years; and what analysis her Department has conducted on the nature of complaints made. [236666]

**Mr. Coaker:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

**Crime and Policing Representatives**

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the annual cost of providing allowances to directly elected crime and policing representatives as proposed in the Policing Green Paper. [236778]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to my right hon. Friend.

**Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what costs she estimates would be incurred in the holding of elections for crime and policing representatives across England and Wales as proposed in the Policing Green Paper. [236779]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to my right hon. Friend.

**Crime: Business**

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department have responsibility for tackling crime against business listed in their job specification; and what the *(a)* job title and *(b)* role of each is. [236972]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Crime: Crosby**

**Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the percentage change in number of crimes committed in the Crosby constituency between 2007 and 2008 is; [236767]

(2) what the percentage change in the number of violent crimes committed in Crosby constituency between 2007 and 2008 is. [236768]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

**Crime: Detection Rates**

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps her Department has taken to improve crime detection rates in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England and Wales. [238104]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Crime: Intellectual Property**

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she gave to including intellectual property crime in the National Community Safety plan for 2008 to 2011; and if she will make a statement. [238357]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The National Community Safety Plan (NCSP) was revised in December 2007 to communicate how the vision and objectives set out in our national Crime Strategy ("Cutting Crime: A New Partnership 2008-2011") have been embodied in the current cross-cutting PSA framework. Both documents now give local partners a greater flexibility in setting their crime priorities, in accordance with local needs and in consultation across the local community.

Both the Crime Strategy and the NCSP cover organised crime, which includes some intellectual property crime. More widely, recent legislation introduced by the Home Office, including new asset recovery powers and the Serious Crime Act 2007, provide important tools in tackling intellectual property crime. The UK Intellectual Property Office has lead responsibility for the Government's national strategy on intellectual property crime and produces regular enforcement reports.

**Crime: Multiple Occupation**

**Mr. Moss:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government has taken on reducing petty crime in multi-occupancy housing in areas with large migrant worker populations. [187315]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Crime: Statistics**

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to review the procedures for recording crime statistics following the recent discovery of faults in the recording mechanisms for serious crime. [232172]

**Mr. Coaker:** The recording of crime is governed by the National Crime Recording Standard and the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime, both of which are publicly available documents. These standards are supported by the National Crime Recording Steering Group which contains members from a range of police forces, ACPO, Federation, HMIC, Audit Commission, Home Office officials and others where appropriate.

Where concerns are raised through this feedback mechanism, I will continue to take a measured and proportionate approach to ensure the public can have confidence in the accuracy of the recorded crime statistics.

### Crime: Wales

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of (a) vehicle theft, (b) domestic burglary and (c) violent crime there were in each police force area in Wales in each of the last 17 years, broken down by sub-category of crime. [239394]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

### Crime: Wildlife

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal wildlife items were seized in the United Kingdom in each year since 2000; and if she will make a statement. [169548]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The Home Office does not collect statistics from police forces regarding seizures of illegal wildlife items. However, HM Revenue and Customs has published information in their Annual Reports since 2003 regarding items that they have seized under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). This is detailed in the following table:

| | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of seizures | Number of items seized | Number of seizures | Number of items seized | Number of seizures | Number of items seized | Number of seizures | Number of items seized | Number of seizures | Number of items seized |
| Live animals and birds | 83 | 2,121 | 81 | 7,846 | 37 | 1,750 | 39 | 1,229 | 25 | 442 |
| Parts and derivatives of endangered species | 151 | 4,572 | 202 | 332,043 | 129 | 991 | 154 | 1,315 | 91 | 1,821 |
| Ivory | 32 | 127 | 22 | 192 | 18 | 37 | 24 | 208 | 15 | 130 |
| Plants | 16 | 1,108 | 18 | 4,204 | 11 | 5,482 | 40 | 157,428 | 9 | 22,245 |
| Other CITES listed species | 81 | 583 | 131 | 465 | 90 | 442 | 99 | 386 | 58 | 1,206 |
| Total | 363 | 8,511 | 454 | 344,750 | 285 | 8,702 | 356 | 160,566 | 198 | 25,844 |

### Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent incidents were recorded by the British Crime Survey in each police force area in 2007-08. [233568]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Demonstrations: Kingsnorth

**David Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 27th October 2008, Official Report, column 549W, on the Kingsnorth Climate Camp, what reports she has received on the injuries sustained by the 70 police officers injured at the Kingsnorth Climate Camp; and how many such injuries were sustained as a result of direct contact with protestors. [234659]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Departmental Civil Servants

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil servants have been employed by each of her Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997-98; and if she will make a statement. [239093]

**Mr. Woolas:** The requested figures are published in the Home Office annual departmental reports, copies of which are in the public domain and in the Common's Library.

### Departmental Consultants

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in consultancy fees by her Department in each year since 1997. [171994]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 793W, on departmental consultants, how many security passes her Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months; and if she will put in place measures to record the number of external consultants contracted to provide services for her Department. [239190]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many private contractors have been granted access to personal data held by her

Department in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement: [226410]

(2) when she plans to reply to question 226410, tabled on 8 October 2008, on private contractors' access to personal data. [238562]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 months. [232848]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many computer files containing personal data held by her Department are not encrypted. [233977]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many electronic and computer files her Department and its agencies lost in transit in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [239336]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department and its agencies are authorised to access electronic files and databases relating to an individual's (a) immigration status, *(b)* asylum application and *(c)* passport application; and if she will make a statement. [239337]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Border and Immigration Agency lost or misplaced databases containing data on (i) British citizens and (ii) foreign nationals in each of the last five years; what information relating to how many people was held on each lost or misplaced database; and if she will make a statement. [239338]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

## Departmental Databases

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what audits her Department and its agencies have carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176478]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

## Departmental Delivery Services

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks her Department and its agencies make on the immigration status of couriers working within her Department and its agencies; whether her Department requires courier companies to notify the Department if they discover among their employees an illegal worker who has worked handling documents on behalf of the Home Office and its agencies; and how many illegal workers have been discovered working for such couriers in each of the last three years. [239339]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

## Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what sanctions are available in cases of departmental staff found to have committed disciplinary offences; and how many times each has been used in each of the last three years. [230203]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Department's disciplinary procedures are split into a number of stages -some informal and some formal. In cases of minor misconduct (such as isolated lateness) words of advice are often all that is needed to rectify matters. If there is persistent minor misconduct, or more serious or gross misconduct, then the formal procedures can be used.

The stages are:

Informal stage

First formal warning

Final formal warning

Other penalty short of dismissal

Dismissal

The number of penalties issued under the Department's disciplinary procedures within Home Office HQ, the UK Border Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau during the last three years is shown in the following table.

*Table 1: Breakdown of disciplinary penalties issued across the Home Office*[1]

| | *First formal warning* | *Final formal warning* | *Other penalty short of dismissal*[2] | *Dismissal* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 92 | 45 | [3]— | 5 |
| 2006-07 | 95 | 67 | [3]— | 66 |
| 2007-08 | 143 | 76 | 7 | 68 |

[1] Information on cases at the informal stage is not recorded centrally and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.
[2] Other penalties short of dismissal are used when the disciplinary offence warrants more than a final warning, but is not sufficiently serious to warrant dismissal, such as downgrading or a bar on promotion for a specified period.
[3] Where less than five people were given a penalty other than dismissal, further information has been withheld on confidentiality grounds.

## Departmental Domestic Visits

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions she visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [204394]

**Mr. Woolas:** My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary visited Wales on 1 October 2008 and Scotland on 16 October 2008. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

### Departmental Early Retirement

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees in her Department took early retirement in each of the last five financial years; and at what total cost. [238954]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is as follows:

(UKBA) (formally IND), Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), Identity and Passport Service (IPS) and National Probation Service (NPS).

*Table 1: Number of Early Retirements*

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Core Department and UKBA | 10 | 8 | 123 | 107 | 78 |
| CRB, IPS and NPS | 8 | 5 | 18 | 18 | 6 |
| Total consolidated | 18 | 13 | 141 | 125 | 84 |

Costs of provisions made for Early Departures are published each year in the Home Office Consolidated Resource Accounts. Table 2 shows the provisions made for each financial year, for the full costs of Early Departures from 2003-04 to 2007-08.

Early Departures provisions were not reported separately for financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05, so we have provided a consolidated cost for these periods. These years encompass HO HQ, UKBA, IPS, CRB and HM Prison Service.

Table 2 shows years 2005-06 to 2007-08 the costs encompass HO HQ, UKBA, IPS, CRB and NPS.

*Table 2: Provisions made for each financial year*

£000

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Core Department and UKBA | 0 | 0 | 22,360 | 2,505 | 7,393 |
| CRB, IPS and NPS | 0 | 0 | 3,717 | 2,64 | -19 |
| Total consolidated costs for HO group | 9,774 | 52,707 | 26,086 | 5,169 | 7,374 |

### Departmental Gifts

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received in each case. [239631]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental ICT

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information technology projects are being undertaken by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies; what the (i) start date, (ii) original planned completion date, (iii) expected completion date, (iv) originally planned costs and (v) estimated costs are of each; and if she will make a statement. [209679]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information technology projects initiated by her Department have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [221710]

**Meg Hillier:** In March 2008 Identity and Passport Service (IPS) decided to cancel the project designed to upgrade the existing electronic passport application system, and instead reverted to a more limited programme of enhancements to the existing system.

A full review of all costs incurred to the date of cancellation was undertaken and, where hardware and software were suitable for re-use, costs were retained. The total write-down of system assets since the project commenced in 2005 is £10.8 million.

This information was published on page 18 of the Identity and Passport Service's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what IT projects *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [229154]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Departmental Information

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 258W, on departmental information, whether any data not classed as core information and

re-usable free of charge has been sold by her Department and its agencies under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations in the last 12 months. [234020]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the right hon. Gentleman.

### Departmental Information Officers

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers have been employed by her Department in each year since 1997-98; and at what cost in each year. [239085]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Departmental Inquiries

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what independent inquiries have been commissioned by her Department in the last five years; what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each; and what steps were taken following each such inquiry. [212322]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the right hon. Member.

### Departmental Internet

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which Government websites her Department is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [235031]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following table shows visitors received to

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

from April 2007 to March 2008.

The costs for all Home Office sites are embedded in budgets across the Department and could be extracted only at disproportionate cost.

*Home Office sites—not including sub-domains—Visitors April 2007 to March 2008 (where statistics are available)*

| | *URL* |
|---|---|
| 101—40,230 | http://www.101.gov.uk |
| It doesn't have to happen—Bebo marketing site | http://www.bebo.com/itdoesnthavetohappen |
| Know your limits | http://www.knowyourlimits.gov.uk |
| Talk to FRANK (joint HO and DH) | http://www.talktofrank.com/ |
| Assets recovery | http://www.assetsrecovery.gov.uk/ |
| Identity theft (in partnership with a lot of other people) | http://identity-theft.org.uk/ |
| Official Neighbourhood and Home Watch Website | http://mynhw.co.uk/ |
| Secure your fertiliser (Run by CPNI) | http://www.secureyourfertiliser.gov.uk |
| Connected—26,714 | http://www.connected.gov.uk/ |
| Life in the UK Test | http://www.lifeintheuktest.gov.uk/ |
| Neighbourhood policing | http://www.neighbourhoodpolicing.co.uk/ |
| Police Could You—recruitment website—1,284,558 | http://www.policecouldyou.co.uk/ |
| Think U Know | http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/ |
| IMB—76,185 | http://www.imb.gov.uk |
| Home Office—9,789,046 | www.homeoffice.gov.uk |
| Home Office agencies and NDPBs (24) | |
| Advisory Board on Naturalisation and Immigration | http://www.abni.org.uk/ |
| Advisory Panel on Country Information | http://www.apci.org.uk/ |
| Animal Procedures Committee—7,211 | http://www.apc.gov.uk/ |
| UKBA—8,101,302 | http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/ |
| Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure | http://www.cpni.gov.uk/ |
| CEOP | http://www.ceop.gov.uk/ |
| Criminal Records Bureau | http://www.crb.gov.uk/ |
| Family Records Centre | http://www.familyrecords.gov.uk/ |
| Financial Investigator Support System | http://www.fiss.gov.uk |
| Forensic Science Service | http://www.forensic.gov.uk/ |
| General Register Office | http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/ |
| IPS | http://www.ips.gov.uk/ |
| Independent Police Complaints Commission | http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/ |
| Independent Safeguarding Authority | http://www.isa-gov.org.uk/ |
| Investigatory Powers Tribunal | http://www.ipt-uk.com/ |
| National Anti-Fraud Network | http://www.nafn.gov.uk/ |
| National Counter Terrorism Security Office | http://www.nactso.gov.uk/ |
| NPIA | http://www.npia.police.uk/ |
| National Refugee Integration Forum | http://www.nrif.org.uk/ |
| Office of Surveillance Commissioners | http://www.surveillancecommissioners.gov.uk/ |
| Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner | http://www.oisc.gov.uk/ |
| Security Industry Authority | http://www.the-sia.org.uk/home |
| SOCA | http://www.soca.gov.uk/ |
| UK Visas | http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/ |

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 673W, on departmental internet, how many of the *(a)* absolute unique and *(b)* total visitors to her Department's mylifemyid website originated in London SW1. [236504]

**Meg Hillier:** It is not possible to provide the information requested as visitors to the website were not obliged to give their geographical location in order to contribute to the forum.

## Departmental Land

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much surplus land *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies own; and what the (i) area and (ii) estimated monetary value of each site is. [236422]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Department and its Executive agencies have no surplus land. The National Policing Improvement Agency, a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department is disposing of a single site of 19.18 hectares. This property is currently being sold and its book value for disposal is for the time being confidential.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for each of the sites owned by her Department and registered on the Register of Surplus Public Sector Land; what construction projects are planned for each site; and when she expects each site to be returned to use. [236437]

**Mr. Woolas:** The National Policing Improvement Agency a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department is currently disposing of the former police training centre in Ashford Kent. The successful purchaser will be responsible for deciding on their construction projects and when the site will be returned to use. The Department has no other surplus sites to dispose of. Three surplus NPIA houses shown on the September 2008 register have been sold.

## Departmental Lost Property

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data was lost by her Department in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [231441]

**Mr. Woolas:** In 2007-08, three laptops were reported as lost and 12 reported as stolen. Two memory sticks were reported lost and one stolen, but they did not contain personal information. Two hard drives were reported stolen but were unformatted and therefore contained no data. Two CDs containing personal data were reported lost and notified to the Information Commissioner. No desktops were reported lost or stolen.

The Home Office published details of the protected personal data related incidents notified to the Information Commissioners Office in 2007-08 in its Resource Accounts published on 8 August 2008.

## Departmental Manpower

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department there were *(a)* on a headcount basis and *(b)* on a full-time equivalent basis at the end of each of the last five financial years. [222597]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information is summarised as follows for ease of reference.

HQ and UKBA are unable to provide headcount information for 2003-04 and 2004-05 without incurring a disproportionate cost due to moving to a new database during that period.

The Identity and Passport Service is unable to provide headcount data without incurring disproportionate cost due to current upgrades of their database.

Please be aware that the structure of the Home Office changed significantly between 2003 and 2008. Staffing details are available in the Annual Reports.

*Home Office headcount and FTE*[1]

| | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07[2] | | 2007-08[3] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | HC | FTE | HC | FTE | HC | FTE | HC | FTE | HC | FTE |
| HQ | n/a | 4,614 | n/a | 5,004 | 5,460 | 4,765 | 5,855 | 5,239 | 3,626 | 3,078 |
| UKBA | n/a | 13,716 | n/a | 15,002 | 18,047 | 15,944 | 19,864 | 18,838 | 19,236 | 18,154 |
| IPS[4] | n/a | 2,526 | n/a | 2,805 | n/a | 3,165 | n/a | 3,286 | n/a | 3,530 |
| CRB[5] | 437 | | 449 | 427 | 393 | 373 | 395 | 385 | 487 | 466 |

[1] FTE figures include permanent civil servants, casual and agency/contractors.
[2] FTE and headcount for 2006-07 does not include Communities Group which left to join Department of Communities and Local Government.
[3] FTE and headcount for 2007-08 does not include National Offender Management Service and Office of Criminal Justice which left the Department and joined Ministry of Justice in May 2007 neither does it include the Respect Task Force.
[4] FTE for IPS and CRB is taken direct from business areas and not departmental reports. Figures for IPS are for permanent members of staff only.
[5] CRB did not record FTE data before 2004.

## Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2257W, on departmental marketing, Department branding and marketing, how much was spent by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the UK Border Agency, *(c)* the Identity and Passport Service and *(d)* the Criminal Records Bureau and their predecessors in each of the last five years. [232816]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2007-08. [237473]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) publicity and (ii) advertising in each year since 1997-98; and if she will make a statement. [239071]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following table show a departmental breakdown of spend on advertising and publicity over the last five years:

£

| | Home Office | UKBA | IPS | CRB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 8,974,989 | 0 | 565,000 | 90,000 |
| 2004-05 | 12,345,418 | 0 | 287,000 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 11,101,498 | 0 | 332,000 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 4,515,764 | 0 | 453,000 | 0 |
| 2007-08 | 8,434,545 | 0 | 1,693,778 | 6,000 |

The Home Office is responsible for some of the public's biggest concerns such as counter terrorism, crime and immigration. The level of marketing spend amounts to less than 1 per cent. of the Home Office overall budget. In order to match resources to priorities we focus on where we will get the most impact and value and where we will deliver the greatest return on investment.

### Departmental Mass Media

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last three years; and what the total cost was of each contract over that period. [231325]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent staff in her Department assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [237506]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in her Department has been in the last 12 months. [238170]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Office Facilities

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to her Department of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers (i) was in the last 12 months and (ii) has been since 1997-98. [233520]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what official *(a)* lunches, *(b)* dinners and *(c)* receptions she has hosted in each of the last three years; and what the (i) location, (ii) cost and (iii) purpose was of each event. [200493]

**Mr. Woolas:** This information is not held centrally.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many receptions she has hosted and funded in her capacity as Secretary of State in the last 12 months; which individuals and organisations *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended each reception; and what the cost was of each reception. [203847]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the right hon. Member.

### Departmental Older Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited by her Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228753]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information for the Home Office Headquarters (HQ), the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) and the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) is available only at disproportionate cost.

In 2007-08, the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) recruited six employees aged over 55 which represented 5.4 per cent. of all new entrants. No one aged 60 or over was recruited.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people recruited by her Department in 2007-08 were aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years; and what percentage this represented of the number of new recruits in each case. [235243]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information for the Home Office Headquarters (HQ), the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) and the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) is available only at disproportionate cost.

In 2007-08, the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) recruited six employees aged over 55 which represented 5.4 per cent. of all new entrants. No one aged 60 or over was recruited.

### Departmental Pay

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average annual change was in the gross pay per staff member *(a)* in her Department and *(b)* in the highest decile of her Department in each of the last five years. [187252]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria a civil servant in her Department must fulfil to be *(a)* considered for and *(b)* awarded a bonus; and how much was spent on bonus awards for civil servants in her Department in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [192081]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what bonuses were paid by her Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [239671]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

## Departmental Pensions

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of civil servants in her Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229530]

**Mr. Woolas:** The breakdown of members by PCSPS scheme, and the proportion of members in each scheme is shown as follows. The figures reflect the position as at 30 September 2008.

| | *Home Office and UKBA* | *Proportion of members in scheme (percentage)* | *CRB* | *Proportion of members in scheme (percentage)* | *IPS* | *Proportion of members in scheme (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total members | 21,380 | — | 526 | — | 3,918 | — |
| Classic | 11,553 | 54.03 | 324 | 61.60 | 2,154 | 54.9 |
| Premium | 8,340 | 39.01 | 136 | 25.85 | 1,411 | 36.01 |
| Classic Plus | 709 | 3.32 | 5 | 0.95 | 59 | 1.51 |
| Nuvos | 778 | 3.64 | 61 | 11.60 | 294 | 7.50 |

## Departmental Postal Services

**Dr. Alasdair McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* passports, *(b)* visas and *(c)* other documents posted to applicants by her Department were lost in the post in each of the last seven years. [228976]

**Meg Hillier:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which postal service provider carried most of the *(a)* letters and *(b)* parcels sent by her Department in each of the last three years. [238317]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

## Departmental Press

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on subscriptions for magazines, newspapers and other publications in each of the last 24 months. [215202]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

## Departmental Press Releases

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press releases have been issued by her Department in each year since 1997-98; and if she will make a statement. [238975]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following table shows the number of press releases issued in each year since 1997.

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2008[1]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Home Office | 411 | 399 | 512 | 417 | 331 | 353 | 374 | 402 | 207 | 192 | 204 | 202 |
| Prison Service | 79 | 89 | 93 | 78 | — | — | — | — | 54 | 49 | — | — |
| Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons | — | — | — | 11 | 59 | 48 | 68 | 41 | 51 | 72 | 21 | — |
| Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation | — | — | — | — | 13 | 7 | 11 | — | 62 | 50 | 19 | — |
| Forensic Science Service | — | 16 | 13 | 9 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Flanaghan Review | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| National Black Police Assco | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| National Probation Service | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| HM Inspector of Constabulary | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 7 | — | 3 | 3 | — |
| Criminal Justice System | — | — | — | — | — | 7 | 13 | 26 | 8 | 13 | — | — |
| UK Passport Service | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 16 | 4 | — | — | — |

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SOCA | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 3 |
| Totals | 489 | 504 | 618 | 516 | 406 | 416 | 469 | 492 | 386 | 379 | 249 | [1]207 |

[1] As at 20 November 2008

## Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on Departmental procurement, what payments her Department made to Dance United in 2007-08; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [233440]

**Jacqui Smith:** Pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, based on the purchase order data held in the Home Department's financial database, the details of the payments made to Dance United in 2007-08 are as follows:

| Date of purchase | Description of purchase | Payment (£) |
|---|---|---|
| 25 May 2007 | Performance at National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Third Sector Engagement Conference | 4,000 |
| June 2007 | Work with female offenders | 7,607.50 |
| October 2007 | Work with female offenders | 7,607.50 |

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, how much was paid to *(a)* The Labour Party, *(b)* Biometrix, *(c)* Information Risk Management plc, *(d)* Good Relations Ltd and *(e)* Marks and Spencer Lunch to Go in 2007-08; and for what purpose in each case. [237801]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, what payments the Identity and Passport Service made to *(a)* London Metropolitan University, *(b)* London South Bank University, *(c)* University of Leicester, *(d)* Manchester College of Arts and Technology and *(e)* University of East London in 2007-08; and for what purpose in each case. [237802]

**Jacqui Smith:** Pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, Offici*al Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, based on the purchase order data held in the Identity and Passport Service financial database, the details of the payments made to *(a)* London Metropolitan University, *(b)* London South Bank University *(c)* University of Leicester, *(d)* Manchester College of Arts and Technology and *(e)* University of East London in 2007-08 are as follows:

| Supplier/organisation | Description of Purchase | Date | Value (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| London Metropolitan University | Staff Training—Professional Development | 11 May 2007 | 1,140.00 |
| London South Bank University | Staff Training—Professional Development | 8 May 2007 | 5,960.00 |
| London South Bank University | Staff Training—Professional Development | 19 June 2007 | 2,460.00 |
| London South Bank University | Staff Training—Professional Development | 7 December 2007 | 3,700.00 |
| London South Bank University | Staff Training—Professional Development | 5 February 2008 | 3,910.00 |
| University of Leicester | Identity and Passport Service Adult Lifelong Learning (ALL) employee development scheme | 24 April 2007 | 790.00 |
| Manchester College of Arts& Technology | Staff Training—Professional Development | 2 November 2007 | 3,819.00 |
| University of East London | Staff Training—Professional Development | 14 March 2008 | 3,250.00 |

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, what payments the Identity and Passport Service made to Swingletree Stables in 2007-08; and for what purpose in each case. [237803]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, what payments the Identity and Passport Service made to *(a)* the Plain English Campaign Ltd and *(b)* the Stillpoint School of Reiki in 2007-08; on what dates; and for what purpose in each case. [237804]

**Jacqui Smith:** Pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, based on the data held in the Identity and Passport Service accounting system, the details of the payments made to *(a)* The Plain English Campaign Ltd and *(b)* the Stillpoint School of Reiki in 2007-08 are as follows:

*Table 1*

| *Supplier/ organisation* | *Date* | *Description of purchase* | *Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Plain English Campaign Ltd | 25 March 2008 | To ensure that Passport Application guidance and forms issued to the public use clear, grammatically correct language. | 623.00 |
| The Stillpoint School of Reiki | 11 May 2007 | Identity and Passport Service Adult Lifelong Learning employee development scheme. | 145.00 |
| The Stillpoint School of, Reiki | 7 August 2007 | Identity and Passport Service Adult Lifelong Learning employee development scheme. | 145.00 |
| The Stillpoint School of Reiki | 21 August 2007 | Identity and Passport Service Adult Lifelong Learning employee development scheme. | 145.00 |

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there has been any nugatory cost to her Department and its agencies relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last three years. [239643]

**Ms. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many citizens' juries her Department has held since 1st July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227481]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to the right hon. Member.

### Departmental Public Relations

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* the design and production of new logos and *(b)* employing external (i) public relations and (ii) graphic design agencies in each year since 2000, broken down by project. [234438]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Departmental Recruitment

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil servants in her Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229139]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and its executive agencies spent on *(a)* recruitment consultants and *(b)* external recruitment advertising in each of the last five financial years. [232295]

**Mr. Woolas:** The decision to employ recruitment consultants to assist with filling a particular vacancy is made by individual business units, and all associated costs are met from devolved unit budgets. The information requested is therefore not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Security

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many body scanners her Department operates; and where they are located. [237390]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Home Office operates a total of 32 body scanners throughout the wider Home Office estate and Executive Agencies. These scanners are situated in the main Home Office Headquarters building and a number of UKBA reporting offices and IPS regional offices around the country that routinely engage with members of the public in the course of normal business.

### Departmental Sustainable Development

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [234460]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office is committed to reducing its impact on the environment by improving the environmental performance of its estate. Our current initiatives are outlined in the operations section of our Sustainable Development Action Plan which can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/sustainable-dev-plan

We are currently undertaking a review of our strategic approach to sustainable development to strengthen governance and improve performance. Future plans and corporate commitments, including those relating to sustainable operations, will be published on our departmental website by end of January 2009.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Colin Challen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what agencies or units for which her Department is responsible require the public to make telephone calls to them on numbers which charge more than the national call rate; and how much income each such agency derived from such charges in each of the last three years. [225711]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

### Departmental Training

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what personal training courses at public expense she has undertaken since her appointment. [230962]

**Mr. Woolas:** Since her appointment in June 2007, my right. hon. Friend the Home Secretary has had six executive coaching sessions at public expense. In addition, in December 2007, the Home Secretary attended a short one to one laptop training session.

### Departmental Vetting

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* UK citizens born in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens born abroad and *(c)* foreign nationals recruited to her Department and its agencies are subject to (i) UK and (ii) overseas criminal record checks; and if she will make a statement. [206472]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what overseas visits have been made by officials of her Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [234739]

**Jacqui Smith:** Details on the number of overseas visits by other officials could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's expenditure on travel outside the UK in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

*£ million*

| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Home Office | 4.45 | 5.47 | 6.88 | 10.60 | 3.05 |
| Identity and Passport Service | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.06 | 0.08 |
| Total | 4.48 | 5.49 | 6.90 | 10.66 | 3.13 |

For financial years 2003-04 to 2006-07, the figures also include expenditure by the National Offender Management Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform which transferred to Ministry of Justice in 2007. Their costs can only be identified, and deducted, at disproportionate cost.

Figures for Criminal Records Bureau could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The numbers in the table include both official and ministerial travel. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 317-18W, on Department written questions, at what locations the information referred to is held. [239328]

**Mr. Coaker:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

### Deportation

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were removed from the UK under the automatic deportation provisions of the UK Borders Act 2007 between 1 August and 31 October 2008. [236472]

**Mr. Woolas:** The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly updated the Home Affairs Committee with the most robust and accurate information on the deportation of foreign criminals. She will continue to update the committee with this, including information relating to the automatic deportation of foreign criminals as it becomes available.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which countries *(a)* failed asylum seekers and *(b)* other people subject to removal directions have been returned via chartered flights in the last six months; and how many such (i) flights and (ii) returnees to each country there have been. [237098]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 318-19W, on deportation: standards, how her Department establishes that a person has left the UK without informing the immigration authorities; and how many people so recorded have subsequently been found to have been in the United Kingdom illegally in each of the last five years. [239296]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 318-19W, on deportation: standards, how many of the 63,365 removals from the United Kingdom in 2007 were cases of *(a)* enforced removals, *(b)* persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), *(c)* persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, *(d)* persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and *(e)* persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities. [239298]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

### Deportation: Aviation

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much her Department and its agencies have spent on air travel for the purpose of deporting persons from the UK in each year since 1997; [233348]

(2) how many flights her Department and its agencies booked in the last 12 months for the purposes of deporting persons from the UK; and how many of these bookings were not taken up following the cancellation of removal directions. [233349]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested to answer these questions could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

### Deportation: Offenders

**Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Newark of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 795W, on deportation, how many UK resident foreign nationals have been deported from the UK since 24 August 2005 on grounds of unacceptable behaviour. [235858]

**Mr. Woolas:** Since 24 August 2005 one foreign national has been deported from the UK on grounds of unacceptable behaviour. Over the same period 79 foreign nationals have been excluded from the UK on grounds of unacceptable behaviour. These figures do not include foreign national prisoners removed from the UK.

**Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether information held by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the UK Border Agency on who is due to be removed from the UK on chartered flights is provided to the Courts Service. [238225]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

### Detection Rates: North East

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps her Department has taken to improve crime detection rates in *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(b)* the North East. [236248]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

### Detention Centres

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget for the office of the Monitor of Accommodation Centres of the UK Border Agency and its predecessors was in each of the last three years. [239017]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Accommodation Centres project was cancelled in June 2005. The monitor was not appointed and no budget was therefore allocated.

### Domestic Violence: Immigrants

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions she has had on potential revisions to the no recourse to public funds rule for migrant women subjected to domestic violence; [226625]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of migrant women subject to the no recourse to public funds rule who would become eligible for retrospective support if their application for independent leave to remain were successful; [226626]

(3) what estimate she has made of the number of migrant women who are victims of domestic violence and who have no recourse to public funds; [226627]

(4) what estimate she has made of the cost of providing support for migrant women who have no recourse to public funds while their application for indefinite leave to remain is considered; [226628]

(5) when she plans to launch a consultation on migrant women who are victims of domestic violence and have no recourse to public funds. [226629]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** *[holding answer 13 October 2008]*: I will write to the hon. Member.

### Dorneywood

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use her Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [222045]

**Mr. Woolas:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply from the Cabinet Office of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 90W.

### Driving Under Influence

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drink driving offences were recorded in each police force area in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in each year since 1997; and how many successful prosecutions for these offences there were in each year. [166882]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* drug and *(b)* drink driving were recorded in (i) Ashford constituency and (ii) Kent in each year since 1997. [239276]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

### Drug Interventions Programme

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department allocated to each drug action team in England in 2007-08; and how much has been allocated for 2008-09. [239493]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department of Health and the Home Office have provided specific resources for drug treatment since 2001 in the form of the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB), with £398 million of funding provided in 2007-08 and 2008-09. In May 2007, the Ministry of Justice assumed responsibility for the element which had been the Home Office contribution. Mainstream resources are used by local partnerships in addition to the PTB to fund drug treatment services.

The following table shows the PTB allocations by local drug partnership areas for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

| *Region* | *Partnership* | *Total PTB 2007-08* | *Total PTB 2008-09* |
|---|---|---|---|
| London | Barking and Dagenham | 1,798,486 | 1,704,943 |
| London | Barnet | 2,030,341 | 1,981,104 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Barnsley | 1,869,647 | 1,844,374 |
| South West | Bath and North East Somerset | 894,048 | 1,025,717 |
| East of England | Bedfordshire | 1,952,738 | 1,934,529 |
| London | Bexley | 1,252,202 | 1,161,720 |
| West Midlands | Birmingham | 13,465,523 | 13263461 |
| North West | Blackburn with Darwen | 1,457,858 | 1,528,621 |
| North West | Blackpool | 1,563,214 | 1,738,409 |
| North West | Bolton | 2,384,084 | 2,546,002 |
| South West | Bournemouth | 1,636,972 | 1,750,508 |
| South East | Bracknell Forest | 449,022 | 435,559 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Bradford | 5,004,166 | 5,277,725 |
| London | Brent | 3,482,716 | 3,350,733 |
| South East | Brighton and Hove | 2,612,887 | 2,662,613 |
| South West | Bristol | 4,952,734 | 5,554,263 |
| London | Bromley | 1,583,951 | 1,585,411 |
| South East | Buckinghamshire | 1,927,635 | 1,892,364 |
| North West | Bury | 1,044,545 | 1,105,436 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Calderdale | 1,531,977 | 1,583,113 |
| East of England | Cambridgeshire | 2,766,971 | 2,738,666 |
| London | Camden | 4,134,704 | 4,172,380 |
| North West | Cheshire | 3,435,076 | 3,567,507 |
| London | City of London | 65,529 | 66,599 |
| South West | Cornwall & Isles of Scilly | 3,173,057 | 3,111,665 |
| North East | County Durham | 3,879,177 | 3,786,491 |
| West Midlands | Coventry | 2,863,506 | 2,774,953 |
| London | Croydon | 2,784,077 | 2,634,727 |
| North West | Cumbria | 2,996,594 | 2,997,092 |
| North East | Darlington | 909,455 | 925,698 |
| East Midlands | Derby | 2,211,665 | 2,270,039 |
| East Midlands | Derbyshire | 4,266,453 | 4,246,623 |
| South West | Devon | 3,382,081 | 3,332,291 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Doncaster | 2,651,147 | 2,780,568 |
| South West | Dorset | 1,518,162 | 1,636,747 |
| West Midlands | Dudley | 2,369,591 | 2,320,092 |
| London | Ealing | 3,341,538 | 3,337,664 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | East Riding of Yorkshire | 1,647,842 | 1,562,720 |
| South East | East Sussex | 2,316,997 | 2,331,724 |
| London | Enfield | 2,561,417 | 2,418,010 |
| East of England | Essex | 6,076,954 | 5,900,775 |
| North East | Gateshead | 1,732,323 | 1,780,445 |
| South West | Gloucestershire | 3,315,040 | 3,485,781 |
| London | Greenwich | 3,160,280 | 2,983,014 |
| London | Hackney | 4,816,215 | 4,629,565 |
| North West | Halton | 1,338,090 | 1,376,470 |
| London | Hammersmith and Fulham | 2,780,867 | 2,957,320 |
| South East | Hampshire | 5,347,034 | 5,185,047 |
| London | Haringey | 3,877,183 | 3,687,146 |
| London | Harrow | 1,252,958 | 1,250,558 |
| North East | Hartlepool | 1,037,418 | 1,074,097 |
| London | Havering | 1,168,404 | 1,101,534 |
| West Midlands | Herefordshire | 897,335 | 944,457 |
| East of England | Hertfordshire | 5,381,279 | 5,1871,25 |
| London | Hillingdon | 1,520,031 | 1,495,565 |
| London | Hounslow | 1,77,4996 | 1,827,655 |
| South East | Isle of Wight | 995,721 | 983,959 |
| London | Islington | 4,604,297 | 4,521,631 |
| London | Kensington and Chelsea | 2,834,796 | 2,883,389 |
| South East | Kent | 7,27,7433 | 6,953,199 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Kingston Upon Hull | 3,812,875 | 3,934,866 |
| London | Kingston upon Thames | 1,018,331 | 1,0130,32 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Kirklees | 3,088,538 | 3,077,498 |
| North West | Knowsley | 2,470,633 | 2,355,125 |
| London | Lambeth | 6,049,960 | 5,806,663 |
| North West | Lancashire | 7,088,868 | 7,336,048 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Leeds | 6,766,633 | 6,892,500 |
| East Midlands | Leicester | 3,478,183 | 3,360,475 |
| East Midlands | Leicestershire | 2,668,832 | 2,651,921 |
| London | Lewisham | 4,349,768 | 4,098,671 |
| East Midlands | Lincolnshire | 3,518,628 | 3,480,297 |
| North West | Liverpool | 7,825,875 | 7,817,306 |
| East of England | Luton | 1,783,568 | 1804726 |
| North West | Manchester | 7,556,640 | 7,536,206 |
| South East | Medway towns | 1,749,625 | 1,690,344 |
| London | Merton | 1,458,222 | 1,439,924 |
| North East | Middlesbrough | 2,285,164 | 2,365,813 |
| South East | Milton Keynes | 1,359,688 | 1,303,586 |
| North East | Newcastle upon Tyne | 3,309,700 | 3,240,203 |
| London | Newham | 5,478,257 | 5,176,580 |
| East of England | Norfolk | 4,698,613 | 4,719,359 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | North East Lincolnshire | 1,776,031 | 1,818,138 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | North Lincolnshire | 1,176,137 | 1,246,899 |
| South West | North Somerset | 932,046 | 1,013,525 |
| North East | North Tyneside | 1,705,348 | 1,640,889 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | North Yorkshire | 2,908,044 | 2,984,372 |
| East Midlands | Northamptonshire | 3,699,378 | 3,788,849 |
| North East | Northumberland | 2,090,038 | 2,018,738 |
| East Midlands | Nottingham | 4,059,481 | 4,020,672 |
| East Midlands | Nottinghamshire | 4,690,491 | 4,741,340 |
| North West | Oldham | 1,821,632 | 1,853,864 |
| South East | Oxfordshire | 3,862,034 | 3,861,667 |
| East of England | Peterborough | 1,501,525 | 1,561,437 |
| South West | Plymouth | 2,153,084 | 2,232,392 |
| South West | Poole | 746,687 | 767,341 |
| South East | Portsmouth | 1,615,370 | 1,597,575 |
| South East | Reading | 1,2749,78 | 1,309,023 |
| London | Redbridge | 1,798,230 | 1,711,307 |
| North East | Redcar and Cleveland | 1,463,142 | 1,429,036 |

| Region | Partnership | Total PTB 2007-08 | Total PTB 2008-09 |
|---|---|---|---|
| London | Richmond upon Thames | 1,156,343 | 1,192,005 |
| North West | Rochdale | 1,9165,97 | 2,039,600 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Rotherham | 2,330,431 | 2,431,079 |
| East Midlands | Rutland | 66,660 | 66,223 |
| North West | Salford | 2,166,523 | 2,164,457 |
| West Midlands | Sandwell | 3,099,463 | 2,928,028 |
| North West | Sefton | 2,594,430 | 2,566,205 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Sheffield | 5,252,777 | 5,261,591 |
| West Midlands | Shropshire | 1,355,666 | 1,366,950 |
| South East | Slough | 1,225,266 | 1,230,842 |
| West Midlands | Solihull | 1,166,457 | 1,113,266 |
| South West | Somerset | 2,168,606 | 2,408,603 |
| South West | South Gloucestershire | 699,742 | 958,715 |
| North East | South Tyneside | 1,900,769 | 1,864,826 |
| South East | Southampton | 2,117,042 | 2,036,466 |
| East of England | Southend-on-Sea | 1,316,737 | 1,343,036 |
| London | South west | 5,707,909 | 5,502,297 |
| North West | St. Helens | 1,691,818 | 1,744,853 |
| West Midlands | Staffordshire | 4,220,035 | 4,152,217 |
| North West | Stockport | 1,456,769 | 1,492,685 |
| North East | Stockton-on-Tees | 1,9685,38 | 2,036,306 |
| West Midlands | Stoke-on-Trent | 2,263,476 | 2,390,574 |
| East of England | Suffolk | 3,455,982 | 3,262,049 |
| North East | Sunderland | 3,020,224 | 2,875,546 |
| South East | Surrey | 3,998,973 | 4,120,201 |
| London | Sutton | 1,045,223 | 1,085,136 |
| South West | Swindon | 1,251,550 | 1,239,088 |
| North West | Tameside | 1,618,871 | 1,679,836 |
| West Midlands | Telford and Wrekin | 1,219,802 | 1,230,766 |
| East of England | Thurrock | 997,586 | 964,203 |
| South West | Torbay | 1,020,498 | 1,038,905 |
| London | Tower Hamlets | 5,237,153 | 5,020,046 |
| North West | Trafford | 1,333,966 | 1,326,831 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Wakefield | 2,715,072 | 2,905,267 |
| West Midlands | Walsall | 2,307,202 | 2,299,343 |
| London | Waltham Forest | 2,733,212 | 2,602,800 |
| London | Wandsworth | 3,138,594 | 3,114,272 |
| North West | Warrington | 1,211,621 | 1,294,890 |
| West Midlands | Warwickshire | 2,451,890 | 2,456,569 |
| South East | West Berkshire | 465,720 | 494,897 |
| South East | West Sussex | 2,956,754 | 2,870,236 |
| London | Westminster | 4,158,472 | 4,134,643 |
| North West | Wigan | 2,146,219 | 2,204,010 |
| South West | Wiltshire | 1,791,202 | 1,745,899 |
| South East | Windsor and Maidenhead | 5781,56 | 583,127 |
| North West | Wirral | 3,346,676 | 3,623,166 |
| South East | Wokingham | 426,304 | 427,633 |
| West Midlands | Wolverhampton | 2,862,432 | 2,890,592 |
| West Midlands | Worcestershire | 2,787,256 | 2,858,843 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | York | 1,228,713 | 1,310,764 |

The PTB is allocated direct to primary care trusts (PCTs) rather than being routed through the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA). The NTA's role is to ensure that allocations reflect local need, to monitor how funding is spent and to work with PCTs and Drug Action Teams to ensure that local treatment systems continue to improve and deliver effective and efficient services.

### Drug Interventions Programme: Stoke on Trent

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department has allocated to each area in Stoke-on-Trent constituency through its Drug Intervention Programme. [239492]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

### Drug Seizures: Databases

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the proposed pilot scheme to test the benefits of establishing a national forensic database of drug seizures will be established; where it will take place; and what the cost of the scheme will be. [234559]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Drugs: Crime

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department plans to spend in total on tackling drugs in (*a*) 2008-09, (*b*) 2009-10 and (*c*) 2010-11. [234746]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of drug-related offences in England and Wales in each of the last three years. [237455]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the level of acquisitive crime associated with drug addiction in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [239247]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

### Drugs: Crime Prevention

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 442W, on drugs: crime prevention, when data on crackhouse closure orders in 2007-08 will be available. [231375]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 29 October 2008]:* I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crack house closures there were in (a) Ashford constituency and (b) Kent in the last three years. [236876]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Drugs: Smuggling

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are used to assess the performance of counter-narcotics activities at (a) Heathrow, (b) Gatwick and (c) Stansted airports. [232902]

**Mr. Woolas:** The measures used to assess the performance of counter-narcotics activities of the UK Border Force are the targets set out each year in the Departmental Strategic Objective (DSO). These targets are for numbers of seizures and quantities of heroin and cocaine. The targets are set at a national level and no individual targets are set for specific sites.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the amount of illicit drugs which entered into the UK through London airports in the latest period for which information is available. [232903]

**Mr. Woolas:** Information relating to the movement of illicit drugs at specific locations cannot be disclosed as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent UK Border Force's controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention of crime.

### Ecstasy

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to change the drug classification of ecstasy. [232133]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: The Government has no plans to change the classification of ecstasy.

### Employment Agencies

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which recruitment agencies (a) her Department and (b) its agencies have used in the last three years; and how much was paid to each of these recruitment agencies in each year. [230940]

**Mr. Woolas:** The decision to employ recruitment agencies to assist with filling a particular vacancy is made by individual business units, and all associated costs are met from devolved unit budgets. The information requested is therefore not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### Entry Clearances

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people are on the waiting list for English language tests for visa applicants in South Africa; [229083]

(2) how many people are on the waiting list for English language tests for visa applicants in each (a) country and (b) British mission in the Asian subcontinent. [229084]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of those applying for a marriage visa in the last 12 months were interviewed by an entry clearance officer; and if she will make a statement. [236470]

**Mr. Woolas:** This information cannot be retrieved centrally. It would be necessary to check the record of each individual application in order to ascertain whether it was necessary to interview the applicant. We could therefore only provide the information requested at disproportionate cost.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visas issued by posts in (a) India, (b) Pakistan, (c) Bangladesh, (d) South Africa, (e) Australia and (f) the USA have been revoked in each of the last five years. [236473]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from (a) Russia, (b) China and (c) India applied for an entry visa in each year since 1997. [238150]

**Mr. Woolas:** Figures are available only for the last four financial years and are as follows:

| *Nationality* | *Financial year* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|
| China | 2004-05 | 159,190 |
| | 2005-06 | 151,213 |
| | 2006-07 | 170,391 |
| | 2007-08 | 188,668 |
| China total | | 669,462 |
| India | 2004-05 | 427,944 |
| | 2005-06 | 473,721 |
| | 2006-07 | 535,850 |
| | 2007-08 | 495,901 |
| India total | | 1,933,416 |
| Russia | 2004-05 | 133,209 |
| | 2005-06 | 146,634 |
| | 2006-07 | 168,870 |
| | 2007-08 | 161,019 |
| Russia total | | 609,732 |
| Grand total | | 3,212,610 |

*Source:*
CRS unpublished data (should be treated as provisional) 19 November 2008.

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visas have been issued gratis in each of the last five years, broken down by (a) reason and (b) country of origin of applicant. [238271]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of (a) short-term and (b) long-term visa applications that were wrongly approved in (i) 2007 and (ii) 1997. [239488]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long it took on average to process a (a) short-term and (b) long-term visa application in the latest period for which figures are available. [239489]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

### Entry Clearances: Biometrics

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department where fingerprints taken from people receiving biometric visas are stored. [226398]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how long biometric information collected from a recipient of a biometric visa may be retained, once the individual is no longer resident in the UK. [226400]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Entry Clearances: Gurkhas

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to issuing visas gratis to Gurkha soldiers; and if she will make a statement. [238270]

**Mr. Woolas:** The UK Border Agency's visa operations are self funding and visa fees are set to recover the full costs of issuing visas with no additional cost to the taxpayer. Waiving the fee for visa applications from former Gurkhas would not be appropriate and would set an unhelpful precedent for other categories of visa applicants and also in-country applicants who might similarly seek to be exempted from application fees.

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas students have been permitted, on graduation in the UK, to remain for a period of two years in each year of the shortage occupations list scheme's existence. [227409]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following table details the number of applications approved for each year since the graduate schemes were introduced including data up to 30 September 2008.

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fresh Talent Working in Scotland Scheme | | 1,095 | 2,065 | 3,150 | 1,315 |
| International Graduates Scheme | | | | 10,055 | 14,620 |
| Science and Engineering Graduates Scheme | 870 | 2,775 | 3,875 | 1,935 | - |

Note:
Figures rounded to nearest five.

The criteria includes main applicants only and excludes dependants.

The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions a request to extend a student visa has been declined on the grounds of fail to pass examinations since 2001; and in how many of these cases the applicant subsequently passed the required examinations at re-sits. [236823]

**Jacqui Smith:** Applications for further leave to remain as a student, which are refused on the basis of the failure to pass examinations, are not recorded separately for management information purposes from records for applications that are refused for other reasons. The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records which would be at disproportionate cost.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department against what criteria satisfactory progress on student visas is judged. [236824]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to her statement of intent on students under the points-based system—Tier 4, what benchmarks she has set to assess progress made towards her objectives for the new student route for visa applications. [238191]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Entry Clearances: Students

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether student visas remain valid if student status is given up before the expiry of the visa; how many hours of work are allowed for students on a student visa; and whose responsibility it is to monitor student status and hours of work for those granted a student visa. [234195]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

### Essex

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions she has visited Essex in the last 12 months. [204974]

**Mr. Coaker:** My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary visited Essex on 4 November 2008 as part of the Policing Pledge announcement. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

### Essex Police Authority

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when *(a)* she, *(b)* Ministers in her Department and *(c)* officials in her Department last visited Essex Police Authority; what issues were discussed; if she will place in the Library a copy of the report produced of each visit; and if she will make a statement. [217729]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she next plans to visit Essex Police Authority; and if she will make a statement. [217730]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Fines

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what categories of public official may *(a)* levy fines on and *(b)* issue fixed penalty notices to members of the public; and what the circumstances are in which this may lawfully be levied in each case; [224465]

(2) when she plans to answer Question 224465 tabled by the hon. Member for Billericay on 3 October 2008 on the categories of public officials who may levy fines and issue fixed penalty notices. [232509]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answers 6 October 2008 and 3 November 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

### Firearms

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal guns have been seized by police in each of the last 10 years. [232298]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** We do not collect this information centrally. However, the national firearms amnesty in April 2003, which ran for a month, saw 43,908 guns and over a million rounds of ammunition handed in.

### Firearms: Arrests

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* gun crimes and *(b)* arrests relating to gun crime there were in (i) England and Wales and (ii) each police force area in each of the last five years. [234483]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Firearms: Crime

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* gun crimes and *(b)* arrests relating to gun crime there were (i) in England and Wales and (ii) in each police force area in each of the last five years. [230638]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Available data relate to offences involving firearms (excluding air weapons) from 2002-03 up to and including 2006-07 and are given in a table which will be placed in the Library. Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat.

Data on arrests relating to gun crime cannot be provided by the Home Office since (a) the centrally held firearm offences database does not record detection or suspect data, and (b) offences involving firearms cannot be identified on the centrally held arrests database.

### Fixed Penalties

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of fixed penalty notices issued in each of the last three years. [239027]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** Information on the number of fixed penalty notices for motoring offences as well as penalty notices for disorder offences issued from 2004 to 2006 (latest available) is provided in the following table.

Information for 2007 on penalty notices for disorder is due to be published in late November 2008 and information on fixed penalty notices for motoring offences is due to be published in early 2009.

*Number of fixed penalty notices issued for motoring offences and penalty notices for disorder issued in England and Wales, 2004-06*

| | *Fixed penalty notices for motoring offences issued*[1] | *Fixed penalty notices for disorder offences issued* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | [2]3,434,670 | 63,639 |
| 2005 | 3,203,018 | 146,481 |
| 2006 | 3,022,300 | 201,197 |

[1] Includes fixed penalties paid where there is no further action.
[2] Revised since original publication following amendments received from forces.
*Note:*
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

### Forensic Science Service: Chorley

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the future of the Forensic Science Service laboratories in Chorley. [220591]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

### Gamma-butyrolactone

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will commission research into (a) the profiles of people buying gamma-butyrolactone and (b) the purposes for which they obtained that drug; and if she will make a statement; [227751]

(2) how many reports have been made to the police involving the possible use of gamma-butyrolactone as a date rape drug; [227752]

(3) what research she has commissioned into the use of gamma butyrolactone as a date rape drug; [227753]

(4) what representations she has received from the Council on the Misuse of Drugs on the use of gamma-butyrolactone as a date rape drug; and if she will make a statement; [227816]

(5) what assessment she has made of the risk to victims of the use of gamma-butyrolactone as a date rape drug; and if she will make a statement. [227817]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** *[holding answers 22 and 23 October 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

### Genetics: Databases

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what procedures are in place to ensure the security of personal information and DNA samples that *(a)* are waiting to be processed into a DNA profile and *(b)* have been loaded onto the national DNA database; and if she will make a statement; [197314]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the number of incidents where personal information and DNA samples which (a) are to be loaded on to the National DNA database and (b) have been loaded on to the National DNA database, have been lost; and if she will make a statement. [197987]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** DNA samples taken by police forces are sent to accredited forensic suppliers for processing, to produce a profile for loading on the National DNA Database. On behalf of the NDNAD Strategy Board, the Custodian sets the technical and procedural standards to which the laboratories must adhere and monitors their performance against these standards. These standards are all contained within the Custodian's quality management system and shared with the laboratories. Security measures on the NDNAD itself are also managed by the Custodian.

Direct access to information on the NDNAD is restricted to a limited number of designated personnel under the control of the Custodian, either directly, or under a contract awarded by the Home Office to the Forensic Science Service (FSS) for operation and maintenance of the NDNAD and development of its IT systems. Throughout the lifetime of the contract, the FSS are required to demonstrate compliance with specified security requirements.

Police and law enforcement personnel do not have access to the information on the NDNAD, but receive reports from the Custodian's staff of matches between DNA taken from crime scenes and that taken from individuals.

There has been one incident affecting DNA profiles which were to be loaded onto the NDNAD. This was the recent occasion when a disc containing profiles taken from crime scenes in the Netherlands was mislaid and subsequently recovered, though it never left the secure premises of the Crown Prosecution Service. The disc did not contain any personal information, as the DNA profiles were left by unknown persons at crime scenes in the Netherlands.

There have been no incidents when data loaded onto the NDNAD has been lost.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what procedures are in place to protect personal information on the national DNA database; and if she will make a statement; [225499]

(2) how many profiles were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the national DNA database in each year since it was established. [225500]

**Meg Hillier:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 10th September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1767-8W, on genetics: databases, of the 14,000 offences linked to DNA profiles retained since 2001, how many were detected crimes in which an offender was brought to justice. [227220]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were added to the National DNA Database in each year since its inception; and how many of these had no conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on the police national computer. [234322]

**Jacqui Smith:** In relation to the number of people added to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) in each year since its inception, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 731W.

In relation to the number of people on the NDNAD with no conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on the Police National Computer, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1074W.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to remove from the national DNA database profiles of people who have not been convicted of an offence. [239518]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

### Government Departments: Data Protection

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1768W, on Government Departments: data protection, which military databases are highly protected. [219794]

**Meg Hillier:** All military databases are afforded a level of security appropriate to the information they hold.

It is not possible to give details of specific military databases as this may compromise the personal security of serving members of the armed services.

### Government House

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 104W, on Government House, what the timetable for the sale of the property is. [218285]

**Mr. Woolas:** The property is currently on the market.

### Hatton Cross Tribunals

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the percentage of immigration cases heard in the Hatton Cross Tribunals in the next six months at which a Home Office Presenting Officer will represent the Government's case. [226752]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Human Trafficking

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of human trafficking were reported in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* the UK in each of the last five years; and how many of them led to a prosecution. [223628]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 11 September 2008]:* The number of reported offences and prosecutions by force area is not held centrally by the Home Office.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions relating to the trafficking of human beings were brought in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 1997. [229031]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to my right hon. Friend.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were prosecuted for offences relating to the trafficking of human beings for *(a)* the sex trade and *(b)* illegal labour in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [229032]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to my right hon. Friend.

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of individual police forces' ability to tackle human trafficking in their areas; and if she will make a statement. [229288]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many victims of human trafficking were identified during police operations in each of the last five years. [232948]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people who have been trafficked who are *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* working as prostitutes; on what research her estimate is based; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the research. [240042]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

### Human Trafficking: Females

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Government-funded residential places were available at any one time for women who were victims of human trafficking in each of the last five years. [232955]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 75W, on human trafficking: females, what steps are being taken by the *(a)* Serious Organised Crime Agency and *(b)* United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre to improve collection of intelligence of human trafficking; and when she expects improved statistics on the extent of human trafficking in the United Kingdom to be published. [236639]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

### Human Trafficking: Victim Support Schemes

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the eligibility requirements are for victims of human trafficking to be granted access to safe accommodation funded by the Government. [232954]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to deal with people who are identified as having been trafficked. [240043]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

### Identity and Passport Service: Lost Property

**Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of the loss of personal documents were recorded by the Identity and Passport Service and its predecessors in each year since 1997. [229307]

**Meg Hillier:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will prepare and publish a privacy impact assessment for the identity cards scheme. [217357]

**Meg Hillier:** We will publish an impact assessment for the introduction of identity cards in 2009 before our secondary legislation is brought to Parliament. Our impact assessment will include a review of regulatory, equality and privacy issues.

We have already published a Regulatory Impact Assessment and a Race Equality Impact Assessment, and both the legislation itself and the operation of the Scheme must comply with the Human Rights Act 1998 and Data Protection Act 1998.

Furthermore, the Identity Cards Act makes unauthorised disclosure of information from the National Identity Register a criminal offence. The National Identity Scheme Commissioner will oversee the operation of the scheme, including keeping under review arrangements for securing the confidentiality and integrity of information recorded in the register.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the chip and PIN type process of verification for the identity card scheme will use a PIN checked against encrypted information held on the card or against information held on a central server. [219763]

**Meg Hillier:** When PIN verification of an identity card is introduced, it is currently planned that the PIN number submitted by the individual would be checked against information held on the card's chip.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1769W, on identity cards, what the reasons are for the time taken to provide a response; and what additional resources have been allocated to the Independent Sentence Assurance Panel to allow it to fulfil its enhanced remit to include ICT assurance for the identity cards scheme. [220293]

**Meg Hillier:** The report of the Science and Technology Select Committee was published in July 2006 and the Government's response followed in October 2006. The Independent Scheme Assurance Panel carefully considered the findings of the committee and the need for ICT assurance and have taken on responsibility for high-level ICT assurance. As the Government's response to the Select Committee's report noted, we have sought to use expertise already within the Independent Scheme Assurance Panel, noting that three of its members hold or have held Chief Information Officer or similar positions in substantial organisations.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse would be of the immediate cancellation of the identity card scheme. [224605]

**Jacqui Smith:** Since Parliament approved the Identity Cards Act in 2006, work to deliver the national identity scheme has been ongoing.

The scheme includes procurement of replacement and new capabilities to continue to issue and improve the UK passport and support the work of UK Borders Agency. Therefore a decision to cancel would require significant internal work to identify what work would continue and what would need to cease. Further to this, work would then be required to assess the impact on programme structures, staffing, procurements and awarded contracts.

Due to this, an answer cannot be calculated with certainty without incurring disproportionate costs.

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the charge will be for registering a change of *(a)* name, *(b)* marital status and *(c)* address under the proposed national identity card scheme. [230594]

**Meg Hillier:** Martial status is not recorded on the National Identity Register. As such, a need to update marital status does not arise. It is currently expected that a change of address on an individual's record on the National Identity Register will not incur a fee.

For a change of name, or any change that would require a replacement identity card to be issued, it is proposed that the initial fee for a replacement card will be £30 in 2009-10, subject to an evaluation phase at relevant airports where the fee may be waived for airside workers who are required to enrol on the National Identity Register and are issued with an identity card.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the extension of the requirement to have an identity card for everyone resident in the United Kingdom. [233881]

**Meg Hillier:** The first identity cards for foreign nationals to start from November 2008 will be compulsory. It is also intended that it should become a requirement for people taking up employment in the secure airside area at airports, starting from autumn 2009, to apply for an identity card prior to obtaining an airside security pass.

However, the further roll out of identity cards to British citizens will be on a voluntary basis and from 2012 it is intended to give people applying for passports the option of being issued with a passport or an identity card or both. There are currently no plans for further legislation to make it a requirement for the whole UK population to have an identity card.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) with reference to the Introducing the National Identity Scheme guide of 6th November 2008, what mechanism will exist to allow the public to check their core identity information on the internet; [235340]

(2) with reference to the Introducing the National Identity Scheme guide of 6th November 2008, how the security of the system to allow identity card holders to check their core identity information online will be protected; [235341]

(3) with reference to the Introducing the National Identity Scheme guide of 6th November 2008, what estimate has been made of the cost of providing the system to allow identity card holders to check their core identity information online. [235342]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many formal written requests her Department has received from persons expressing the desire to apply early for an identity card. [235790]

**Meg Hillier:** The Identity and Passport Services has received 1,142 items of correspondence recorded under the theme of "wants an identity card" from 1 November 2006 to 31 October 2008. IPS may have received other correspondence on the issue that has not been captured in these numbers because, for example, the correspondence may have addressed more than one topic.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether individuals applying for a critical worker identity card in 2009 will have their data retained on the National Identity Register. [237725]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]*: Individuals applying for an identity card under the Identity Cards Act 2006 will have basic identity information recorded in a record on the National Identity Register, starting in 2009 with British citizens and European economic area nationals.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which of the data fields listed in Schedule 1 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 individuals applying for a critical worker identity card in 2009 will be required to supply. [237727]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The precise information required for registration onto the National Identity Register will be prescribed in secondary legislation to be approved by Parliament under Section 5 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 and a draft of the application regulations is being published in advance for consultation.

### Identity Cards: Biometrics

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what biometric information will have to be supplied by workers in sensitive locations applying for identity cards from 2009. [226401]

**Jacqui Smith:** Individuals wishing to enrol onto the National Identity Register and apply for an identity card, starting in the second half of 2009 with airside workers at certain airports, will be asked to record facial image and fingerprint biometric data.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timetable is for secondary legislation under section 6 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 to prescribe what biometric information will be stored on the National Identity Register and identity cards. [233402]

**Meg Hillier:** Schedule 1 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 already sets out the information that may be held on the National Identity Register, including biometric information such as fingerprints.

Secondary legislation under the Identity Cards Act 2006 is currently being prepared for the introduction of identity cards to airside workers starting in the second half of 2009. On 21 November we published the secondary legislation for consultation. It set out the information, including biometric information that may be recorded on the ID card.

### Identity Cards: Consultants

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 812W, on identity cards: consultants, what external consultants were given contracts by the Identity and Passport Service; and how much was paid to each. [189380]

**Meg Hillier:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Identity Cards: Contracts

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts have been awarded in relation to the identity card scheme; whom they were awarded to; and what the value of each contract was. [224724]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts have been awarded in relation to the Critical Workers' Identity Card scheme; what companies have bid for contracts under the scheme; at what cost those bidders proposed to run the scheme; and if she will make a statement. [229873]

**Meg Hillier** *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* One contract has been awarded for delivery of the early releases of the National Identity Scheme. In addition three variations to existing contracts have been agreed to support National Identity Scheme delivery in the short-term. These are with:

(1) Thales for development of technology and processes for approximately £18 million

(2) 3M SP&SL for design and production of cards for approximately £0.7m plus a per-card fee

(3) N-Cipher for public key infrastructure and security related work for approximately £1.3 million

(4) Secure Mail Services for secure delivery of identity cards to customers.

This contract is based on a per item delivery cost.

### Identity Cards: Finance

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department expects to spend on the national identity card scheme in its *(a)* first and *(b)* second year of operation. [230628]

**Meg Hillier:** The National Identity Scheme Cost Report gives a breakdown of the estimated cost of implementing the scheme over the next 10 years. The latest report was published on 6 November 2008.

An electronic copy of the report may be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/IPS-Cost-report-Nov2008.pdf

I would refer the hon. Member to that report.

### Identity Cards: Foreigners

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much it is expected to cost to issue foreign nationals with identity cards in each of the five years from 2010-11. [237611]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

### Identity Cards: Local Authorities

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role local authorities will play in the operation of the National Identity Card scheme *(a)* under current plans and *(b)* if ID cards are made compulsory. [218283]

**Meg Hillier:** As set out in the National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan, the Government are keen to use existing assets and infrastructure, where appropriate, to deliver the scheme. The precise detail of roll-out plans has yet to be finalised as has the role that local authorities could play, if local authorities choose.

However, local authorities already require people to produce proof of identity in order to access their services

and identity cards will provide a more convenient way for those entitled to services to access them, and help to prevent unauthorised access, from the beginning of the scheme.

### Identity Cards: Public Opinion

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many items of correspondence her Department has received on identity cards and the national identity database in the last two years; and how many expressed *(a)* support for and *(b)* opposition to the Government's policy. [235789]

**Meg Hillier:** The Identity and Passport Services has received 3,073 items of correspondence regarding identity cards and the National Identity Register from 1 November 2006 to 31 October 2008.

With regard to the content of that correspondence, I would refer the right hon. Member to the response given to the hon. Member for North East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald), on 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 638W.

### Identity Cards: Standards

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the identity card scheme complies with each of the 10 principles set out in the Crosby Report; and if she will make a statement. [219757]

**Meg Hillier:** It is intended that, where it is appropriate, the scheme once it is in place should take account in whole or in part of the principles established in Sir James Crosby's report on Challenges and Opportunities in Identity Assurance. The National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan, published on 6 March 2008, the response to the consultation on the Delivery Plan, published on 6 November 2008 and the Identity Cards Act Secondary Legislation Consultation paper, published on 21 November, together set out how it is currently proposed that the scheme should be implemented.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Independent Scheme Assurance Panel has received the work plan for the development and implementation of identity assurance and data management standards, policies and processes for the identity card scheme. [219768]

**Meg Hillier:** The Independent Scheme Assurance Panel had Data Governance as a key theme of its 2007 Annual Report and has, during 2008, heard presentations on data governance and identity management from a number of people, as well as pursuing these issues in their reviews of specific work areas within the National Identity Scheme. This work is continuing as further work is conducted on these issues.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people the UK Border Agency prevented from attempting to cross the English Channel illegally in 2007-08. [227246]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 15 October 2008]:* In 2007, the UK Border Agency, in partnership with the French authorities, prevented over 17,800 individual attempts to cross the channel clandestinely. Of this figure, the UK Border Agency alone prevented over 5,400 attempts and in addition detected 1,420 forged travel documents.

From 1 January 2008 to date, the UKBA and our partners have prevented over 18,500 individual attempts to cross the channel. Of this figure, the UK Border Agency alone has prevented over 5,800 attempts and in addition detected 675 forged travel documents.

### Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements her Department has made with the French government to fly back to their country of origin potential illegal entrants into the United Kingdom from France; when she expects the first such flight to happen; how costs will be split between the British and French government; and what payments in cash or benefits in kind will be made to those placed on such flights. [234788]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Illegal Immigrants: Prisoners

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration offenders are in detention in *(a)* detention centres, *(b)* police cells, *(c)* prisons and *(d)* other institutions. [234731]

**Jacqui Smith:** As at 28 June 2008, there were 2,315 persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers in Immigration Service removal centres and immigration short-term holding facilities. This figure is rounded to the nearest five and excludes persons detained in Prison Service establishments and police cells. It is only possible to provide information to indicate how many of those detained under immigration powers in prisons or other establishments are immigration offenders through the detailed examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

National Statistics on detention are published annually and quarterly in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin Control of Immigration which is available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

### Immigrants: Detainees

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees there were at each immigration removal centre on 31 October 2008; and what percentage of those detainees in each centre were former foreign national prisoners. [236471]

**Mr. Woolas:** The numbers of detainees at each immigration removal centre on the date requested are not available; this information would be available only through the detailed examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

National Statistics on persons held in detention solely under Immigration Act powers are published annually and quarterly. Information on persons detained as at 27 September 2008 by place of detention has been published in Table 9 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom—3rd Quarter 2008 bulletin which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

It is not possible to say, within these statistics, how many of the detainees in each centre on this date were former foreign national prisoners; this information would be available only through the detailed examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly updated the Home Affairs Committee with the most accurate and robust information available. In her letter of 23 July she advised the Committee that there were around 1,650 time-served foreign criminals subject to deportation action who were detained within immigration removal centres and prisons.

### Immigration

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to determine the immigration status of Fouzia Ilyas, reference number J107 2668. [206019]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what mechanism evidence is gathered from police forces on the impact of migration on each force. [233258]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 4 November 2008]:* I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the Migration Impacts Forum assesses the impact of migration on services in each region. [233259]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 4 November 2008]:* Members of the Migration Impacts Forum are selected on a sectoral basis. Each meeting has a theme and is led by a representative of the sector to which that theme applies. Sectoral representatives will often gather evidence from their colleagues in regions across the UK to inform their representations to the MIF.

In addition, although representatives are selected on a sectoral basis, Ministers have sought to ensure that membership is spread between the different regions of the UK. The minutes of and papers for all MIF meetings are available on the website of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department excluding EEA and Swiss citizens, how many people are awaiting decisions on grants of indefinite leave to remain under the immigration rules and the long residency concession; and how many dependants are included in such applications. [233620]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average caseload of caseworkers was in the UK Border Agency in the latest period for which figures are available. [235653]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration cases are awaiting resolution; and of those how many the UK Border Agency plans to resolve by *(a)* January 2009, *(b)* January 2010, *(c)* January 2011 and *(d)* January 2012. [237282]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to implement the decision of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal in the case of Mrs A. B., wife of Mr S. H. of Aylesbury. [238998]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Immigration Controls

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral statement of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 175, on immigration controls, what the evidential basis is for the statement that 12 per cent. fewer migrants would have come to the UK to work last year had tier 2 of the points-based migration system been in place. [234134]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* higher education institutions, *(b)* businesses, *(c)* schools, *(d)* local authorities and *(e)* government departments have registered to be tier 2 sponsors in the points-based system. [238130]

**Mr. Woolas:** The number of applications for a sponsor license under Tier 2 of the points based system is 5,345[1]. This figure includes higher education institutions, businesses, schools, local authorities, Government Departments and other sectors including hospitality and catering, sport, financial, information technology and private health care.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of processing time is expected to be over the next planning period from application to licence of tier 2 sponsors under the points-based system. [238131]

**Mr. Woolas:** From 27 November the published service standard for processing Tier 2 Sponsor applications under the points-based system will be 30 working days. From 1 April 2009, the published service standard will be 20 working days.

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many higher education institutions have registered to be tier 4 sponsors in the points-based system. [238132]

**Mr. Woolas:** The number of applications for a sponsor license under tier f4 of the points based system is 770. This figure includes universities and other higher education institutions as well as other organisations including private colleges and schools.

Applications for a sponsor licence received by 2 February 2009 will be processed in time for the implementation of tier 4 in March 2009.

This figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

The figure quoted is not provided under National Statistics protocols and has been derived from local management information and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

### Immigration Controls: Luton Airport

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations her Department has received on UK Border Agency staffing levels at London Luton Airport; and if she will make a statement. [238717]

**Mr. Woolas:** Since the beginning of September 2008, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) has received 14 complaints from members of the public concerning queuing times and staffing levels at passport control. These complaints relate to12 separate occasions.

Based on Luton airport operator's queue data for the period July to September 2008 inclusive, approximately 80 per cent. of passengers queued for less than 10 minutes. This is significantly lower than the UKBA's own passenger processing targets of 25 minutes for EEA passengers and 45 minutes for non EEA passengers.

UKBA officials at London Luton airport maintain regular dialogue with the port operator and are negotiating a service level agreement, which will include enhanced targets for improved passenger queuing times.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to ensure border controls are properly enforced at London Luton Airport; and if she will make a statement. [238718]

**Mr. Woolas:** The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) operates a 24/7 border control at Luton airport. We work closely with the police and other agencies in the detection and prevention of crime. In addition, UKBA at Luton deploys specialists in document forgery and anti-smuggling operations and conducts intelligence-led 'outbound controls' for the detection of immigration offenders and 'money laundering'.

From 1 July 2007, the UK Border Agency introduced a checking policy requiring 100 per cent. systematic checking of travel documents against the UK's watchlist at ports of entry.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many non-EU passport holders were processed by passport control at London Luton Airport in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement; [238719]

(2) how many EU passport holders were processed by passport control at London Luton Airport in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [238720]

**Meg Hillier:** This information is not recorded at point of entry and as such is not available for disclosure. Statistics on passenger movements at all UK airports are however published by external sources.

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding has been provided by her Department for staff of the UK Border Agency and its predecessors at London Luton Airport in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [238721]

**Mr. Woolas:** In April 2008, the UK Border Agency was formed. It brings together the ex-Border and Immigration Agency, UKvisas and customs operational work at the border.

Records of legacy UKBA expenditure at London Luton airport are only available from financial year 2000-01. Expenditure on staff costs for each financial year is set out in the following table:

| *Financial year* | *(£ million) Staff costs*[1] |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 0.98 |
| 2001-02 | 1.02 |
| 2002-03 | 1.07 |
| 2003-04 | 1.19 |
| 2004-05 | 1.11 |
| 2005-06 | 1.30 |
| 2006-07 | 1.91 |
| 2007-08 | 2.32 |
| 2008-09 (budget) | 2.80 |

[1] Includes pay, allowances, superannuation and national insurance contributions.

### Immigration: Appeals

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on what date *(a)* the Border and Immigration Agency received notification that the appeal of Mrs Hina Sayid (ref. S1377193) to the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal had been allowed and *(b)* the UK Border Agency received documentation in support of Mrs Sayid's application for a visit visa; and if she will make a statement: [202222]

(2) when she expects to issue the constituent of the hon. Member for Ilford South, Mrs Hina Sajid (ref. S1377193) with documents confirming her indefinite leave to remain, following the determination of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal on 2nd October 2007 allowing the appeal against the decision to refuse her such leave; when Mrs Sajid's passport will be endorsed with the appropriate status; and if she will make a statement. [202224]

**Mr. Woolas:** I wrote to the hon. Member on 24 November 2008.

### Immigration: Biometrics

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Immigration and Asylum Fingerprint Service database will be used to store biometrics collected from *(a)* foreign nationals receiving identity cards and *(b)* British citizens receiving identity cards. [237724]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* The Immigration and Asylum fingerprint service database will only be used for foreign nationals. The British Citizen's biometric information cannot be stored on the Immigration and Asylum Fingerprint Service.

### Immigration: Educational Institutions

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many educational institutions have *(a)* had action other than enforced closure taken against them following immigration-related offences and *(b)* been closed down following immigration-related offences in each year since 1997. [233323]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Immigration: Gurkhas

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timetable she has set for the implementation of Mr Justice Blake's judgment of 30th September 2008 on Gurkhas. [238327]

**Mr. Woolas:** *[holding answer 24th November 2008]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Immigration: Skilled Workers

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of migrants admitted under the highly skilled migrant programme who are *(a)* unemployed and *(b)* working in unskilled jobs. [201159]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 24 April 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department received from the Migration Advisory Committee the Tier 2 skilled employment shortage occupation list due to be completed by June 2008; and when her Department plans to publish it. [223327]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 9 September 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

### Independent Monitor of Certification of Claims as Clearly Unfounded

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget for the office of the Certification Monitor of the UK Border Agency and its predecessors was in each of the last three years. [239018]

**Jacqui Smith:** A total annual budget of £15,680 was set aside for the Certification Monitor including all fees and expenses). The last Certification Monitor's Report was published in 2006. In that year, following a consultation exercise, the Government announced that the role of the Certification Monitor would be subsumed in the office of the Chief Inspector of the UKBA. The Chief Inspector, John Vine, is expected to publish his first annual report after the end of the current financial year.

### Independent Monitor of Entry Clearance Refusals

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many approved visa application cases were investigated by the Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance Refusals Without the Right of Appeal in each of the last three years. [238922]

**Mr. Woolas:** None, as her statutory remit only refers to refused visas in categories which do not attract a right of appeal.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget of the offices of the Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance Refusals Without the Right of Appeal was in each of the last three years. [238923]

**Jacqui Smith:** The budget for the offices of the Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance Refusals without the Right of Appeal was £260,000 for 2006-07, £278,000 for 2007-08 and £278,000 for 2008-09. These figures include staff costs of the UK Border Agency Independent Monitor Liaison Team and the Independent Monitor's salary. The Independent Monitor provides her own office and office equipment.

### Inspections

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many inspectors were employed by her Department in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228094]

**Mr. Woolas:** The question does not specify which category of inspector should be counted so the following figures include any grades which include "inspector" in their title.

The figures are for full time equivalent paid permanent staff only.

Please be aware there are no inspector grades in the Identity and Passport Service or the Criminal Records Bureau.

*2007-08*

232.61 (full-time equivalent) staff were recorded as Inspector in the Home Office Headquarters (HQ) and the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA).

*1997-98*

101.62 (full-time equivalent) staff were recorded as Inspector in the Home Office Headquarters (HQ) and the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA).

### Internet

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans there are to introduce a content filtering scheme for the internet. [239261]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

### Lancashire Constabulary: Pay

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the cost of backdating the pay increase for police in Lancashire Constabulary to September 2007. [188713]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much Lancashire Constabulary has allowed in its budget to fund the pay settlement. [188714]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is open to Lancashire Constabulary to increase the agreed pay settlement award through a bonus system. [188715]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

### Licensing: Television

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were charged with television licence fee evasion in each of the last five years, broken down by police force area. [235706]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information requested is not collected centrally. Collection of the licence fee is the responsibility of the BBC.

### Liverpool

**Mr. Wareing:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the purposes of her visit to the Liverpool, West Derby constituency on 10 January 2008 were; whom she met during the visit; and what decisions she has made as a result of the visit. [180319]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary visited Merseyside as part of the Tackling Guns Action Programme on 10 January 2008. Her programme of engagements included a visit to the Croxteth area to the Alt Valley Community Trust Skills Centre and Croxteth Community Primary School. She had a short political meeting with Cllr Rose Bailey at the end of the primary school visit before moving on to her next engagement.

### Maritime Analysis Operations Centre - Narcotics

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding the Government have contributed to the Maritime Analysis Operations Centre—Narcotics in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and how much it plans to contribute in each of the next three years. [234287]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Mass Media

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last three years; and what the cost of each contract was. [239598]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which keywords or terms her Department has monitored in the media in each of the last three years. [239734]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter of 5 July from the hon. Member for Beaconsfield. [163945]

**Jacqui Smith:** The hon. Member's letter was received in the Home Office on 6 July 2007, and was immediately transferred to the Department for Transport. Notification of the transfer was sent to the hon. Member the same day. The Department for Transport advise that a reply was sent by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick), on 8 August 2007.

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will respond to the letters of 22 September and 29 October from the hon. Member for Billericay regarding Mr. Kevin Browne. [237196]

**Meg Hillier** *[holding answer 18 September 2008]:* As Minister with responsibility for the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), I wrote to the hon. Member in response to his letter dated 29 October 2008 on 24 November 2008. Officials can find no record of having received a letter from the hon. Member dated 22 September regarding Mr. Kevin Browne.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter of 9 October 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on behalf of Miss Z. Hallam. [238159]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 25 November 2005.

**Sir Gerald Kaufman:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter of 14 October 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on behalf of Mrs. Asia Rehman. [238140]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 25 November 2008.

**Clare Short:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a reply will be sent to the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood's enquiry dated 10 September 2008 on behalf of Karlene Cameron, ref: H118332. [239300]

**Mr. Woolas:** It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Lady in the time available before Prorogation.

**Metropolitan Police: Ethnic Groups**

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of *(a)* all recruits and *(b)* recruits from ethnic minorities entering the Metropolitan Police in each of the last five years have completed their probationary period. [227413]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Metropolitan Police: Homosexuality**

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of Metropolitan Police recruits identified themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender in each of the last five years; and what percentage of those recruits completed their full probationary period. [227418]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Metropolitan Police: Human Trafficking**

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the withdrawal of funding for the Metropolitan police human trafficking unit; and if she will make a statement. [237851]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department notified the Metropolitan Police that her Department's funding of the Metropolitan Police human trafficking unit would be withdrawn; what representations she has received from the Metropolitan Police on this matter; and if she will place in the Library recent relevant written correspondence she has set and received on this matter. [237852]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* Work to combat human trafficking is core police business. Accordingly, the additional funding provided to forces to tackle human trafficking has always been on a time limited, pump priming basis to encourage forces to mainstream this work into their existing budgets.

The Metropolitan Police human trafficking team is funded from money administered by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) which informed the Metropolitan Police of the funding available and the basis on which it would be provided, earlier this year.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of people-trafficking-related *(a)* investigations, *(b)* trials and *(c)* convictions have arisen through the activity of the Metropolitan Police human trafficking unit in each year since its inception. [237853]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Migration Impacts Forum**

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations have provided evidence to the Migration Impacts Forum. [233266]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 4 November 2008]:* Members of the Migration Impacts Forum are selected on a sectoral basis. Each meeting has a theme and is led by a representative of the sector to which that theme applies. Recent themes have included employment (led by the CBI and TUC), crime and policing (led by ACPO) and housing (led by housing sector representative from Sheffield city council). The organisations consulted by sector leads in preparing their presentations will be dependant upon how the lead chooses to conduct their research. The minutes of and papers for all MIF meetings are available on the website of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

**Ministerial Duties**

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Ministerial taskforces and action groups she is a member of. [194334]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mosques**

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many mosques she has visited since her appointment. [183796]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 1 February 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary visited Leicester Central Mosque on the 21 February 2008 and Luton Central Mosque on the 17 November 2008.

**National Identity Register**

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of *(a)* the proportion of addresses held on the National Identity Register which will require amendment in each year and *(b)* proportion of card holders likely to fail to

notify a change of address in one year is; what proportion of addresses held on the National Identity Register are estimated to be inaccurate at any one time; what the average annual cost of maintaining the address element of the register is; and if she will make a statement. [236974]

**Meg Hillier:** It is estimated that 14.3 per cent. of the addresses on the National Identity Register will require amendment each year.

Estimates of the number of card holders who are likely to fail to update a change of address and proportion of accurate address details on the National Identity Register have not yet been finalised.

It is not possible to separate the costs specific to the maintenance of the address field on the National Identity Register.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether information held on the National Identity Register will be accessible by local authorities. [236502]

**Meg Hillier:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 73W.

### National Security: Data Protection

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will *(a)* publish and *(b)* place in the Library a copy of all certificates signed under section 28 of the Data Protection Act 1998 that are still valid. [228506]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

### Oakington Immigration Centre

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 27th October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 679-80W, how many of the detainees who escaped from Oakington Immigration Centre were illegal immigrants. [234756]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the right hon.Member.

### Offenders: Deportation

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to prevent foreign nationals convicted of offences relating to human trafficking from re-entering the UK following deportation on the completion of their sentence. [236517]

**Jacqui Smith:** Any person with a deportation order against them may not re-enter the country. If such a person seeks entry at a United Kingdom port, they will be refused entry.

The United Kingdom holds a 'watchlist' of adverse information, which includes those people subject to deportation orders. It also includes intelligence drawn from a variety of sources, including the police, on individuals who should be refused entry to the country. Border Force officers operating at the border check both EEA and non EEA nationals against this database for the purposes of national security and the detection and prevention of crime and immigration offending.

### Offensive Weapons

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of victims of knife crime who were carrying a knife at the time at which they were attacked in the latest period for which figures are available. [219402]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Ancram:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of knives used in crimes for which charges were brought in 2007-08 which were domestic or kitchen knives. [227931]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to the right hon. and learned Member.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* convicted of knife possession and *(c)* sentenced to prison for knife possession between (i) June and October 2008 and (ii) June and October 2007. [232369]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

### Offensive Weapons: Coventry

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce levels of knife crime in Coventry. [230626]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

### Office of Surveillance Commissioners

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will designate the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [239174]

**Mr. Coaker:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Official Cars

**Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in her Department has been in the last 12 months. [233521]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Official Residences

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 807W, on official residences, if she will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* leasehold and *(b)* freehold documents relating to the Government House in Pimlico. [204864]

**Mr. Woolas:** A copy of the Departments' under-leases of 22 December 1987, 13 October 1992, 15 October 1998 and Deed of Variation of 15 October 1998 are being placed in the Library.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 232W, on official residences, when her Department expects to receive the report from Saville; [218275]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 104W, on Government House, if she will place in the Library a copy of the disposal report, redacting any commercially sensitive elements. [218284]

**Mr. Woolas:** A redacted version of the report is being placed in the House Library.

**Mrs. Lait:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the home information pack for the sale of the Government property at South Eaton Place was produced; and if she will place a copy in the Library. [222924]

**Mr. Woolas:** The home information pack will be completed shortly and a copy will be placed in the Library.

**Mrs. Lait:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 232W, on official residences, whether the report has been received and considered by her officials. [223869]

**Mr. Woolas:** A redacted version of the report is being placed in the House Library.

### Organised Crime

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department plans to spend on the Tackling Gangs Action Programme in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [234745]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The Tackling Gangs Action Programme completed in March 2008 and saw a 51 per cent. drop in firearms-related injuries across the target areas. However, Government work to tackle youth violence continues. For example, a further £1.8 million has been committed for 2008-09 to tackle gangs; £5 million has been allocated to the Tackling Knives Action Programme which is delivering focused action to crack down on knife crime in 10 police force areas; and the Youth Crime Action Programme is spending up to £100 million over the next three years to support vulnerable teenagers at risk.

### Overseas Visitors: Madagascar

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Madagascan citizens visited the UK in each of the last five years. [231967]

**Mr. Woolas:** The number of Madagascan nationals given leave to enter the United Kingdom, by the purpose of their journey, for 2004 to 2007 is shown in the tables placed in the House Library. Data for earlier years are unavailable. The information shown is based on landing card information and may include the same individuals more than once if they visited the United Kingdom on multiple occasions in the period.

### Passports

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the annual resource costs of providing passports to British citizens were in each of the last five years; [226405]

(2) when she plans to reply to Question 226405, tabled on 8 October 2008, on passports. [238622]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timetable is for a passport to become a designated document under section 4 of the Identity Cards Act 2006. [233403]

**Meg Hillier:** It is not intended that passports should be designated under section 4 of the Identity Cards Act before 2012. Further primary legislation will then also be required in order to offer people the choice of being issued with a passport or an identity card or both.

### Passports: Biometrics

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of installing biometric passport readers at each of the main airports and ports in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [237608]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* Biometric passport readers were installed at UK ports of entry between January and March 2007 as part of a wider technical programme. The element attributable to the processing of ePassports was budgeted at £1.4 million.

This information was previously published in the National Audit's Office Report - Identity and Passport Service: Introduction of e-Passports.

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/06-07/0607152.pdf

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the unit cost of a *(a)* biometric passport reader and *(b)* identity card reader is expected to be. [237609]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the effect on expenditure as classified in the *(a)* common passport and identity card and *(b)* passport specific section of the most recent Identity Cards Scheme cost report in each year between 2008-09 and 2017-18 if biometric passports contained just a facial scan. [237610]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 20 November 2008]:* It is intended that passports incorporating fingerprints will be introduced from 2012 onwards and applicants for such passports will be enrolled on the National

Identity Register. From that point, common business processes and technology infrastructure will be used to register applicants on the National Identity Register and issue them with an identity card and/or a passport. It is not expected that the inclusion of just a facial image on a biometric passport would have any significant impact on the costs outlined in the November 2008 cost report.

### Passports: Costs

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of *(a)* issuing and *(b)* producing passports in each of the last eight years has been; and what estimate has been made of the cost of (i) issuing and (ii) producing passports for each of the next eight years. [235511]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* will write to the hon. and learned Member.

### Passports: Fees and Charges

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the costs are expected to be for adults applying for a passport for the first time to provide the necessary biometric information in each year between 2008-09 and 2017-18. [238193]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 24 November 2008]:* In the future, it is proposed that the cost of biometric recording will be set by an open market where multiple providers compete against each other to deliver biometric recording services in line with standards established by the Identity and Passport Service (IPS). IPS is currently engaging with private and wider public sector organisations on how they might be able to help to record digital photographs, together with fingerprint data for passport and identity card applications as well as providing directly related services such as document collection. As such, exact costs for biometric enrolment are not yet known.

### Passports: Fraud

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of passport fraud in each of the last five years. [237216]

**Meg Hillier:** Information on the cost to the public purse of passport fraud in each the last five years is not available. However in publishing on 9 October on identitytheft.org.uk, the 2006-07 estimate of £1.2 billion for the cost of identity fraud to the UK economy, the costs to the Home office were shown as £284.4 million. These relate to the work of its agencies in safeguarding and validating the identities of its customers as well as costs around deterrence, prevention, and investigation of identity fraud. The majority of these costs (£227.8 million) relate to the operating cost of the Identity and Passport Service in detecting and preventing fraudulent passport applications.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of unrecovered fraudulent passports in circulation. [237217]

**Meg Hillier:** It is not known how many un-recovered fraudulently obtained passports there are in circulation. Passport fraud by its very nature is difficult to establish and measure.

Moreover, the Identity and Passport Service is not always informed when fraudulent passports are identified, seized and taken out of circulation by other agencies in the UK and abroad.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* charged in relation to passport fraud in each of the last five years. [237218]

**Meg Hillier:** The figures recorded by the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) for the number of people arrested and the number of people charged in relation to passport fraud in the last five years is shown as follows.

| | *Arrested* | *Charged* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | n/a | n/a |
| 2005 | 13 | 0 |
| 2006 | 23 | 2 |
| 2007 | 48 | 15 |
| 2008 | 38 | 7 |

n/a = Not available.

The aforementioned figures relate to those recorded for people arrested following a passport application, but may not necessarily be specifically for passport fraud.

Also, IPS does not routinely receive feedback from the police or prosecution authorities on cases of passport fraud which are referred to them. The figures given above are therefore likely to be a significant under representation of the number of arrests and charges brought. IPS is working with the police and prosecution authorities to develop more effective notification arrangements.

### Passports: Interviews

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were interviewed in each of the operational passport interview centres between the establishment of each centre and 1 October 2008. [231585]

**Meg Hillier:** We completed 264,046 interviews which have been broken down by office in the following table:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 1,896 |
| Aberystwyth | 530 |
| Andover | 1,118 |
| Armagh | 692 |
| South Molton (Barnstable) | 646 |
| Belfast | 3578 |
| Berwick on Tweed | 300 |
| Birmingham | 17,296 |
| Blackburn | 4,678 |
| Sleaford (Boston) | 677 |
| Bournemouth | 2,163 |
| Bristol | 4,220 |
| Bury St Edmunds | 1,241 |
| Redruth (Cambourne) | 995 |
| Carlisle | 1,325 |

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Chelmsford | 4,756 |
| Cheltenham | 2,479 |
| Coleraine | 1,212 |
| Crawley | 3,095 |
| Derby | 6,284 |
| Dover | 1,375 |
| Dumfries | 587 |
| Dundee | 2,099 |
| Edinburgh | 4,242 |
| Exeter | 2,147 |
| Selkirk (Galashiels) | 468 |
| Glasgow | 8,853 |
| Brighton (Hastings) | 910 |
| Inverness | 935 |
| Ipswich | 2,178 |
| Kendal | 1,255 |
| Kings Lynn | 831 |
| Kingston upon Hull | 3,151 |
| Leeds | 9,872 |
| Leicester | 4,217 |
| Lincoln | 2,609 |
| Liverpool | 9,479 |
| London | 52,803 |
| Luton | 5,125 |
| Maidstone | 3,809 |
| Manchester | 13,857 |
| Middlesbrough | 4,345 |
| Newcastle | 8,034 |
| Newport | 7,040 |
| Newport IOW | 556 |
| Ripon (Northallerton) | 504 |
| Northampton | 3,120 |
| Norwich | 2,579 |
| Oban | 13 |
| Omagh | 621 |
| Oxford | 2,023 |
| Peterborough | 3793 |
| Plymouth | 2,121 |
| Portsmouth | 4,322 |
| Reading | 4,982 |
| Scarborough | 721 |
| Sheffield | 8,163 |
| Shrewsbury | 2,030 |
| St. Austell | 756 |
| Stirling | 1,579 |
| Stoke on Trent | 3,932 |
| Swansea | 3,311 |
| Swindon | 1,568 |
| Warwick | 2,588 |
| Wick | 212 |
| Wrexham | 2,170 |
| Yeovil | 1,762 |
| York | 1,218 |

### Passports: Lost Property

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to find the passports of the constituent of the hon. Member for Vauxhall and her daughter, Home Office Ref: M664274; and at what point lost passport letters will be issued. [222586]

**Mr. Woolas:** Passports for the constituent of the hon. Member for Vauxhall and her daughter have been located and the UK Border Agency wrote to the constituent on 2 September 2008.

### Performance Appraisal

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235222]

**Mr. Woolas:** In the 2007-08 reporting year, and from the data available, 146 members of staff across Home Office Headquarters, the UK Borders Agency (UKBA) and the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) did not achieve an acceptable assessment marking in their annual reports.

The Criminal Records Bureau is able provide this information only by reviewing individual paper records, and this would incur disproportionate cost.

There are formal end of year assessment arrangements in UKBA and Home Office HQ for identifying members of staff who, while not receiving unacceptable assessment markings, require targeted development.

### Photography: Public Places

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports she has received of the police preventing members of the public from taking photographs in public places; what her policy is on this matter; and if she will make a statement. [209526]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Police Custody

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the extent to which police custody suites are being used for *(a)* those who are mentally ill or held for their own protection and *(b)* the drunk and disorderly. [234472]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Independent Police Complaints Commission published a report on 10 September on the use of police stations as places of safety under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act. Findings from the research show that 11,500 people were detained in police custody under section 136 during 2005-06. The average amount of time spent in police custody was nine hours 36 minutes, with the vast majority of detainees leaving within 12 hours. On 30 April 2008, section 44 of the Mental Health Act 2007 was brought into effect. This allows the transfer of a person from one place of safety to another before an assessment has been carried out and recognises the importance of using a police station on an exceptional basis and that when it is used, there is the ability to transfer a person to a more suitable place at the earliest available opportunity.

The arrests information held by the Ministry of Justice covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only which excludes summary offences of "being drunk and disorderly". The Home Office has not made any assessments of the use of custody suites

in relation to drunk people. Alcohol arrest referral schemes aim to reduce offending among people arrested for alcohol-related offences by providing them with advice on the links between unsafe drinking levels and offending. This can take place in custody suites.

Some brief interventions are initially custody-based and voluntary with follow-up interventions outside custody.

### Police National Computer

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many records were held on the police national computer on *(a)* 1 January 2008 and *(b)* the latest date for which figures are available. [234265]

**Jacqui Smith:** The number of records held on the Police National Computer (PNC) on 1 January 2008 is not held centrally. As an operational tool, the PNC always reflects the current situation and it is not possible to produce figures for a specific historical date unless they were obtained on that date.

The PNC contains records from a number of separate information databases. The following table shows the number of records held on the PNC, broken down by the various information databases, as at 13 November 2008, the latest date for which figures are available. These figures are not mutually exclusive, for example, the same record may be included in more than one database.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Vehicles | 58,161,658 |
| Names | 9,172,689 |
| Drivers Licenses | 51,901,851 |
| Property | 97,978 |
| Crimelink | 621 |
| National Firearms Certificate Holders Register (NFCHR) | 1,390,920 |

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people had a *(a)* conviction, *(b)* caution, *(c)* formal warning and *(d)* reprimand recorded on the police national computer on 1 January of each year since 1996. [234285]

**Jacqui Smith:** Information on the number of people with a conviction, caution, formal warning and reprimand recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC) on 1 January of each year since 1996 is not held centrally. As an operational tool, the PNC currently always reflects the current situation and it is not possible to produce figures for a specific historical date unless they were obtained on that date.

The following table shows the number of individuals recorded on the PNC with convictions, cautions, warnings and reprimands as at 21 November 2008, the latest date for which figures are available. It does not show the overall numbers of each category on the PNC, as one person may have more than one conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on the PNC. One individual may be included in more than one of the categories, as the same person may have, for example, a caution and a warning recorded on the PNC.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Records with convictions on the PNC at 21 November 2008 | 4,977,171 |
| Records with cautions on the PNC at 21 November 2008 | 1,792,631 |
| Records with warnings on the PNC at 21 November 2008 | 278,424 |
| Records with reprimands on the PNC at 21 November 2008 | 599,301 |

### Police: Bureaucracy

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been carried out of the effect on the amount of police paperwork of moving responsibility for charging decisions from police forces to the Crown Prosecution Service under the statutory charging initiative. [232322]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of time on average *(a)* all officers and *(b)* patrol officers spent on (i) incident and (ii) non-incident-related paperwork in each year since 2003-04; and how long each spent on average on patrol in each year. [239000]

**Mr. Coaker:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 91W.

### Police: Complaints

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints she has received in the last two months from *(a)* police officers and *(b)* members of the public on her decision not to implement the tribunal's recommendation on the police pay award for 2008. [179481]

**Mr. Coaker:** Home Office systems record letters and emails received by the Department from members of the public and MPs, but not, in a readily available way, whether the sender is a police officer. Between 6 December 2007 when the 2007 police officer pay award was announced to Parliament, and 5 February 2008, Home Office systems show that 1,660 letters and emails about police pay and allowances were received from members of the public and MPs.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints were recorded against the police in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England and Wales in each of the last 10 years; and what the rate of complaints per 1,000 of population was in each case in each such year. [224073]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 12 September 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

### Police: Databases

**Mr. Ilsley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what progress has been made on negotiations between the National Police Improvement Agency and potential providers of a Police National Intelligence database; and if she will make a statement; [237162]

(2) what progress has been made on the IMPACT project for a Police National Intelligence database; and if she will make a statement. [237249]

**Mr. Coaker:** Significant progress has been made. The negotiations between the National Policing Improvement Agency and potential providers of the Police National Database (PND) have been completed. An invitation to submit a final tender was issued to the three consortia on 14 November. The consortia have until 5 January to finalise and submit their tenders.

In parallel with the negotiations, the programme has been producing a full business case, which will be finalised once a decision has been made on which supplier should be awarded the contract.

Subject to the necessary approvals of the full business case, and there being no legal challenge by one of the unsuccessful consortia, this should allow a contract to be awarded in March.

The programme is also working closely with the police service to ensure that:

the necessary national and local business rules and processes will be in place in time for the deployment of the PND;

forces are ready to implement the PND—for example, they have the necessary IT infrastructure, personnel and other resources in place; and

forces have prepared their data and the mechanisms for loading those data onto the PND.

The programme remains on track to commence deployment of the PND in 2010.

### Police: Drugs

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of corruption involving *(a)* police, *(b)* prison and *(c)* customs officers which involved illegal drugs there were in each of the last five years. [195698]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Police: Misconduct

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Independent Police Complaints Commission has the power to investigate complaints about allegedly unlawful conduct by serving police officers. [239550]

**Mr. Coaker:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

### Police: Pay

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) who was consulted before the decision was made not to implement the Police Arbitration Panel's pay settlement fully; [176821]

(2) what the reasons were for consulting an arbitration panel on police pay; [176822]

(3) what discussions took place with HM Treasury before the decision was taken not to fully implement the Police Arbitration Panel's pay settlement recommendation; [176823]

(4) whether she consulted *(a)* the Police Federation and *(b)* other representatives from police forces in England and Wales before deciding not to fully implement the arbitration panel's recommendation on police pay; [176824]

(5) which Government Departments she consulted before making a decision on the police pay award for 2008. [179482]

**Mr. Coaker:** The 2007 police officer pay award was referred to the Police Arbitration Tribunal by the two sides of the Police Negotiating Board, following a failure to reach agreement in the PNB. The police officer negotiating machinery makes recommendations to the Secretaries of State, and the final decision on police officer pay in England and Wales rests with the Home Secretary. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary considered all the arguments put forward as part of the Police Negotiating Board and Police Arbitration Tribunal process in relation to the 2007 police officer pay award, and she also considered representations made to her on this matter following the receipt of the PAT award. She consulted within Government on her decision in the usual ways.

As she set out in her written ministerial statement of 16 October 2008, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is pleased that a multi-year pay deal has been agreed for the police starting in 2008.

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library the minutes of the meeting with the Police Federation at which her Department agreed to pursue arbitration measures on police pay. [182530]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the Metropolitan Police of paying the recent proposed award of 2.5 per cent. to police officers in full would be in 2008-09. [209324]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 10 June 2008]:* I will write to the right hon. Member.

### Police: Secondment

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers are *(a)* seconded to overseas missions, governments or organisations and *(b)* otherwise serving abroad. [239295]

**Mr. Coaker:** It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

### Prisoners Release

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are unlawfully at large having been removed from prison to immigration centres and subsequently released into the community. [181190]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

### Proceeds of Crime

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1079W, on the proceeds of crime, what initiatives have been funded through allocations to police forces under the asset recovery incentive scheme. [234262]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1079W, on the proceeds of crime, how much was received by each police force under the asset recovery incentive scheme in the last year for which figures are available. [234263]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the monetary value of property and possessions seized by the Assets Recovery Agency from residents of Northern Ireland convicted of drug dealing offences was in each of the last 10 years. [239270]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Gentleman in the time available before Prorogation.

### Prostitution

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to the application of the definition of a prostitute as controlled for another person's gain to male and female prostitutes in circumstances where the other person is *(a)* a receptionist, *(b)* also working as a prostitute, *(c)* working as a prostitute on the same premises, *(d)* a partner or a flatmate who shares premises with the prostitute, *(e)* a landlord letting the premises where the prostitute is working and *(f)* a dependant. [240044]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to the application of the definition of a prostitute as controlled for another person's gain to male and female prostitutes in circumstances where the prostitute has voluntarily entered into a working relationship with another person. [240045]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the average age of a person working as a prostitute in the UK; on what research her estimate is based; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the research. [240046]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of prostitutes working in the UK who are *(a)* women, *(b)* men, *(c)* under the age of 16 years, *(d)* addicted to drugs, *(e)* homeless, *(f)* supporting dependants and *(g)* working for another person's gain; on what research her estimate is based; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the research. [240047]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to publish the responses received to the consultation letter of 26th September 2008 on proposals for legislation on prostitution. [240048]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

### Public Opinion

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* opinion polls in each year since 1997-98; how much she estimates will be spent on each category in 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [239034]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following table shows a breakdown of annual Home Office expenditure on opinion polling since 1997-98.

Based on currently planned research the estimated expenditure on opinion polling for the financial year 2008-09 is £88,000.

We are unable to answer the question relating to focus groups on the grounds of disproportionate cost.

*Annual spend on opinion polling since 1997-98*

| *Financial year* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 0 |
| 1998-99 | 0 |
| 1999-2000 | 0 |
| 2000-01 | 0 |
| 2001-02 | 0 |
| 2002-03 | 0 |
| 2003-04 | 128,850 |
| 2004-05 | 124,610 |
| 2005-06 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 97,075 |
| 2007-08 | 69,700 |

*Note:*
Based on currently planned research the estimated expenditure on opinion polling for the financial year 2008-09 is £88,000.

### Public Places: Photography

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to balance the provision of public security and the right to take photographs of public places and street scenes. [200458]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to my hon. Friend.

### Public Sector: Vetting

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether *(a)* British and *(b)* foreign nationals working (i) as security guards in Government buildings and Departments (ii) as police community support officers, (iii) in the Passport Service, (iv) in the UK Borders Agency, (v) in her Department, (vi) in the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, (vii) in the police service as (A) civilian support and (B) warranted constables (viii) in the Criminal Records Bureau, (ix) for the Greater London Authority, (x) in local authority children's services departments, (xi) in local authority finance departments, (xii) in local authority electoral administration offices, (xiii) in local authority social services departments (xiv) in the Pension Service, (xv) in the Criminal Cases Review Commission, (xvi) in the Prison Service, (xvii) in the Court Service and (xviii) in the Crown Prosecution Service are vetted for crimes committed outside the United Kingdom; [205503]

(2) whether the UK Central Authority passes on information it holds to the relevant authorities when individuals apply for jobs working *(a)* as security guards in Government buildings and departments, *(b)* as police community support officers, *(c)* in the Passport Service, *(d)* in the UK Border Agency, *(e)* in her Department, *(f)* in the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, *(g)* in the Police Service as (i) civilian support and (ii) warranted constables, *(h)* in the Criminal Records Bureau, *(i)* for the Greater London Authority, *(j)* in local authority children's services departments, *(k)* in local authority finance departments, *(l)* in local authority electoral administration offices, *(m)* in local authority social services departments, *(n)* in the Pension Service, *(o)* in the Criminal Cases Review Commission, *(p)* in the Prison Service, *(q)* in the Court Service and *(r)* in the Crown Prosecution Service. [206852]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Racial Harassment

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which her Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [236896]

**Mr. Woolas:** During the last 12 months (for the period 1 November 2007 to 31 October 2008) the Home Office, including the UK Border Agency, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau, received fewer than five official complaints of racial discrimination or racial harassment from staff against their colleagues (racial abuse is not a category within the Home Office Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination policy). Further information is therefore withheld on grounds of confidentiality. All employees have a duty to respect the dignity of others at work, be mindful of the effect their behaviour may have on colleagues, and ensure their own conduct does not breach the provisions of the Home Office bullying, harassment and discrimination policy.

Under the policy, line managers are responsible for maintaining a workplace that is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination, confronting unacceptable behaviour wherever it arises.

### Rape Performance Group

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who sits on the Rape Performance Group; on how many occasions it has met since its creation; what advice it has provided to the Government; and what action the Government has taken on the basis of its advice. [238431]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to the rt hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Rape: Criminal Proceedings

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of allegations of rape made to the police in England and Wales in each of the last two years were later withdrawn by the individual; how many and what percentage of alleged rape cases referred to the Crown Prosecution Service were not prosecuted for lack of evidence; and how many and what percentage of cases brought to prosecution resulted in conviction. [237393]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### Redundancy

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (Y) her Department and (Z) each of her Department's agencies. [237350]

**Mr. Woolas:** Central information held on early departure exit schemes does not distinguish between those who were compelled to leave the Department involuntarily on compulsory redundancy terms, and those who wished to leave voluntarily on similar terms and not subject to the Department's formal redundancy procedure.

The following table shows the number of early departures from the Home Office and its agencies by financial year since 2005-06:

*Table 1*

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|
| HO Headquarters and UK Border Agency | 123 | 107 | 70 |
| Criminal Records Bureau | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Identity and Passport Service | 17 | 18 | 13 |
| Total | 141 | 125 | 84 |

A more detailed breakdown, including distinguishing between Home Office Headquarters and the UK Border Agency, and to assess which cost band each individual would fall, could be obtained only by running additional, tailored, reports that would incur disproportionate cost.

Costs of provisions made for early departures are published each year in the Home Office Consolidated Resource Accounts. The following table shows the provisions made each financial year, for the full costs of new early departures from 2005-06:

*Table 2*

| | | | £000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005-06* | *200-07* | *2007-08* |
| Core Department including UKBA | 22,369 | 2,505 | 7,393 |
| Identity and Passport Service (£19,000 write back in 2007-08) | | 117 | -19 |
| National Probation Service (part of the National Offender Management Service) | 3,717 | 2,547 | — |
| HM Prison Service (part of the National Offender Management Service) | 786 | 437 | — |
| Total | 26,872 | 5,06 | 7,374 |

Note that the cost figures above include any early departures which may have arisen in the Office of Criminal Justice Reform and National Offender Management Service that were part of the Home Office until May 2007. They are now part of the Ministry of Justice.

The Home Office HQ has budgeted £2 million, and IPS a further £94,000, for early departure provision for 2008-09. There is no planned provision for 2008-09 within UKBA and CRB at this stage. Budgets have not been finalised for 2009-10.

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of her Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if she will make a statement. [239156]

**Mr. Woolas:** Central information held on Early Departure exit schemes does not distinguish between those who were compelled to leave the Department involuntarily on compulsory redundancy terms, and those who wished to leave voluntarily on similar terms and not subject to the Department's formal redundancy procedure.

The following table shows the number of early departures from the Home Office and its agencies by financial year since 2005-06:

*Table 1*

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| HO Headquarters and UK Border Agency | 123 | 107 | 70 |
| Criminal Records Bureau | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Identity and Passport Service | 17 | 18 | 13 |
| Total | 141 | 125 | 84 |

A more detailed breakdown, including distinguishing between Home Office Headquarters and the UK Border Agency, and to assess which cost band each individual would fall, could only be obtained by running additional, tailored, reports that would incur disproportionate cost.

Costs of provisions made for early departures are published each year in the Home Office Consolidated Resource Accounts. The following table shows the provisions made each financial year, for the full costs of new Early Departures from 2005- 06:

*Table 2*

| | | | £000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| Core Department including UKBA | 22,369 | 2505 | 7,393 |
| Identity and Passport Service (£19,000 write back in 2077-08) | | 117 | -19 |
| National Probation Service (part of the National Offender Management Service) | 3,717 | 2,547 | |
| HM Prison Service (part of the National Offender Management Service) | 7,86 | 437 | |
| Total | 26,872 | 5,606 | 7,374 |

## Reoffenders

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many warrants were issued for the arrest of those in breach of sentencing conditions in each of the last five years. [239244]

**Maria Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the number of revocation orders issued in respect of those offenders who, while in the community, have breached the conditions of their licence for each of the last five years.

| *Financial year* | *Determinate revocation orders issued* | *Home detention curfew revocation orders issued* | *Indeterminate revocation orders issued* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 8,133 | 3,082 | 53 |
| 2004-05 | 8,262 | 2,819 | 90 |
| 2005-06 | 8,678 | 2,632 | 140 |
| 2006-07 | 11,231 | 2,002 | 178 |
| 2007-08 | 11,756 | 1,373 | 109 |

## Sexual Offences: Young People

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions there have been of (i) men and (ii) women of each ethnicity in each region for sexually exploiting young people in each year since 2000; and if she will make a statement. [237281]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** The information requested is not available.

### Smuggling: Weapons

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many weapons the UK Border Agency prevented from entering the UK in 2007-08. [227245]

**Jacqui Smith** *[holding answer 15 October 2008]:* The UK Border Agency was not formed in the financial year to which the question relates, therefore cannot provide the required information.

### South East

**Dr. Stoate:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on services, broken down by type, in *(a)* Dartford Borough, *(b)* Kent Thameside, *(c)* the Thames Gateway, *(d)* Kent County Council area and *(e)* the South East region in each of the last five years. [222454]

**Mr. Woolas:** It is not possible to state exactly how much is spent on each service in each area. From April 2008 local authorities and their partners have greater flexibility, through Area Based Grant ("ABG"), to use central Government funding as they see fit to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their areas. ABG is committed on a three year basis to provide stability and certainty for the receiving authorities.

The Home Office is signed up to these new funding arrangements, which were contained in the 2006 Local Government White Paper "strong and prosperous communities". The Home Office also gave a public commitment in the Home Office Reform Plan to

"use the Local Area Agreement framework to join up our funding streams and simplify performance management systems for the front line".

The annual Home Office contribution to ABG in each of the CSR07 years will be £76.5 million (resource)—in flat cash terms—comprising £61.1 million in respect of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund and £15.4 million in respect of the Young People Substance Misuse Partnership Grant.

The capital element of SSCF will be paid to local authorities as non ring-fenced capital grant directly by the Home Office rather than through DCLG.

### Speed Limits: Motorcycles

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 269W, on speed limits: motorcycles, whether the ability to read rear licence plates on motorcycles is a requirement of the type approval process for average speed cameras. [239363]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

### Street Trading: Licensing

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many street pedlar licences were issued by the police in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [230779]

**Mr. Alan Campbell** *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

### Surveillance: E-mail

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many e-mails and other electronic communications data were sent in the UK in each of the last three years; how many were monitored by the authorities in each year; and how many were found to be relevant to *(a)* terrorist activity and *(b)* crime in each year. [225870]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* I will write to my right hon. Friend.

### Terrorism: Detainees

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people suspected of offences under anti-terrorism legislation were held for more than 14 days before being charged in the last three years. [235537]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 13 November 2008]:* The maximum 28 day period of pre-charge detention came into force on 25 July 2006 and statistics are collated from this date. From 25 July 2006, to date 11 individuals have been held for over 14 days in pre-charge detention. Of these 11, eight individuals were charged, three were released without charge. The statistics are shown in the following table:

| *Period of detention (days)* | *Number of persons held* | *Charged* | *Released w/o charge* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 14 to 15 | 1 | 1 | |
| 18 to 19 | 1 | 1 | |
| 19 to 20 | 3 | 3 | |
| 27 to 28 | 6 | 3 | 3 |

### Terrorism: London

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the level of injuries and financial damage to property resulting from the 7th July 2005 terrorist attacks in London. [164833]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 15 November 2008]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

### Travel Requirements: Fees and Charges

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the effect on its levels of fee income from passports, visas and other immigration documents and services paid for by *(a)* British and *(b)* foreign nationals of the economic downturn; and what contingency plans her Department has made. [227531]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) and UK Border Agency (UKBA) are the two Home Office service providers for passports, visas and other immigration document and services.

IPS monitors passport demand on a daily basis. In the 2008-09 financial year to date, demand and associated fee income have been at just outside the 5 per cent. forecast tolerance levels used by IPS for management purposes. Demand and income levels have not been formally re-forecast at this time but the situation will continue to be monitored closely.

UKBA regularly reviews its estimates of fee income from migrant applications.

Such reviews appraise a wide range of factors including the broader economic conditions and policy changes impacting application numbers. However, estimating the specific impact of, for example, an economic downturn is highly complex and depends not just on the scale of any downturn in the UK but also its scale in relation to the performance of other competitor economies.

**UK Border Agency: Complaints**

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints were investigated by the Complaints Audit Committee of the UK Border Agency and its predecessor in each of the last three years. [238866]

**Jacqui Smith:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. and learned Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget for the Complaints Audit Committee of the UK Border Agency and its predecessor was in each of the last three years. [238868]

**Jacqui Smith:** The budget for the Complaints Audit Committee was £107,883 in each of the last three years.

**UK Border Agency: Finance**

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much of the UK Border Agency's budget for 2008-09 is expected to be spent *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in each other country in which it operates. [227499]

**Mr. Woolas:** The only part of the UK Border Agency that spends outside of the United Kingdom is UK Visa's and the detail of its spending is currently subject to a confirmation process as a part of the Machinery of Government change process.

The UK Border Agency incurs some operational costs related to border activities outside of the United Kingdom but the budget (and spend) is internal to the United Kingdom.

**UK Border Agency: Inspections**

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the objectives of the Independent Inspectorate of the UK Border Agency are; [238869]

(2) when the Independent Inspectorate of the UK Border Agency plans to issue its first report; [238870]

(3) what the budget for the Independent Inspectorate of the UK Border Agency is for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [238871]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Chief Inspector's role is to monitor and report on the efficiency and effectiveness of the UK Border Agency. Section 48 of the Borders Act 2007 sets out a number of particular functions of the agency he should consider and make recommendations about. He will report to the Secretary of State once a calendar year in relation to these functions and at other times as requested by the Secretary of State. I expect him to issue his first annual report after the end of the current financial year. The Chief Inspector is working to a provisional budget of £0.8 million for this financial year, excluding his accommodation costs. His budget for 2009-10 and a provisional budget for 2010-11 will be set before the start of the next financial year.

**UK Border Agency: Lost Property**

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bolton South East of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1219W, on UK Border Agency: lost property, how much compensation has been paid to applicants where the UK Border Agency and its predecessors have accepted that they have misplaced or lost documents in each of the last five years. [238796]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information is not held in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bolton South East of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1219W, on UK Border Agency: lost property, how many principal files the UK Border Agency and its predecessors recorded as lost in each of the last five years. [238797]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information is not available in the format requested.

**UK Border Agency: Working Hours**

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency (UKBA) enforcement operations have taken place on Saturdays or Sundays in each month of 2008, broken down by each region of the UKBA. [209085]

**Mr. Woolas:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Violence Against the Person**

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of violence against the person were recorded *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 1,000 population in (i) England, (ii) the Kent Constabulary area and (iii) Ashford constituency in each year from 1997 to 2008. [236877]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**War Crimes**

**Mr. Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Buckingham of 14 October 2008, *Official*

*Report*, column 1072W, on crimes against humanity, how many people who have been suspected by the war crimes team of involvement in crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide are in the UK. [238493]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records, or by undertaking further inquiries, at disproportionate cost.

### Waste Disposal: Public Places

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued on the implications for security of the provision of refuse bins in public places. [235018]

**Mr. Coaker:** I will write to the hon. Member.

### West Mercia Police: Pay

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will meet members of the Police Federation from West Mercia Constabulary to discuss pay issues. [179748]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have discussed pay issues with the police staff associations, including the Police Federation, in the past and will continue to do so. In addition, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has met with those of her constituents who wished to see her to discuss police officer pay in her capacity as their local MP.

### Written Questions: Government Responses

**Mike Gapes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question *(a)* 202221, *(b)* 202222, *(c)* 202224 and *(d)* 202223 on immigration procedures and Mrs. Hina Sajid, tabled on 23 April 2008; and if she will make a statement. [204619]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 9 May 2008]:* Questions 202221 and 202223 were answered on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 962-63W. I responded to the remaining two questions on 25 November 2008. At the time of answering, *Official Report* references for these are not yet available.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer Question 165737, on self-protection measures for the Jewish community, tabled on 14 November 2007 by the hon. Member for Southend West; what the reason for the time taken to reply is; what steps she *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to answer written Parliamentary Questions within a working week of them being tabled; and if she will make a statement. [222359]

**Mr. Alan Campbell:** I will write to the hon. Member.

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answers of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, *(a)* column 1574W, on the National Identity Scheme Commissioner: finance and *(b)* column 1568W, on identity cards: finance, when she plans to provide answers to questions 220246, 220293, 219766, 219785, 219763, 219761, 220294, 219754, 219765, 219771, 219794, 219764, 219762, 219756, 219757, 219768 and 219770 on the identity cards scheme tabled by the hon. Member for Birmingham Selly Oak on 14 and 15 July 2008. [224277]

**Meg Hillier** *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* I replied to the hon. Member on the following dates:

Question 220246 was answered on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 145-46W.

Question 219766 was answered on 21 November 2008, *Official Report*, 483 columns 724-25W.

Question 219785 was answered on 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2071W.

Question 219761 was answered on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 144-45W.

Question 220294 was answered on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1254W.

Question 219754 was answered on 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2067-68W.

Question 219765 was answered on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 53W.

Question 219771 was answered on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 143-44W.

Question 219764 was answered on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 52W.

Question 219762 was answered on 17th November 2008, *Official Report*, column 52W.

Question 219756 was answered on 20th November 2008, *Official Report*, 724W.

Question 219770 was answered on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 143-44W.

Questions 220293, 219763, 219794, 219767 and 219768 were answered on 26 November. At the time of answering the *Official Report* references for these are yet to be available.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer question 177471, tabled on 7 January 2008, on the cost of asylum support and accommodation. [226978]

**Mr. Woolas:** I responded to question 177471 today.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer Question *(a)* 203249 on pilot schemes tabled on 28th April 2008 and *(b)* 194334 on Ministerial taskforces and action groups tabled on 11th March 2008. [230572]

**Mr. Woolas:** Question 203249 was answered on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 794W. I responded to the remaining question on 26 November 2008. At the time of answering the *Official Report* reference for this is not yet available.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to Question 219351, tabled on 14th July 2008, on the threat posed to UK security by Hizb ut-Tahrir. [233974]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the hon. and learned Member's question on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1253W.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to Question 219357, tabled on 14th July 2008, on the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [233975]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the hon. and learned Member's question on 25 November 2008,*Official Report*, column 1253W.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to question 221501, tabled on 17 July 2008, on CCTV in Central Newcastle. [233976]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the hon. and learned Member's question on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1240W.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to Question 224470, tabled on 3rd October 2008, on police officer resignations. [238443]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the hon and learned Member on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1260W.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to question 225219, tabled on 3 October 2008, on Home Office contracts with PA Consulting. [238444]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the hon. and learned Gentleman on 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 826W.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to (1) Question 227226, tabled on 10 October 2008, on the National Identity Scheme Tracking Research; [238544]

(2) Question 227224, tabled on 10 October 2008, on responses to the National Identity Scheme Tracking Research; [238621]

(3) Question 227225, tabled on 10 October 2008, on respondents to the National Identity Scheme Tracking Research. [238624]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the hon. Member on 19 November 2008, Official Report, columns 588-89W.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to Question 227220, tabled on 10 October 2008, on DNA profiles. [238545]

**Jacqui Smith:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. and learned Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to Question 226401, tabled on 8 October 2008, on biometric information. [238546]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the hon. and learned Member on 26 November. At the time of answering the *Official Report* reference is not available.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to question 226404, tabled on 8 October 2008, on the Identity Card Scheme Cost Report. [238547]

**Jacqui Smith:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. and learned Member in the time available before Prorogation.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to Question 226403, tabled on 8 October 2008, on fingerprints for workers employed in sensitive locations applying for identity cards. [238548]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the hon. and learned Member on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 724W.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to Question 226402, tabled on 8 October 2008, on identity cards for British citizens under the age of 16 years. [238549]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the hon. and learned Member on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 725W.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to question 227246, tabled on 10 October 2008, on people attempting to cross the English Channel illegally. [238560]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the hon. and learned Member on 26 November. At the time of answering the *Official Report* reference was not available.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to question 227245, tabled on 10 October 2008, on weapons prevented from entering the UK. [238620]

**Jacqui Smith:** I replied to the hon. and learned Member on 26 November. At the time answering the *Official Report* reference is not available.

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to Question 226409, tabled on 8 October 2008, on identify cards. [238621]

**Jacqui Smith:** It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. and learned Member in the time available before Prorogation.

### Young Offenders

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Departments are involved in the prevention of youth crime; and what the role of each is in this respect. [236518]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

### Young Offenders: Crime Prevention

**Mr. Grieve:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* initiatives, *(b)* objectives, *(c)* results and *(d)* costs were of the youth crime prevention programmes sponsored by her Department which have been implemented in the last five years. [236855]

**Jacqui Smith:** I will write to the hon. and learned Member.

# Ministerial Correction

*Wednesday 19 November 2008*

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Volunteering (Young People)

**Susan Kramer** (Richmond Park) (LD): I should like to follow up on that comment. The Minister will know that many young people who will be graduating from school and university will be aware that they are not going to get work in this economic climate. What is he doing with the voluntary sector to step up volunteering opportunities for those young people, so that they are not disillusioned and can at least gain some experience and strengthen their CVs?

*[Official Report, 12 November 2008, Vol. 482, c. 752.]*

*Letter of correction from Kevin Brennan:*

An error has been identified in the oral response given to the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Susan Kramer) on 12 November 2008. The exchange was as follows:

**Susan Kramer** (Richmond Park) (LD): I should like to follow up on that comment. The Minister will know that many young people who will be graduating from school and university will be aware that they are not going to get work in this economic climate. What is he doing with the voluntary sector to step up volunteering opportunities for those young people, so that they are not disillusioned and can at least gain some experience and strengthen their CVs?

**Kevin Brennan:** I would recommend volunteering as an option for people leaving university who are not immediately moving into work. As I have said, the investment that the Government are making in v, which has already been matched with more than £33 million from the private sector, with more to come, I understand, in an announcement in December, will play a big role in getting young people into those volunteering opportunities. As I have said, v has already identified more than 750,000 opportunities for young people.

The correct figure for the matched investment in v from the private sector is £32 million.

# Ministerial Corrections

*Thursday 20 November 2008*

## TRANSPORT

### Roads: Construction

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of new road have been built in each year since 1997. [180280]

*[Official Report, 6 February 2008, Vol. 471, c. 1153-54W.]*

*Letter of correction from Paul Clark:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 6 February 2008. The answer given was as follows:

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of new road have been built in each year since 1997. [180280]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The following table shows the total miles of trunk road and motorway built in each year from 1997 to December 2007.

| *Calendar year* | *Scheme miles* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 75.1 |
| 1998 | 51.5 |
| 1999 | 28.9 |
| 2000 | 23 |
| 2001 | 2.2 |
| 2002 | 19.1 |
| 2003 | 85 |
| 2004 | 31.3 |
| 2005 | 21.5 |
| 2006 | 38.6 |
| 2007 | 28.82 |
| Total | 405 |

These figures are currently being reviewed.

Data on lengths of non-trunk roads are not collected centrally and an overall figure is not therefore available.

The Highways Agency in carrying out its review found that over the years there had been an inconsistent approach in how the information was recorded and reported by its regional offices and scheme project teams. The aforementioned data included trunk road widening as well as schemes that delivered new roads adding length to the strategic road network. The following data represent only new roads adding length to the strategic road network and do not take account of any de-trunking or realignment of the strategic road network which may be within the scope of schemes completed in the years given.

The amended answer is as follows:

| *Calendar year* | *Scheme miles* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 38.6 |
| 1998 | 12.3 |
| 1999 | 15.6 |
| 2000 | 0.0 |
| 2001 | 0.0 |
| 2002 | 19.0 |
| 2003 | 26.6 |
| 2004 | 10.9 |
| 2005 | 7.9 |
| 2006 | 15.3 |
| 2007 | 10.3 |
| Total | 156.5 |

The Highways Agency is intending to compile a comprehensive set of data in terms of road lengths and capacity. This will clarify whether any 'new build' creates additional length to a road in miles or is a widening of an existing length of road which creates increased capacity in the number of lanes provided and therefore increases lane-kilometres rather than road length. The Agency intends that this information will be available on its website in the future.

## TREASURY

### Taxation: Self-assessment

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much income was received from *(a)* penalty charges and *(b)* interest charged to people who did not meet tax return deadlines in each of the last five years. [227556]

*[Official Report, 27 October 2008, Vol. 481, c. 790W.]*

*Letter of correction from Stephen Timms:*

Errors have been identified in the table provided in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 27 October 2008. The figures for the tax years 2003-04, 2005-06 and 2006-07 were incorrect.

The correct answer should have been:

**Mr. Timms:** The following information relates to self assessment tax returns.

*(a)* The following penalty charges were charged for the late submission of self assessment tax returns. The figures relate to each of the tax assessment years rather than the year in which income was received:

| *Tax year* [1] | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 122.4 |
| 2004-05 | 126.1 |
| 2005-06 | 141.1 |
| 2006-07 | 165.8 |
| 2007-08 | . |

[1] Return due:
Paper: 31 October 2008
Online: 31 January 2009

Information is only available for four tax years, information prior to 2003-04 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*(b)* Interest is not charged for late submission of a self assessment tax return; interest is charged on the late payment of any income tax due. While interest charges may arise on a tax liability following late submission of a tax return this information is not available separately from interest charged generally on income tax liabilities that are paid late.

## HEALTH

### Care Homes: Inspections

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nursing homes inspected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in *(a)* South Tyneside, *(b)* Tyne and Wear and (c) England received a (i) 0 star rating (poor), (ii) 1 star rating (adequate), (iii) 2 star rating (good) and (iv) 3 star rating (excellent) in each year since 2000. [229952]

*[Official Report, 28 October 2008, Vol. 481, c. 901-02W.]*

*Letter of correction from Phil Hope:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Jarrow (Mr. Hepburn) on 28 October 2008. A column showing numbers of homes which had not yet been rated was omitted, causing the figures showing ratings awarded to be incorrect.

The correct answer is as follows:

**Phil Hope:** I am informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that it can only provide the information requested from May 2008, when the star rating system was launched.

The following tables show star ratings for nursing homes in South Tyneside and England. CSCI does not collect data for Tyne and Wear, which is not a council with adult social services responsibility area.

*1. Star ratings of nursing homes in South Tyneside*

| | | *Number of homes* |
|---|---|---|
| | *8 May 2008* | *13 October 2008* |
| 0 stars (poor) | 1 | 0 |
| 1 star (adequate) | 4 | 5 |
| 2 stars (good) | 6 | 4 |
| 3 stars (excellent) | 1 | 2 |
| Not yet rated | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 12 | 13 |

*2. Star ratings of nursing homes in England*

| | | *Number of homes* |
|---|---|---|
| | *8 May 2008* | *13 October 2008* |
| 0 stars (poor) | 181 | 131 |
| 1 star (adequate) | 1,128 | 1,012 |
| 2 stars (good) | 2,130 | 2,306 |
| 3 stars (excellent) | 548 | 590 |
| Not yet rated | 125 | 144 |
| Rating suspended | 8 | 10 |
| Total | 4,120 | 4,193 |

*Source:*
CSCI Registration and Inspection database, 8 May 2008 and 13 October 2008 static cuts.

# Ministerial Correction

*Monday 24 November 2008*

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Correction (Oral Answer)

**Jim Sheridan** (Paisley and Renfrewshire, North) (Lab): May we have a debate on the future of the British manufacturing industry? My right hon. and learned Friend will be aware that Rolls-Royce has today announced 2,000 redundancies worldwide, including a significant number in this country. I must tell her, in the nicest possible way, that there is a school of thought among those in the manufacturing industry, including both employers and employees, that the House does not give priority to manufacturing when compared with other things. That has been crystallised today by the Leader of the Opposition, who is more interested in John Sergeant and who is drinking cups of coffee.

*[Official Report, 20 November 2008, Vol. 483, c. 368.]*

*Letter of correction from Ms Harman:*

An error has been identified in the oral answer given to the hon. Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire, North (Jim Sheridan) during Business Questions on 20 November 2008. The full answer given was as follows:

**Ms Harman:** My hon. Friend is a long-standing champion of manufacturing industry, in Scotland and throughout this country. He has raised the question of Rolls-Royce job losses, which are very worrying indeed. This is an important British company, and 4 per cent. of its work force in this country will be affected. Once again, this shows the importance of Government action to support investment, apprenticeships and training, and of Government action through the regional development agencies. This is not the moment to stand back and say that there is nothing we can do. This is the moment for us to step forward and to recognise the importance not only of small businesses but of our big manufacturing companies, and for the Government to back them up.

The correct answer should have been:

**Ms Harman:** My hon. Friend is a long-standing champion of manufacturing industry, in Scotland and throughout this country. He has raised the question of Rolls-Royce job losses, which are very worrying indeed. This is an important British company, and 0.6 per cent. of its work force in this country will be affected. Once again, this shows the importance of Government action to support investment, apprenticeships and training, and of Government action through the regional development agencies. This is not the moment to stand back and say that there is nothing we can do. This is the moment for us to step forward and to recognise the importance not only of small businesses but of our big manufacturing companies, and for the Government to back them up.